

# NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

The Federation of Longhorsley St Helen's and Whalton Church of England Aided Schools

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Friday 15th June 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I am not quite sure how it got to the second half of the summer term so quickly, but I really hope that you all had a great half term and enjoyed the very lovely weather.

## Building Update

I am delighted to tell you that we are going to have an extension built onto the current Year 2 classroom, creating a much larger space for learning. We submitted a bid to the Diocese back in January and have been successful! At the same time as extending the classroom outwards, there will be a new main office and entrance built. The current bike and scooter shelter will also be repositioned. Planning permission has just been submitted, so fingers crossed. If everything goes ahead to plan, building work will start in August with completion by November at the latest. The classroom will still be very usable until the point it needs to be 'broken' through, at which time we will make alternative arrangements using other parts of the school.

## Staffing Update

We are sad to inform you that Mr Smith, who is currently covering our long term sickness absence in Reception and Nursery will be leaving us. Mr Smith has got a teaching job in Malaysia and will be officially leaving us on Friday 29th June. We have thoroughly enjoyed having Mr Smith as part of our teaching team and know that you will all join us in wishing him the very best of luck in his new exciting adventure. Please see below for who will be teaching the children in EYFS from Monday 2nd July.

## Class Organisation

There will only be a couple of changes to the current teaching and class arrangements. Due to the numbers of children in each year group, we will be reverting back to having Year 1 and Year 2 mixed together this next year (this was the arrangement two years ago), but for the first time, we will be having separate Y3 and Year 4 classes. The only changes in teachers will be in EYFS and in Years 1 and 2 (the Key Stage 1 class).



Due to Mr Smith leaving three weeks before the end of the summer term, we are putting our new class organisation for September into place earlier to ensure the smoothest of transitions for your children so that they can get to know their new class teachers before the summer holidays.

From Monday 2nd July, Miss Thompson will be our Nursery and Reception teacher. We will also be welcoming our new teacher, Mr Chambers, who will be the KS1 teacher (taking the current Year 1 children until the end of term). In order for the current Reception and Year 1 children to get to know Mr Chambers, we have arranged for him to visit the children on a weekly basis so they can become familiar with him and he can get to know everyone's names and personalities before his official start date

From September, Mrs Campbell will be our Year 3 teacher, taking her Y2 children with her into Key Stage 2 and Mr Reilly will continue in Year 4 with the current Y3 children. Year 3 will be moving into the current Y3/4 classroom and the new Year 4 children will have the excitement of watching their new classroom grow!

If anyone has any further questions or concerns about any of the new arrangements please do not hesitate to come and see me. It is fantastic that we can continue to offer the four classes in the current financial climate as we continue to prioritise the vast majority of our budget on staffing and keeping our class sizes small.

#### Teacher Training Day - Friday 29th June

Just to remind you of the upcoming teacher training day. Please take advantage of this opportunity to have a three day weekend; it will give you all extra quality family time as well as really helping our attendance figures if you utilise any of our training days which are linked to a weekend/half term. Please can I also remind you that we are not allowed to authorise any holidays during term time unless they fall into 'exceptional circumstances' defined by the Department for Education. To this end we have an honesty policy, and ask that you come into school to speak with either myself or Mrs Campbell if you are taking holiday during term time; this ensures that we know where your children are at all times and that they are safe. A form also needs to be completed. Many thanks for your continued cooperation with this.

#### Governor Visits

Huge thanks to Mrs Goodwin and Ms Ellis who have visited both Longhorsley and Walton this term to talk to staff and children on how we ensure that we challenge all children, especially our most able children across the school in their learning. This was one of our targets this year to continue to improve.

#### The Big Toddle for Nursery and Reception children

We will continue to take part in the annual Big Toddle with the Village Playgroup to raise money for Barnardos. Please see separate letter for details.

#### Come and follow us!

We have finally entered the 21st century and with the expertise of Mr Reilly, now have twitter on our website. You can simply visit our website for a look at <http://www.longhorsley-st-helens.northumberland.sch.uk> or follow us on @LoughStHelens. Enjoy!

Opportunities to come into School

The summer term is always a busy one but we are extremely fortunate to have a musical concert to invite you to (further details to follow) as well as our traditional sports afternoon and 'welcome meetings' to meet your child's new teacher for September. Please ensure you don't miss out on these opportunities by keeping up to date with our electronic newsletter sent out by parent mail and on our website. I look forward to seeing as many of you at the different events.

Kind regards,

Mrs Brannen