
NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

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

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4th September 2019

Dear Parents

A great big welcome back! I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer with your children. It was a delight to see how beautifully settled the children were in their new classes this morning and a joy to welcome everyone formally in Collective Worship. Our new Nursery children should be especially proud of themselves and I must say that we have an impressive new Year 4 - our role models at the top of the school now too. We have also welcomed seven new children to our school who we look forward to getting to know better, and a big warm welcome to any parents I haven't had a chance to catch up with yet.

Spic and Span

During the holidays, the whole staff have all worked hard to ensure that each classroom and room was ready and waiting for the children so I would just like to say an extra big thank you to them all, with extra special thanks to Mrs Martin, our Caretaker, who makes sure everything inside and out is cleaned and tidied and to Mrs Lamb for keeping the kitchen spotless. In addition, Mrs McEwan has been working hard at getting the office sorted, as well as getting everything ready for the new term and generally making sure that everything has run smoothly.

Teaching and Learning

You will shortly receive your child's class newsletter which gives an overview of our topics for this term. All Learning Journeys, which include the specific objectives to be taught, will be available soon on our school website too. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to see your child's class teacher. Formal Pupil Progress Meetings will be taking place later this term - all diary dates and the year's events were sent out prior to the summer holidays and are already on the website so that you can plan ahead.

Physical Education

We are now part of Active Northumberland for our PE sessions and professional development (in line with our Middle Schools) and will be welcoming a specialist PE teacher into school to work alongside and in partnership with our teachers. Although we know many of you preferred the children coming to school in their PE kits, we are now asking for **PE kits to be brought into school every day** to give us the flexibility to offer the children greater opportunities for PE throughout the week. This will save the need for additional texts/reminders when we need to ask the



children to bring in their kits for festivals etc or simply when they need their trainers for active sessions. This also gives our youngest children in particular a greater opportunity for them to practise and gain independence when changing - great for their fine motor skill development as well as extra practise for changing quickly when swimming at Willowburn Sports Centre (which begins again next Monday afternoon - see last School News for further details). All we ask is that all items of the PE kit are named clearly and that they are left in school on the children's pegs - many thanks in advance. Our PE kit is listed on our website (only plain white t-shirts please).

School Uniform

Madelaine from Northern Embroidery and Print has efficiently delivered all requested uniform into school this afternoon. The newly designed jumpers and cardigans, which will be our new uniform from September 2020 look very smart. Madelaine can be contacted directly on 07988810177 or via her website shop at www.northembroideryandprint.co.uk.

Just to clarify, following my end of year newsletter and update about the availability of the new jumpers and cardigans, that no final decision has been made about the trial of either a tie or blazer, which is our Federated school's current uniform. A full consultation, in the form of a questionnaire, will be circulated before half term. If anyone is interested in joining the working party to put this together, please let Mrs Brannen know.

I look forward to catching up properly with as many of you as possible over the next few weeks. Look out for our Harvest Service and Family Lunch and get booked in - it's a lovely opportunity to have lunch with your child and experience our school meals for yourself. We will be offering the Harvest lunch to parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and then to Year 3 and Year 4 only for our New Year's Family Lunch so we can fit everyone in.

Please remember that I can always be contacted whether I am here or at Whalton. I would just like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for all the gifts and words of appreciation and support that were sent to the staff and myself too before the holidays. It really isn't expected but is truly appreciated - thank you on behalf of Team Longhorsley!

Here's to a great Autumn term.

Kind regards

Mrs Brannen
Executive Headteacher