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# NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton Church of England Aided Schools

**Longhorsley St Helen's**  
C of E Aided First School  
Drummonds Close  
Longhorsley  
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19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents

As we are nearing the end of the first half term; I just wanted to give you a quick update. In terms of COVID-19, the children (and staff) are doing brilliantly at following our hand washing and sanitising rules and keeping within their bubbles. To date, we have had no symptoms or positive cases in either school and only a small number of children have had to isolate following events outside of school. Thank you to all parents for supporting us by keeping children off who have been unwell or have been waiting to be tested after showing symptoms when at home. This collective responsibility has truly kept us all going and kept us all safe so thank you; it is very much appreciated. I would also like to thank all of The Federation staff for their continued hard work and commitment to keeping all of the children and each other safe; really well done everyone.

## Remote Learning

As mentioned in my September update, we do have plans in place for education to continue remotely if we need to send any classes home, however, this also applies to individual children who need to isolate; remote learning will 'kick in' so that their learning is not affected if they are required to stay at home.

Thank you for all the responses to our Google questionnaire about remote learning. If you can please make sure that you (or your child) have tested School360 with any new passwords that would be so helpful (and please let us know if there are any problems). Staff are setting homework on the platform to make transition as easy as possible when needed. Remember it is online 'Tapestry' for Longhorsley Nursery and Reception children. Hard copies of work will be made available to those families who have indicated that this is the best way forward for their child (just please allow us a little bit of time to sort and organise).

## Harvest

Children at Longhorsley have already enjoyed their 'in-school virtual Harvest Service' with our new Reverend Audrey joining us and Whalton will be having theirs this week on Wednesday afternoon. The Food Bank was extremely appreciative of the vast amounts of donations from Longhorsley and we would love to have the same response at Whalton, so please remember to bring along a tin or packet from the list sent out from school last week.

A huge thank you to Reverend Fiona and Pam who sent through their Harvest Service which was enjoyed in all classes at Whalton too.



### **Packed Lunches**

Following a couple of queries around packed lunches and the reduction of plastic waste, we are allowing packed lunches to be brought into school in packed lunch boxes, provided that they can be carried and stored in the red bags that go on the back of the children's chairs to minimise any transfer of germs etc. No carrying of separate packed lunch boxes please.

### **Lunchtime Vacancy at Whalton**

We are currently advertising for a 3 day week lunchtime supervisor at Whalton to start from Monday 2nd November; after half term. It is only for an hour a day (Wednesday to Friday) and you would get to work alongside a great team of people and enjoy supporting our delightful children during lunchtime. If anyone is interested, or knows someone who would like to join our Federation team, please contact Miss White at Whalton on 01670 775216 in the first instance (it can often lead to other positions in school!).

### **Pupil Progress Updates**

At this time of year, we would usually invite you into school to see how your children are settling in and progressing through the first term. Instead, we are offering telephone consultations in 10 minute slots over a series of dates throughout November. A google form will be sent out separately to gather this information. As always, if you have any concerns, please ring school and make an appointment with the class teacher or myself.

### **Half Term and Teacher Training Days**

Just to remind you that we break up for half term on Friday for a week with both schools returning Monday 2nd November. Thinking ahead, the next training day at each school is as follows:

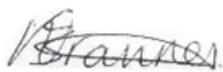
**Longhorsley** - Monday 4th January 2021

**Whalton** - Friday 12th February 2021

Hope this helps with planning ahead for child care.

Have a wonderful, safe half term when it comes and many thanks again for your continued support.

Kindest regards



Mrs Brannen  
Executive Headteacher