
NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

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

Longhorsley St Helen's
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Thursday 9th January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

A very "Happy New Year" to you all! I hope that you have had a wonderful Christmas break with your families. We are especially thankful to all of you who brought in donations for the Food Bank (toiletries for St Helen's Church at Longhorsley and dried food and tins at Whalton) last term to enable others to have a better Christmas too; a real season for giving. On that note, an appreciative thank you for the kind and thoughtful gifts received by all staff at both schools too and a special thank you to both Joyce and Fiona, who worked so hard to make sure that Christmas lunch and the parties were so successful and delicious again for our children and special visitors!

I would also like to thank the PTA at both schools for last term, especially in the run up to the Christmas period; we are very lucky to have their support. Caroline, our Chair of the PTA at Whalton, has just put out a flyer advertising the role of treasurer and secretary; we really do need these roles filled in any way - job share and flexible working arrangements widely available in both roles!! All children benefit greatly from having a working PTA model supported by parents. Huge thanks to Judith and Sally for their time and commitment to the roles and money raised - best of luck in your new ventures!

New Year's Lunch

Our very popular New Year's Family Lunches are coming up next week - Monday 13th at Whalton for all families and Wednesday 15th at Longhorsley for families of Year 3 and Year 4 - where one family member gets the opportunity to have lunch with your child in school. Please make sure that you have returned your slips back to school as soon as possible.



Teaching and Learning

As a federation, we will be focusing on e-Safety this term and will ensure that your children continue to be updated on how to keep themselves safe on-line, especially in terms of their 'identity', further details to follow from our e-Safety leads at both schools. Newsletters outlining the term's topic and curriculum for each class will be sent home this week. Class Learning Journeys will also be available on our school website under Curriculum. As promised, there will also be a letter coming home about reading workshops, which will happily go ahead if we have enough interest.

Although our next formal Pupil Progress Update Meetings for parents will be held next half term, please remember that you can make appointments to see your child's teacher at any point in the year to discuss your child's progress or if you have any questions. Following our end of term assessments, teachers will be inviting individual parents in earlier to discuss ways forward to support their child's progress, this is a supportive meeting as part of our commitment to early intervention and is nothing to worry about. Class teachers will send out an invitation or speak to you in person to discuss ways forward.

Building Improvements

Our focus this year is on improving the Early Years' Kitchen at Longhorsley so that it can be used to enhance the curriculum across the whole school, and at Whalton, at the request of the School Council, we are inviting a building company in to talk to them about their ideas and plans for revamping their toilets to make them more eco friendly and efficient - watch this space!

Finally, just a huge thank you to you all for your continued support as we enter 2020; it is my sixth year as shared Executive Headteacher across the Federation and for two small rural schools, we certainly have a lot going on! We are extremely proud to work as one Federation across two different partnerships, (working in partnership with the schools both in Morpeth and Ponteland). We have an amazing and hardworking team of staff and Governors, all of who are very committed to doing their very best to ensure that your children are given the building blocks, experiences and tools to 'Aspire...Believe... Achieve..... to be the very best that they can be'. Let's make 2020 another exciting year of fun learning and challenge for our children within the context of our core values of Love, Friendship, Forgiveness, Honesty, Hope and Trust.

Kind wishes

Mrs Brannen
Executive Headteacher