
NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

The Federation of Longhorsley St Helen's and Whalton C of E Aided Schools



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Tuesday 9th January 2018

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. A huge thank you for the kind and thoughtful gifts received by myself and the other staff; it is very much appreciated and never expected. I would also like to thank the PTA for all of their hard work last term, especially over the Christmas period; we are very lucky to have them and a special thank you to Fiona, who worked so hard to make sure that Christmas lunch was a real success again for our children and special visitors!

New Year's Lunch

This term we have lots to look forward to - starting with our very popular New Year's Family Lunch on Monday 15th January where you get the opportunity to have lunch with your child in school. Please make sure that you have returned your slip to Miss Johnston within the timescale given so not to be disappointed.

Staffing Update

Prior to Christmas, we advertised for a part-time teacher to work with Mrs Potter in Class 1. Unfortunately, the standard of the applications was not high enough so we are going to re-advertise the post again this half term. In the meantime, the governors have asked Mr Smith, who is currently teaching in EYFS at Longhorsley, to come and teach here on a Thursday and Friday. This will allow Mr Smith to share his good practice from our federated school as well as gaining further knowledge and understanding of Whalton.

Teaching and Learning

As a school, we will be focusing on Safeguarding this term and will ensure that your children continue to be updated on how to keep themselves safe- on-line especially. 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.



Healthy Schools



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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, we 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.

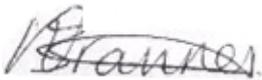
Picking up from the Swimming Baths

Just to gently reiterate that we would greatly appreciate your understanding in the reasons why we are no longer allowing parents to pick up children directly from the swimming baths. This is a safeguarding issue as we have the responsibility for ensuring that all children in our care are brought safely back to school. Having to work out who is going from the swimming baths with which parent; especially at the last minute, is a distraction which could possibly lead to children being unaccounted for. Parent helpers on the rota system, who meet us at the swimming pool, are the only parents who can take their children directly with prior permission from me. If you would like to help out with swimming on a regular basis, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Now that we are beginning a new year, I would also like to remind you that all of our diary dates listing events and festivities are in the school fortnightly newsletter and on our website.

Finally, just a huge thank you to you all for your continued support as we enter 2018; it is my fourth year as shared Executive Headteacher across the federation and it is only through our successful partnership with yourselves that we can truly make our children the 'best that they can be'.

Kind wishes,



Mrs Brannen

Executive Headteacher