

# NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

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



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23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Dear Home Learner Parents,

Many thanks for your positive and constructive responses which are really helpful to let us know how things are going. We are all working hard and learning in this new situation which changes on a daily basis. From the table below, we can see that many of you are very happy with how things are going but with some tweaks to ensure that your children get some valuable feedback to keep them motivated. Thank you for the additional comments and we have used these to look at ways forward.

| <u>Happy with Literacy and Numeracy set?</u>   | <u>EYFS work enough for home learners?</u> | <u>Does your child access Google Classroom?</u> | <u>Would you like to hand in work?</u> | <u>Continue with topic activities?</u> | <u>Would you like key things to cover?</u>   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |
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| Y  | N  |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |
| 12   | 3  |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |
| Y  | N  |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |
| 2  |  |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |
| Y  | N  |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |
| 11   | 4  |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |
| Y  | N  |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |
| 11   | 4  |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |
| Y  | N  |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |
| 11   | 4  |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |
| Y  | N  |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |
| 14   | 1  |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |  |   |   |    |   |

Balancing home and school learning is not an easy challenge. As more children have been joining school each week, the safety of the children and staff returning into school has had to be a priority. We are very conscious that the way forward for September may well continue to be a blend of both home and school learning which we are currently looking at, along with all other schools. We want you and your children at home to know we are working hard to get the balance right and ensure everyone feels valued and supported.



## Literacy and Numeracy Textbooks/workbooks

The majority of you are very happy with the text books. These are used by children both at home and at school to ensure that the children are working on their year group objectives independently, or the year group most appropriate for them, (hopefully these have helped printer issues at home, shared pcs/laptops, to reduce screen time and children's ability to choose which units to do based on interest, for English especially). We will continue to use these and will produce a grid to show you which units we will be working on in school, and when, to give greater structure. If you would like to follow the same order and the objectives they cover you can (or you simply choose an alternative if you've already covered that one). The text books contain at least a term's worth of work and will consolidate each year group's objectives. If you would prefer an alternative, please discuss this with your child's class teacher, to find the right level of challenge or independence.

### Submission of Work

We are very happy to receive a weekly piece of English and Numeracy work submitted to class teachers again but it would be really helpful if you can submit your children's work in accordance to the days below. This will allow staff to give timely feedback, especially when they are teaching more than one year group. Work at school is currently self-marked as part of our risk assessments to reduce rates of infection in school, so it is verbal feedback and whole class discussions only.

| Year group | Please submit work to your child's class teacher on the following days: |
|------------|---|
| Reception  | Tuesday   |
| Year 1     | Wednesday   |
| Year 2     | Tuesday   |
| Year 3     | Wednesday   |
| Year 4     | Thursday  |
| Year 5     | Wednesday   |
| Year 6     | Thursday  |

### Afternoon topic activities:

We will continue to post these topic activities in line with our original two weekly timetable as the vast majority of you are accessing these and again these replicate what the children are learning at school. Many of these are Literacy based so if your children would prefer to do these, they are still consolidating their skills.

### White Rose Maths:

Many of you liked the format, videos and activities of these and this was given as an alternative to the text books. If you are having any problems accessing these, please do contact school.

### Tracking and Assessment:

We have every year group's objectives on our school's website under the curriculum tab, then English and Maths, however, in order for us to be able to track and assess where children are in September we are going to reduce the objectives to the ones that we feel are 'key' to a year group in Reading, Writing and Mathematics first in order to ensure that the children have covered the essentials of their current year group ready for transition. These will be coming out to you this week and if you would prefer to focus on these basics for the rest of the term, and especially look at the year group below to see if there are any gaps at all that they might have forgotten, this again would be really helpful. We will not be carrying out formal end of year tests. We know where your children were in March (and this will be recorded on their reports coming home shortly to you) and we anticipate that we will be using the first half of the Autumn term to focus on assessing key objectives across all subjects to find out where children are across the curriculum. We are awaiting further guidance from DfE and will work with our partnership schools on the best way forward.

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### Summer Club

Thank you so much for all of your replies and we hope that the children will really enjoy this opportunity. We will be sending out which days for your children but just to reassure you that all Whalton children will be grouped together so that they get to see their own school friends as well as their Federation buddies. This will be going ahead at Longhorsley as it is a bigger school and has the capacity for wet weather planning and access to wrap around care at Longhorsley Village Playgroup (that many of our parents used during their time at Longhorsley and may help working parents especially). PAWS will be closed over the summer holidays. There are a small number of places left if anyone would like to contact school to secure a place and you can reassure your children that there will be a member of Whalton staff there to greet them and make them feel welcome.

### Face to face meeting with teachers:

As a staff, we are thinking about suitable end of year activities for year groups and consequently have been discussing staffing, capacity and risk assessments so that we can hopefully have face to face meetings with all of our children before the end of term on a timetabled basis. However, we continue to await more information around changes in government guidelines which may help us further, but we will let you know as soon as we can.

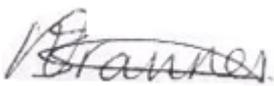
### Phone Calls

All teachers will be ringing you this week to catch up, to see how else that they can help; this is a really good opportunity for feedback and many parents have asked for additional materials or more personalised support during these calls as well as having the children speak with their teachers. Many local academies have been using Zoom but as a NCC school we are not allowed to and have discussed the safeguarding issues and inclusivity previously. We will, however, look to see how other NCC schools are progressing with this.

We hope that you all continue to keep safe and that your children keep motivated. Many thanks for your continued support during this difficult time.

If anyone has any further questions, please do just give me a ring at either school.

Kind regards,



Mrs Brannen  
Executive Head teacher

