
NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

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

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17th June 2020

Dear Parents,

Just to give you an update with where we are following the government's decision about inviting back to school 'other' year groups.

Firstly though, we would just like to congratulate all of the children who have returned to school in the last few weeks, they have been so good at adapting to the staggered systems of arriving and having their hands sanitised, the continued rigour of handwashing throughout the day and keeping within their own group (or 'bubble' as the government has called them). The children are especially enjoying their break and lunchtimes with their 'bubble' friends and getting back into school learning with their teachers; Nursery at Longhorsley in particular are having such a wonderful time in their morning sessions with lots of outdoor fun. It has also been so lovely to see so many parents when dropping off too and catching up with how everyone has been coping.

We also are very aware and appreciate, however, that many of our children are still at home and continue to do home learning. Unfortunately, unless the government's protective measures are changed, we will **not** be able to invite any more year groups back to either school before the summer term based on our current capacity, available space and staffing. At this moment in time, village halls and other community buildings should not be used to expand capacity and even if we did utilise other buildings, we do not have the staff to teach or supervise the children in them. To continue to support our children at home, we will continue the teacher phone calls home on a fortnightly basis and we are working on an additional self help pack which will include the essential basics and key objectives that each year group will need to work on to help transition back into school whenever that may be. Staff will also be thinking about suitable end of year activities for their year groups.



Another thing that we would like to offer to help our at home learning children both socially and emotionally, is a summer club for the first week of the summer holidays, based at Longhorsley. This will be on a first come, first served basis across both schools and will prioritise children in Years 2, 3, 4 (and our Year 5 children from Whalton).

The club will run from 10am until 2pm Monday 20th July to Thursday 23rd July and will have a member of NUFC staff doing Commando Joes in addition to 2 members of Federation Staff, doing other activities to form part of a carousel. The limit will be 15 children per day split into three groups of 5. Depending on the uptake, this could mean 1 or 2 days for your child as we would like to open it up to at least 30 children, however, we could offer it up to 60 children if the demand is high enough.

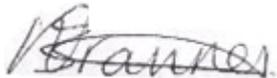
Please find below link to a google form for you to complete if you would like your child to attend.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScueAk9b6Kno9XSHk-TKXvYdZKJyxAw18YdYx11spoY1AYwbA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1>

As you will appreciate, this is not how we would have wanted the end of the year to look like but unfortunately, we must keep following the government's guidelines to keep everybody safe. However, if any of the guidelines change, we will be back in touch with you all.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Brannen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Brannen', written in a cursive style.

Executive Head teacher
Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton C of E Schools