



**Whittingham**  
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Headteacher's Blog

**Friday 18th November 2022. Multiple page issue.**



Our current Reception New Starters featured in Northumberland Gazette recently.

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

The weeks seem to certainly passing by very quickly. Thank you to Mr Charlton who wrote the Blog for last week. We intend for this to become a more regular feature as we both work together alongside the staff team to move forwards on school development, improvements and activities for all the children.

The staff are beginning to work with the children on their Christmas plays and performances. Information regarding how you can get tickets will be sent out by early December. It was lovely to be part of the PTA Christmas treat to Early Years as they went to see The Hungry Caterpillar at Alnwick Playhouse. The children's behaviour was a credit to their families and Mrs Marsden's team. Thank you, as always to the parents who helped out on this and recent trips. Your help is greatly appreciated.

As a staff, we continue to look at the recent parent questionnaires that were returned and we are really pleased with how well received our PE and Forest Schools provision is. Classroom size was mentioned as a negative alongside teaching assistant ratios. We are pleased to clarify that we currently have a 1:9 pupil to staff ratio which is below national averages and considerably below our pre-COVID staffing ratios which we hope to continue well into the future as this is working well and we are seeing good rates of progress and achievement across the school for our pupils.

As always, please do not hesitate to speak to staff at the end of the school day, Mr Charlton or I whilst we are on Gate Duty, via email or at the office if you have any concerns, queries or questions.

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.

## Stars of the Week and Effort

### Cup Winner are:

Josie, Josh, Harriet, Alessandra and Zach. Effort Cup: Raith. Well done to everyone.

### Attendance

We have no 100% attendance this week but amongst some poor individual attendance (Reminder - 2 letters with less than 96% attendance in succession across a term may lead to Education Welfare involvement) we still have a large number of children who have attended school 100% of the time so far this term. Well done.

## Reminders

We have lots going on in school over the rest of the term. Don't forget to check our school website for all the dates and further details. More will be added for Spring Term at: <https://whittingham.eschools.co.uk/website/calendar/213885>

Also each class page has photos and information as well as our Whole School Gallery.



## School Tea Towel

Our PTA Coffee and Open Morning is on Saturday December 3rd and our school tea towel will be on sale so please join us to avoid disappointment. The tea towel was created over a number of days and hopefully we have managed to get all children to contribute to this lovely keepsake.

## Class 1 Charity - RNLI

Thank you very much for your generous donations for the Class 1 Toy Stall. We should have a grand total of the money raised later today and will let you know how much was raised.



## Pupil Parliament Week

As part of a pre-cursor to Pupil Parliament Week, Councillor Cessford came into school to talk about his role as a Councillor. The children enjoyed listening to him and asked some excellent questions.



## Fundraising

As well as Amazon Smile and Easy Fundraising we have 'Your School Lottery' where for £1 per week you have a chance to win cash and incentive prizes as well as donating to school funds.



**Early Years remember ...**



# Thursday 1st December Non Uniform Day



On Thursday 1st December we will be having a Non Uniform Day. You can dress up in your favourite Christmas clothes or anything you like. In return we would love it if you could have a look through your cupboards and drawers for items suitable for a tombola prize that we can use for our tombola stall at our Christmas Fayre and Open Day on Saturday 3rd December.

Please bring any donations to school on Thursday 1st December.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Whittingham C of E PTA.



Join us for a

# CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT

Following the success of our last Movie Night. We would like to host a Christmas Movie Night on **Thursday 1st December 2022.**

We will be showing ELF ( rated PG) and the animated version of The Grinch (rated U).  
3.15- 5.15 ( Pick up from main entrance).

Please bring a packed tea and drinks, blanket/ cushions if you wish.

Cost per 'place' £3.00 per child. Please send money into the school office in a named envelope. Please note there will be no after school club that evening.



Whittingham  
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Christmas Coffee Morning

Our wonderful PTA will be hosting a Coffee Morning on Saturday 3rd December 10-12p.m. We will be serving teas, coffees and refreshments and there will be stalls including cakes and the children will be selling Christmas crafts they have made. You will be able to have a look around our school grounds and classrooms as we welcome the community back into school after the restrictions of the COVID 19 pandemic.

If you have a small business and would like to book a stall (for the price of a raffle prize donation only) please contact:

belinda.athey@whittingham.  
northumberland.sch.uk



*There will be a cake stall so offers of traybake and cakes would be appreciated and can be brought into school on the morning or day before. There will be a tombola and we will be having a non uniform day to resource prizes. (See separate letter) Any extra donations are welcome.*

*There will also be a 'Name the Teddy Competition' and the children have designed a tea towel and that will be on sale on the day priced at £4.00. We will be having a book stall so donations of books are very welcome and should be sent to the office any time from now. Donations of raffle prizes are very welcome.*