



Whittingham
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher's Blog

'Hand in hand together we will become resilient, respectful and responsible citizens of our community and the wider world.'

Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to the first 'Blog' of the new school year. It has been lovely to welcome children and staff back to school this week and to see everyone settle so well into their new year groups and enjoy a week of Indian Summer. School has been busy over the summer break with office refurbishments, external door replacements and some lovely playground markings in the Early Years outdoor space which is a high priority focus for us this year and it was lovely to see everything completed for the start of the new term.

Thank you for your feedback regarding after school childcare and enrichment after school clubs. We are able to offer for this term 1 late night (5.30) after school childcare facility and the evening that has enough interest to cover costs is Tuesdays. This will start on Tuesday 12th September. Please note that costs will be charged for the term and costs will only be reimbursed if school have to cancel the club as we have staffing costs to pay for. Pick up times on Tuesdays are 4.15 and the charge is £3.50 (based on the numbers that have been given to us but may rise slightly if not everyone takes up their place) and until 5.30 is £7.00. As this is a childcare club and is more relaxed there will be plenty for the children to do such as outdoor play, crafts etc. If your child is staying until 5.30 please ensure they have a snack and drink. Pick up from main school gate.

The majority of feedback was that families did not need childcare but did appreciate an enrichment club (like the old style After School Club) which was able to offer age appropriate activities for 1 hour after school.

We hope to offer a wider range and will be in touch with you shortly but in the first instance we will start with Gardening Club 3.15-4.15 each Monday (starting Monday 11th September) for Years 3-6 costing £3.50. Pick up for clubs this half term will be main school gate. All parents who contacted me requesting a Tuesday childcare club have a place to start on Tuesday and a bill will be set up on school money shortly. Any more children wanting to join Gardening Club and are in Years 3-6 can get a place for this Monday by emailing me directly - belinda.athey@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk. I will be in touch regarding any additional clubs very shortly.

Stay and Play Forest Schools Sessions for pre school children will start this term and run once a month! This is something that has been in the planning for the last 18 months so we are so pleased to be able to offer this. (See poster attached for full details).

As always, we appreciate your feedback. I am contactable on Gate Duty each morning, during the day in the office - 01665574222 or directly by email (please do not use any other email as there may be a delay in your email getting to me as it does not go directly to me) - belinda.athey@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk

We have lots of events planned in school this term and they will be on the school website calendar by early next week, the first of which is our PTA Annual General Meeting on Monday 11th September in Class 3 at 3.30p.m. and we look forwards to seeing you then.

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.

Our first week back across the school in photos ...





After 18 months of planning we can finally offer monthly 'Babes in the Wood' Stay and Play sessions run by our qualified Forest School Leader, Mrs Manners. Our first session will be 1.30 - 3.00 on Thursday 28th September. Adults and Babes in Arms free. £4.00 per child aged 12 months to 4 years.

Babes in the Wood



Join us in an unrivalled Forest Schools space in the beautiful grounds of Whittingham Primary School. Get to know other families from the area. Help your child appreciate the awe and wonder of nature while making friends, being creative and learning through our Forest Schools activities delivered by qualified school staff.



Numbers are limited so that we can offer a truly unique experience so please call the office on 01665574222 or email admin@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk to book a place.