



Whittingham
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher's Blog



Friday 25th November
2022. Multiple page
issue.

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to the Headteacher's Blog of the week. We continue to have had an exciting week as our new library and intervention space build has started. In school continues to be very busy too as the children across the school have been given their parts for their plays. Thank you for supporting us in helping children learn their lines (if they have any) and provide costumes where necessary. We were going to charge for tickets for the plays as this covers the costs of purchasing scripts, performance licences and hiring the Village Hall but given the economic climate have decided against selling tickets. We will have a pay what you can donations plate which will be in place if you are able to donate as much or as little as you can. As they say; 'Every little helps!'

As we won't be allocating tickets or taking reservations we will need to keep to fire regulations so please come early to avoid disappointment. Full details will follow on posters later next week but as always, dates and times can be found on our school website calendar which can be found <https://whittingham.eschools.co.uk/website/calendar/213885>.

Reminders for this week are Class 2's Dance Day on Wednesday, Non Uniform Day and Movie Night on Thursday and our PTA Coffee Morning on Saturday.

Looking once again at our recent parent questionnaire we are really pleased that you feel welcomed to school and that our staff are recognised for their talents and commitment to school. However, a point to improve was the amount of emails sent out and that there are too many different methods of communication. This is something that we continue to work on and I endeavour to include most of the information needed in the weekly 'Blog' but I will continue to look at this. With regards to their being too many methods of communication, in the past we have found that different families like different ways of communicating; some like Facebook, whilst others like Class Dojo and Tapestry etc. I will perhaps send out a further survey to see if there is now a definite favourite and if so streamline accordingly.

Thank you so much for your support while we have had staff absences of up to 33% this week. Every effort is made that if teaching staff are absent then their replacement is fully prepared, following current planning so that children continue to make progress. However, After School Club has been very hard to cover and staff have given their time free of charge for this to continue where possible. I appreciate this can not always be done well in advance and understand how this may then be tricky for parents and thank you for your support in this matter and the positive comments I have received throughout the week regarding our efforts. We still do not have enough places each evening to cover our costs so unless numbers increase will look to changing the provision in the New Year, this will be confirmed before the end of term so alternative arrangements can be made if necessary.

The change to pick up and drop off time went smoothly this week - thank- you. This will continue next week while the build continues.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Mr Charlton on Gate Duty if you have any suggestions on how we can improve, concerns, queries or comments.

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.



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Adult Safeguarding Week.

In school, rightly so, we spend a great deal of time concentrating on safeguarding children. However, to keep our children safe it is really important that we keep ourselves and other adults safe. Over the next few pages you will find some information posters which may be of help and support.

Nursery Stay and Play.

We are so pleased that since the restrictions of COVID have been lifted we have been able to return to offering children a wide range of experiences, trips and visitors. Great fun was had by all at the Nursery Stay and Play. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend. Here are a small selection of photos from the morning, more of which can be found on Tapestry and our school website.



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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 too please.

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.

MOVIE NIGHT

Please don't forget

Last day for Movie Night places is Monday 28th November. Places are for Reception to Year 6 age children only on this occasion and there will be NO ASC on this night



What's My Role in Safeguarding?

- **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.** You can help create a safer culture in your community.
- **Learn** about the different types of harm and abuse, and how to spot the signs.
- **Record** any concerns you have.
- **Report** your concerns to your nearest Safeguarding Adults Social Care Team.
- **Read** our short guide to the role you can play in safeguarding: anncrafttrust.org/what-is-my-role-in-safeguarding

#SafeguardingAdultsWeek



3 Ways to Create Safer Cultures in Organisations

- **Listen** to your people. Create an environment where concerns are heard and addressed appropriately.
- **Lead** the way. Take the time to understand your safeguarding responsibilities as an individual and an organisation. Ensure you have all the measures in place to minimise the risks of harm.
- **Learn** from past mistakes. Reflect on what actions you can take to minimise harm and ensure best-practice.

#SafeguardingAdultsWeek



Criminals Are Forcing Adults at Risk to Traffic Drugs

- **County Lines.** Where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often by adults and young people at risk who are coerced into it by gangs.
- **This puts everyone at risk.** The National Crime Agency reports that affected areas see increased levels of violence and weapons-related crimes as a result of the trend.
- **The problem's getting worse.** Lockdown has increased the number of people at risk of exploitation due to economic concerns and increased isolation.

#SafeguardingAdultsWeek



Elder Abuse Is Getting Worse

- **Elder Abuse:** A single or repeated act that causes harm or distress to an older person taking place in a relationship where there's an expectation of trust. A lack of appropriate action can also lead to elder abuse, such as failing to help someone with care needs.
- **Elder abuse is on the rise.** The World Health Organisation reports that rates of elder abuse rose during lockdown. Around one in six people aged 60 and over experience some form of abuse in community settings.
- **Learn to spot the signs.** If you're worried that someone's experiencing abuse, either at home or in a care setting, contact your local safeguarding adults board.

#SafeguardingAdultsWeek



Technology Can Enable and Empower Domestic Abusers

- **Connected technology is changing the world.** Technology can help keep people safe. But abusers can also exploit technology to cause harm.
- **Abusers can use technology to maintain control.** They can bombard their victims with calls and messages while limiting their contact with friends and family. They can also share, or threaten to share, private, sensitive or intimate information online.
- **Tech abuse is hard to spot and hard to escape.** But if you know the risks you can take steps to keep yourself and others safe.

#SafeguardingAdultsWeek