



Whittingham
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 6th March 2026.

Week 23 Newsletter

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

We have a very busy couple of weeks back. Unfortunately, Mrs Gillott, our new office manager was off sick at the very beginning of this half term and has since resigned. I have met with the Staffing Committee of Governors and we will be looking to advertise this post next week with potentially a replacement being in place for the Summer Term. In the meantime I will be taking on this role so thank you for your patience if I am unable to respond immediately to a query.

Replacement for Mrs Arkle - Despite having advertised twice for Mrs Arkle's post we have not managed to appoint a successful candidate so along with the Staffing Committee of Governors we are looking for a solution for the Summer Term. The options we have going forward is to try and recruit later next term for a September start and this will enable us to look at whether we recruit an agency to provide our lunches following our current menus and recipes or if we buy in meals and employ someone to come into school to serve the meals and tidy away afterwards. Whatever option we decide please be assured that this will not mean that standards will fall nor will it mean we will be increasing our meal prices as these will be absorbed by the school budget. If you know someone who would be interested in applying for Mrs Arkle's post when it is re-advertised please do share this information with them. Alternatively, if you know someone if we go for the option of pre-prepared meals who would be able to serve, heat and clear away (we would provide training). Please do let me know.

Enrichment Clubs – Next term we have an additional After School enrichment club for Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) pupils only 3.15-4.15 every Wednesday for the half term. Cricket with Tom Vickers. Tom has got funding for this and therefore there will be no charge. Places will be limited, so if your child would like to attend please email admin@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk by Monday 23rd March.

School Meals - Just a reminder to please pay school dinners one week in advance (By Monday). The cost for 5 dinners is £13.00. Also, please be reminded that if your school money deficit reaches **£26.00 you are required for your child to bring in a packed lunch until the debt is cleared. If you are having financial concerns please see me in the strictest confidence for support.**

Climate Awareness Week from Monday 20th April - As you will know, with our various pupil groups, work in school such as our upcoming Big Plastic Hunt and our very own climate action plan we are very aware of raising awareness. As part of this work in school during this week we will be inviting families into school to see what each class has been doing on Friday 24th April (World Earth Day) 1.30-2.30. Full details from each class will follow shortly.

Morning drop off – Please could I remind families not to drive onto the Memorial Hall carpark when I am still out on duty as children may be still using it. Also, I have been reminded as part of Health and Safety regulations that unless the children are part of the walking bus or that we are crossing the road as part of a school activity that I should not be seeing children across the road until I have received additional training. Therefore, please ensure you are there to show your children across the road and they do not do this unattended.

PTA /Fundraising for school - Our PTA do an amazing job of fundraising while providing some lovely events and activities for the children so please be reminded there is a PTA meeting on Monday 8th March at 3.30. Please let the office know if there are any changes in arrangements.

Another couple of ways you can easily help school is by:

Supporting our school and buy your chance to win here -

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/whittingham-c-of-e-primary-school>

When shopping online using the Easy fundraising link. For further details please see <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/search/cause/?q=Whittingham%20Primary%20School%20-%20Northumberland&cat=cause>

Don't Forget –

Walking Bus Wednesdays

Toddly Play - Wednesdays

Parents/ Carers Evenings – 30th and 31st March

Easter Bingo – 27th March

Easter Babes in the Woods session – Tuesday 31st March

Easter Service – please note change of date and time – WEDNESDAY 1st April 2.00

– 2.45

Break up for Easter Holidays- Thursday 2nd April.

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher

