

Friday 21st July 2023

# Headteacher's Blog

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

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to the final Headteacher's Blog of a very busy and exciting year which has seen us receive recognition for our excellent teaching and learning through a raft of awards and commendations and a highly successful Ofsted.

We have also been able to greatly improve the learning environment for our children through the new library and group work room and well being space and group work room. The old and energy inefficient windows have been replaced and our outdoor environment including the play equipment, Forest School and Gardening areas maturing and growing mean that our whole school environment continues to be second to none! We have also been able to broaden our children's learning through visits and visitors and social occasions out of school time such as residentials, Movie Nights and Discos!

Improvements planned for over the summer and the new school year ahead are office re-furbishments, door replacements and the first phase of our improvements to our Early Years outdoor area which will be ongoing throughout the Autumn Term as we have plans for a £25,000 improvement project ( of which through grants and donations we already have raised £11,000 although more sponsors and recommendations of ground-workers are very welcome!) I would also like to make the most of staff expertise and purchase new equipment and create a space for 'The Arts' so watch this space!

None of these achievements could have happened if it was not for our school staff team, PTA, Governors, families and most importantly the children themselves so a big thank you to everyone and may I take this opportunity to wish all the children moving on from our school the very best for the future.

Looking ahead to the new school year, we have a training day on Monday 4th September and school re-opens to children on Tuesday 5th September.

We are also really pleased that Mrs Manners has joined our team of Forest School Leaders and will be leading Forest Schools sessions in school for our children as well as leading our Stay and Play Forest Schools Sessions for pre school children 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).

Wishing you all health and happiness over the summer,  
Best wishes,  
Belinda Athey - Headteacher.



## PTA News

I am pleased to share with you the first specific PTA newsletter attached to our 'Blog' Thank you to PTA for doing this. The PTA felt that it was important that families saw how much has been raised and also what the money goes towards.

We are low on numbers of people attending meetings and helping at events which may mean that we are unable to run as many events next year unless we can widen our support base.

This does not have to mean having a committee role or helping at every event necessarily so please do consider attending the first meeting which will be scheduled in September once we are back and settled we will confirm the date to see how you can help and be involved.

Thank you very much PTA and an extra big thanks to Louise Hodgson who has been an extremely active member of the PTA for over 12 years now and will no longer be on the PTA from September. She has been an instrumental part of steering the PTA through COVID and coming back even stronger afterwards.



# Happy LAST OF Day SCHOOL

Whittingham C of E Primary School are pleased to invite you to their Leavers and End of Year Celebration.

This year it will be slightly different, all the classes will share their 'best bits' and memories of the school year with a particular and special goodbye and good luck to our Year 6 Leavers.

The celebration will take place in St Bartholomew's Church from 1.30p.m. on Friday 21st July 2023.





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.

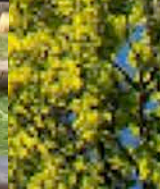
Our first session will be 1.30 - 3.00 on Thursday 28th September.

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](mailto:admin@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk) to book a place.



PTA newsletter  
Summer 2023



## **HOW OUR FUNDRAISING HAS SUPPORTED YOUR CHILD AND SCHOOL**

CHRISTMAS CLASS TREATS TO THE PANTO £935.00

LEAVERS HOODIES £176.00

PA SYSTEM £269.00

DONATION TOWARDS 12 NEW CHROMEBOOKS £1000.00

## **THIS YEAR WE HAVE RAISED £3834.96**

CHRISTMAS FAIR £1727.55

DISCOS £848.65

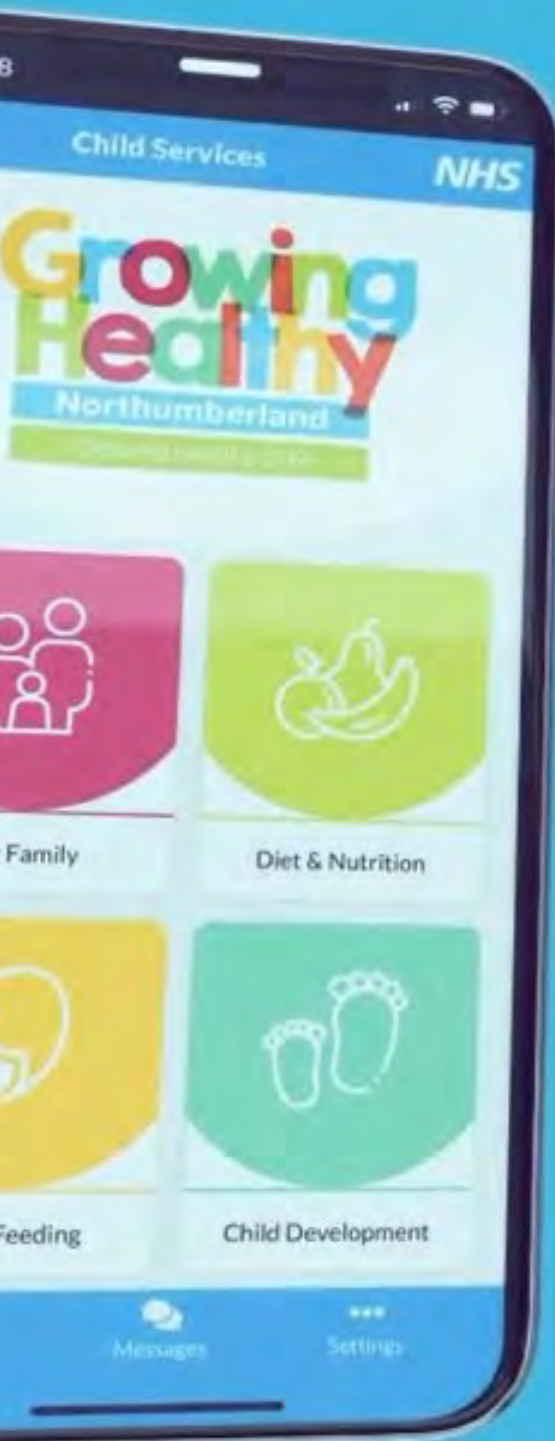
BINGO NIGHT £675.30

SPORTS DAY £95.85

MOVIE NIGHTS 445.00

AMAZON SMILE £42.61

**A BIG shout out to Louise Hodgson who has been chair for 5 years and Vice Chair this last year who is leaving us - THANK YOU! Without parents support we are unable to provide these wonderful opportunities for our children. PTA meeting date for September TBC - please support us!**



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Nursing  
Team  
(Public  
Health  
Nurses)



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Years  
Practitioners



Health  
Visitors



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Screeners



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Team



Emotional  
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