

Headteacher's Blog

Friday 12th November
2021



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Unfortunately, cases of COVID 19 remain high and as I mentioned in my email yesterday I have been involved in discussions with the Education and Health and Safety Teams at NCC, Public Health Northumberland and Alnwick Partnership Headteachers. The decision across the partnership has been made that we will continue to provide the children with end of term special events like plays, performances, parties and Christmas lunches in their class bubbles but we will not be opening our performances to families or visitors. We will be filming the Early Years First Nativity and Class 1 performance of Whoops a Daisy Angel (we will be still performing these in the village hall so that the children can get the feel of the 'big stage'). Class 2 and 3 will be performing in Church with their own version of Carols and Christingle which will also be filmed. Your class teachers will be in touch with further details. In the meantime we continue to ensure our school website is up to date and the calendar section can be found -

<https://whittingham.eschools.co.uk/website/calendar/213885>

I appreciate that this will cause some disappointment but it is important that we continue to keep one another safe as possible enjoy the festive period without illness or isolation.

Thank you very much to everyone who filled bags for the Air Ambulance collection on Monday. Thanks also go to the PTA (past and present) and a very small amount of volunteers who were able to collect bags from around the local area. Unfortunately because there were so few volunteers some bags were mistakenly missed. If this has happened to you please send them into school and we will either arrange to take them to the depo or keep them for our next collection.

It is on this note that I feel as a school community we need to decide whether we want to continue to have a PTA. While I appreciate we have been unable to meet and have an AGM or any of our usual fundraisers and fun events we are now down to only 3 committee members.

Historically, the PTA have fundraised and provided the children past and present with so much; IT equipment, reading books, furniture, paying for every child to have a Christmas lunch, cinema visits and trips, Daily Mile running track and much, much more. Without the help of the PTA we would simply not be able to afford many of the items so stopping the PTA (which has ran for over 30 years) would be a great shame.

As this is a matter of urgency. It is planned that we hope to arrange to meet as a school community. As soon as we are advised by Public Health Northumberland that we can safely organise a larger scale meeting in person I will advise you of the date and time and would urge every family to send a representative.

In the meantime we would appreciate you supporting PTA initiatives such as Amazon Smile, Your School Lottery and Easy Fundraising so that there continue to be some funds into the account while we are unable to fundraise in any other way.

Thank you for your continued support.

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.