



Whittingham
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher's Blog

Schools Versus Climate Change - Please see information over on page 2.

Friday 7th January 2022
2 page issue.

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

I hope our blog this week finds you all well after a hopefully happy and safe Christmas and New Year. We continue to have lots of things planned in school to enhance our lessons and after school provision so that despite any further restrictions we may face, our children continue to thrive educationally and socially.

Regarding swimming, we plan to provide swimming lessons in KS2 during the summer term where we may be able to mix class bubbles and will review this as necessary nearer the time to ensure that by the end of KS2 our children have had the opportunity to be able to swim at least 25 metres. In the meantime we are enhancing our physical activity provision with a specialist dance coach in EY and KS 1 as well as football coaching in KS2 alongside other activities such as highly skilled PE teaching in school, Daily Mile and Forest Schools provision. We also hope to get our new climbing equipment for the school field installed this term.

As I have mentioned previously, to keep our children safe during the COVID 19 pandemic we are advised to well ventilate the classrooms and to ensure our CO2 monitor emissions remain low. This is finely balanced alongside the need to keep classrooms at a safe working temperature. All classrooms are heated during cold weather but with the ventilation in place we are finding that a lot of the heat is being lost and drafts from the windows easily make the classrooms feel cooler than the temperature recorded so we will continue to relax the uniform policy so that PE kit (joggers and hoodie) may be worn on non PE days if your child feels that this is a warmer option.

As requested in our parent questionnaire we have a fantastic range of after school clubs offered this term; Musical Theatre, Football, Yoga and Mindfulness, Computing and Board games fully subsidised through school as we continue to commit to our children's mental health and wellbeing. Unfortunately, the take up has been extremely low so this may be a case of ' Use it or Lose it' in the future.

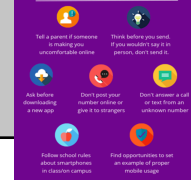
We have a number of donated new, nearly new and good condition school uniform. I will look to having a viewing time where families can help themselves to uniform at no cost outside as soon as we have a spell of dry bright weather and will publicise this beforehand.

I attended a Headteachers Meeting with the Director of Education, Public Health and the Health and Safety Team yesterday and we were advised that the daily reported cases of COVID 19 in the area are amongst the highest recordings that have been in place over the last 2 years so please do continue to follow our guidelines: children not attending school if they have any symptoms of COVID 19 and if family members test positive then any children attending school should take a daily LFT for the next 7 days to ensure children and staff in school and our wider community are as safe as possible and that we can also avoid numbers of staff absences which could significantly disrupt the running of the school.

Thank you for your help and continued support.

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.



Keeping Safe Online

I have come across these interesting articles that you may find useful to copy and paste into your browser:

[-https://www.vpnmentor.com/blog/the-ultimate-parent-guide-for-child-internet/](https://www.vpnmentor.com/blog/the-ultimate-parent-guide-for-child-internet/)

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides/new-devices-2021>

Schools vs. Climate Change - Represent your school, score green goals, play for the planet!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Your child has been invited to represent Whittingham Warriors in a national school competition, to take climate action. Planet Super League works in partnership with more than 50 professional football clubs to help promote climate action (you don't have to be a football fan to get involved).

Schools vs. Climate Change is an online competition where children, teachers, families and stakeholders of the school compete against other schools in a fun, online competition to see who can score the most 'green goals'. Green goals are scored by completing a variety of activities, which can be completed as an individual, as a class or at home to inspire changes that, collectively, can have a big impact on the planet as well as scoring goals for our school to become the School vs. Climate Change champions.

When is the tournament?

Monday 10th January 2022 - Sunday 20th February 2022 (6 weeks).

How do I get involved?

There are over 100 activities to do on the Planet Super League website, including:

Trying a meat-free meal

Active travel to school, work or the shops

Making posters to remind people to turn off the lights

There are activities across several categories, some educational, some fun, some impactful and others simple and effective everyday behaviour changes.

Sign up for free now at planetsuperleague.com

Click Sign Up

Enter your email address and a password

Choose your favourite (or most local) football club

Select Northumberland Local Authority from the search bar/dropdown

Select Whittingham Church of England Primary School (we may also be known as Whittingham Warriors) from the search bar/dropdown

Choose a fun Team Name

Start scoring green goals!

For more information visit: planetsuperleague.com/schools to see our FAQs.