



Whittingham  
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 13th May 2022.

# Headteacher's Blog

Best of luck to our Equestrian Team taking part in the NSEA event at Floors Castle this weekend.



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Another busy week in school! Thank you for your continued support while we have continued to have staff absences. Hopefully, we will have a period of time where absences reduce across the school and we can return to our class 100% attendance awards. All class teachers are currently involved in arranging trips for the children and letters with full details are beginning to be sent out. We are also pleased to confirm that Class 1 will be attending the Little Singers, Big Sing and Class 2 and 3 will be attending The Big Sing, both at Sage Gateshead so there will be further details of this great opportunity coming soon. We have managed to cover the costs of all trips by using the school budget and money raised from Your School Lottery <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/whittingham-c-of-e-primary-school> but this has now been completely used up so we really need more tickets sold and also fundraising ideas to enable us to continue to offer a vast range of extra curricular activities for free. A letter will be out next week from the PTA regarding an AGM as it will be wonderful to get this fantastic group together again, hopefully with lots of new members and ideas!

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.



## Reminders .

We have a training day on the Monday immediately after the May half term holiday ( Monday 6th June) so we will return to school on Tuesday 7th June.

We have also been granted a day for the Queens Jubilee as this falls in the half term holiday. Schools have been allowed to set their own date for this and we have decided to follow the same day as DCHS which is on Monday 27th June so school will be closed to pupils on that day.

We hope to have some Jubilee Celebrations on Friday 27th May in school - letter to follow

The dates for this half term are all on our school website calendar which can be found - <https://whittingham.eschools.co.uk/website/calendar/213885>



## Mental Health Awareness Week

It has been Mental Health Awareness week this week. Jess, our reading and therapy dog has been spending her time in Class 3 as this week has also been Y6 SATS tests ( well done to Year 6 for completing these). She will continue to work across the school, providing children with the opportunity to have some fun and therapeutic time with her. For anyone wishing to find further advice regarding Mental Health and Wellbeing here are links to some excellent websites:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk>

<https://www.mind.org.uk>

<https://www.place2be.org.uk>

<https://www.thriveapproach.com/who-we-work-with/parents-carers/>

<https://www.samaritans.org>

As you may have noticed, we have been moving forwards on developing our outdoor learning and gardening this term as well as being involved in the Roots and Shoots programme at Alnwick Gardens. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in helping us with this. As part of this we have joined the 'Get Togethers Community' which is a charitable organisation which encourages people of all ages to get together growing, cooking or eating food. A letter went out this week following an idea from our Gardening Club about having a non uniform day on Friday 20th May. Donations of items to help develop our gardens and planters are asked for on or before this day. Please see letter for further details.



## Queen's Jubilee.

We are hoping to have a fun event in school with the children to commemorate this occasion during the last week of this half term with the children. A letter will follow with full details very soon. We are also pleased to support the village organisers who are having a Jubilee Picnic on Sunday 5th June 1-6pm. Further details can be found on posters around the village. I will be attending to enable this to happen and the group have their own liability insurance. It is taking longer than anticipated to re-open the school grounds after school and at weekends as we are awaiting our insurers to confirm that we can continue to have the school grounds open to others and that, as a school, we will not be liable for any damage or injuries that may occur while it is being used. Once we have clear guidelines I will be in touch with our Governing Body and you all.