



**Friday 25th June 2021**  
**2 page issue.**

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

We have reached the end of another busy week as we hurtle towards the end of term we are certainly keeping busy and having lots of fun while learning. As always, if you have any questions, queries, suggestions or concerns please do not hesitate to send us a message or catch either myself or Mr Charlton after Gate Duty.

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.



Thank you to Miss Trafford, our Music Lead, our staff team and to Music Partnership North and their team as we were involved in the 1 minute of music project which was aired this week. You can tune in to watch at <https://www.youtube.com/musicpartnershipnorth>

We will be looking forward to welcoming our current music tutor Mrs Nickelin into Early Years and Class 1 in addition to the First Access Music Project in KS 2 from September to help us further develop our music provision across the school.



## Football from September (and coaching beyond)

I am just finalising talks today with the Newcastle United Foundation for them to bring their coaching team to our school in September now that we are allowed for this to happen. I envision that there will be provision in all classes from Nursery to Year 6 so watch this space!



## Well done Class 3

230 children took part in the live virtual competition on Wednesday and our team were placed 3rd. Great job everyone. I look forward to seeing how well our football team do later on today.

# RISE.

## We are winners!

During the month of May you may remember that we took part in WeAreRISE's campaign's to help support Primary Schools in getting their pupils moving and having fun while at school. The first opportunity was encouraging their pupils to take part in the Daily Mile and the second one being the Daily Dance, both opportunities were to encourage schools to get their pupils moving for 15 minutes each day outside in the fresh air. Schools were asked to submit pictures and videos to RISE's Twitter feed to be in with a chance to win some prizes, but to also engage their pupils into some daily activity. We took part in both of the activities and I am really pleased to say that we have won the competition and prize of £1000! Class 2 were also treated to a visit from athlete Aly Dixon World Record Holder - <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2395283917401717>

## A great personal achievement

It is great to see our children achieve well in school and it is also fantastic to hear from you when they achieve well in their own interests out of school. Well done to Tilly whose prowess in swimming has resulted in her coming 1st in her category for backstroke in Scotland and 17th in this category in Great Britain.

## After School Clubs

Following feedback from families there was very little interest for after school childcare beyond 4.30 but there was interest in there being some art, craft and sports and mindfulness after school clubs in particular. We are just waiting to see how guidelines enable us to provide After School Clubs while mixing 'bubbles' but certainly envision there will be some clubs returning in September and will let you know before the start of term if possible. We also are looking to ensure that after school clubs will be highly subsidised by school as we feel that as many children as possible should be able to attend as it is something special that they have missed out on due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

**Pen Portrait Mrs Kennedy and Mrs Lewis**

Mrs Marsden will be interviewed next week.

**Mrs Lewis - Teaching Assistant.**

Q- What got you into teaching?

A - I love learning myself and helping other people to learn.

Q - What is your favourite subject?

A -I'd have to say English.

Q -Do you have any hobbies? If so, what are they?

A- I love being busy: cooking, reading, gardening, walking the dog, music, Spanish, time with my children... lots.

Q- Do you have any motos?

A - Don't worry about the things that you can't change. Always treat people the way that you want to be treated.

Q -How long have you worked here?

A- I've been at Whittingham for 6 years now.

**Mrs Kennedy - Office Manager**

Q -Why did you want to become a secretary?

A-I became a school secretary as I always wanted to work in a school with children and when the job was advertised it looked like something that I wanted to do, and now with the challenges the job holds I have been able to become an Office Manager.

Q-How long have you worked here?

A- I started working here when my little girl started school which was 18 years ago.

Q -What qualities do you need for your job?

A-You need to be very adaptable under pressure and be able to plan ahead in order to keep this busy school running. You also need to be very organised to stay on top of everything and work well as a team with the rest of the teachers and staff.

Q-What are the easiest and then also the hardest parts of your job?

A -I would not say any part of the job is easy, however, the best part of my job is seeing all the children every day (which I have really missed) as it reminds me of why I keep working so hard. The hardest part would probably be balancing the school budget as maths was never my favourite subject.

Q- Do you have any hobbies outside of school?

A-I really love living in Northumberland with all of its lovely beaches and woods. I also love spending family time walking with the dogs especially my new puppy Albi. I love reading, listening to music and spending time pottering and relaxing in my garden.



**Whittingham 'Euro's'**

A fun day was had by all last week as we took part in football competitions and skills sessions in our class bubbles. Thank you for supporting us with this by ensuring the children came into school dressed for the occasion! Just a few of the photos are here. More can be found on our school website.



**A BIG THANK YOU to Miss Donkin for her hard work and commitment and who finishes teaching Class 2 today. She may pop into school before the end of term to help us cover class 1 on occasion before she joins her new school. We wish her all the best in her new post and new home!**



**Transition Week**

Just a reminder that the week beginning 11th July is transition week. All the children will move into their new year group for the week (children who will be reception in September will stay all day each day). Year 6 will work separately on transition activities in school which have been set by DCHS or their transition school if provided.

**End of day messages**

During school closures staff were able to access Tapestry and Class Dojo to pick up messages. While school is operational fully it is difficult for teaching staff to have the time to read any messages during the school day so please contact Mrs Kennedy to inform school of any changes to end of day arrangements or to report an illness.

**School Uniform Clothing Bank**

This free service has proved to be very popular. If you have any uniform to donate please drop it into the plastic box outside the main wooden gate. Following feedback I am also looking to see when we have a dry evening where uniform can be left out over night so working parents can take a look but will send a message out before I do so. Hopefully before the end of term.

