

Hand in hand together we will become kind, collaborative and courageous citizens of our community and the wider world



Whittingham
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Monday 21st September 2025.

A wonderful year and events for the new school year.

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Now that school has closed for the summer and that the children are hopefully enjoying the start of the holidays I would like to thank the children and staff for their hard work and efforts as well as parents, caregivers and governors for their support over the year.

I am sure you will all agree with me that this school year has been particularly successful. As a school, we are looking to always improve so please find within this letter reminders and ideas as well as some new events for the new school year and the chance to be involved in some improvements.

Class 1 and 3 cloakroom and toilet refurbishments / Use of school grounds –

Following feedback from the children, particularly the Y6 girls regarding the condition of some of the older toilets in school we have been able to schedule work to happen over the holidays to totally replace some of the current toilets. The work has begun today (21st July and we expect this to take around 3 weeks. Please do not come onto school site during this time as during the day will have work ongoing and afterwards may have uncovered skips etc which would mean that being on school site could be dangerous. As soon as it is safe to use I will let you know.

Just a reminder that the only people using the school grounds are those who have read and agree to adhere to our school code of conduct for using the school grounds. There are clear rules of use and also where cannot be accessed such as the EY area, MUGA, Forest School and Garden area. The MUGA is kept locked as we have to adhere to planning restrictions which mean that it cannot be used out of school hours. Unfortunately, we have had some complaints about the MUGA being used at weekends and while it appears to still be padlocked when we return to school after a weekend it perhaps suggests that the fence is being climbed over which not only is very dangerous but can cause damage to our MUGA or prevent the rest of the school grounds being open out of school hours.

Climate Action Plan and Walking Bus –

As part of our Climate Action Plan which will be in place from 1st September we are looking at ways in which we can encourage simple actions at school. Mrs Marsden would really like to set up a 'Walking Bus' and has already sent an email and google form. At the moment there some interest but in case you have missed this email please copy the <https://forms.gle/AwDR5dzGWMNgBv767> link into your browser and complete the survey, particularly if you live in the village.

Parking Considerably and Safely -

Please could everyone please be reminded to park considerably when dropping off / picking up their children/ coming into school and to avoid parking over driveways or on pavements.

There are some handy information posters on our July section of the school website news page - <https://www.whittinghamprimaryschool.co.uk/website/news/213884>

Communication –

While we pride ourselves on our regular communications as we have a range of communication systems this may be overly complicated and what we share with you may be too much therefore more important messages may get lost.

At the moment your class teachers will communicate with you regarding the day to day running of your child's class and give reminders on **Tapestry or Class Dojo**.

Our social media pages (**Facebook and Instagram**) are mainly used to publicise the school and to share 'Wow' moments and events. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057420520546>

Our school website is set up to do the same and I am looking to also improve this over the summer so any suggestions for making it more user friendly are greatly appreciated (there will also be a section on the school website in my communication survey for comments and suggestions.)

<https://www.whittinghamprimaryschool.co.uk/website/home/213883>

Our news page and calendar pages are particularly important for you to look at as they are kept up to date as sometimes the termly dates letter can become out of date extremely quickly.

<https://www.whittinghamprimaryschool.co.uk/website/calendar/213885>

<https://www.whittinghamprimaryschool.co.uk/website/news/213884>

Emails go out from school **via Teachers 2 Parents** about a range of information, including letters from school and information we are asked to pass on.

I would like to get a noticeboard to put up at the front of school so that paper copies of posters and letters can be displayed too as another way to communicate efficiently.

Apologies for another google form but I would really appreciate some feedback as how to make both communication and our school website better. <https://forms.gle/kydxYyDpoELX5WE8A>

Whittingham Show 16th August –

We are pleased to be having a PTA fun and fundraising table at the Whittingham Show. We hope to see you there!

PTA

As you will know our PTA has raised a significant amount of money this year. Please see below a message from Mrs Marsden, the Chair of our PTA. It would be really appreciated if you could complete the following short survey.

In September we will be holding our annual general meeting, it would be lovely to hear any ideas you may have for how you think the money would be best spent as well as ideas for fundraising next year. If you could join us, that would be great, if not please feel free to share your ideas below, so that these can be discussed as part of our meeting.

Thank you.

<https://forms.gle/Tgiz14nmcM4iNiDq6>

Wraparound Care-

Thank you to those of you who have confirmed their need for Wraparound care in September. Early Bird Club will return at 8.00 on Wednesday 3rd September and after school childcare will also start on this day. If you haven't already and want to book a place please complete the form –

<https://forms.gle/P94ELFsGo5oawi4z7>

Please let the office know of your pick-up arrangements at the end of the session so that we can make sure a smooth handover at the end of the session.

2-Year-Old Provision

It has been a historical moment saying goodbye to some of our Year 6 children who were the very first children at Whittingham to have a Rising 3-Year-Old place. We are committed to in the future having a fantastic provision for 2-year olds so that we can meet the growing need and also provide an excellent education for more children. Thank you to the 5 responses to our 2-year-old survey and as a result of this we realise that while there may not be immediate need for 2-Year-old provision it is something that may be required for the future. Whether it be for a 2-year-old or Rising 3-Year-old place. We have therefore made a separate application form for 2 Year Olds and Rising 3's so please complete this and return to the school office if you have any babies or young toddlers and we will be in touch if there are places available. The form can be found on our school website -

https://www.whittinghamprimaryschool.co.uk/website/admissions_form_for_nursery_and_other_relevant_information/354574

If you have not yet had a chance to complete our survey for 2-year-old provision it can be found:

<https://forms.gle/9Dy3RTc7XRDoAgLq5>

Projects for early in the Autumn Term

Please don't forget to join in on our Sanctuary of Human Qualities project (letter sent out on 4th July and on the news page of the school website).

We would love it if families could together over the holidays decide on their family value or quality they have chosen and while you are on your travels over the summer find a largeish stone and bring it into school on the morning of **Thursday 4th September with a brief description as to why this value / quality is important to your family.**

We would also like to create a bespoke seat for this area and have limited funds for this but if you know of anyone who could help us here please get in touch.

On Wednesday 3rd and Friday 5th September we will be welcoming back Pop UK in a whole school singing project with the theme 'Emotional Muscles' The children will welcome you to 2 concerts where they will sing 6 or 7 songs. One of the concerts will be **at 2pm on Friday 5th and one will follow afterwards at 3.30 pm on Friday 5th September.** We intend to keep all the children in school and for them to perform the concert which will be about 30 -45 mins (we will be able to confirm timings in September). If staying slightly later for the 3.30 concert is an issue please let me know. There will be a poster to follow shortly and any updates will be on the school website and via your child's teacher when we return to school in September.

Class 3 will be taking part in an event at Alnwick Playhouse on 19th September (letter to follow) and we hope to have a KS2 Aln Alliance Schools Football Tournament early in October.

Hope you manage to have some quality time together over the summer and we look forward to welcoming you back on Wednesday 3rd September 2025.

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher