



Whittingham, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 4UP

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Website: www.whittinghamprimaryschool.co.uk

Friday 3rd October 2025.

Weekly Reminders Week 5

Dear Parents / Caregivers and Friends of Whittingham C of E Primary School,

Welcome to our week 4 updates letter. There are a couple of re-reminders for everyone to please read so we can continue to ensure school runs as effectively as it can so please do take the time to read all of this letter which can also be found on the home page of our website and also on the News page of the website:

[Whittingham C of E Primary School - October 2025](#)

Information this week saved on our school website week 5 news page this week includes:

Reminders of events coming up:

Wear Yellow to Support Young Minds on Friday 10th October poster

Good Samaritan Dance Day on 24th October poster

NAS posters

Posters re Alnwick Playhouse and Choir opportunities.

Y6 DCHS Open Evening

Fantastic Opportunity! We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. If you are interested we would love for any interested parties to get in touch with me (belinda.athey@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk) for more information and about the application process.

Please register your interest!

If any of you happen to use social media you may have noticed a post this week from our Councillor Steven Bridgett who has asked for a register of interest regarding a space for a play area which is totally separate from school and is purpose built. I am sure you will agree that this is an amazing proposal! I have spoken to Steven and explained that those of you not on social media or closed groups may not have seen his post so if you would like to support this fantastic opportunity for our village Steven has asked that you email him using his county council email which is

steven.bridgett@northumberland.gov.uk

In the meantime, if you are using school grounds please make sure you have signed, understood and adhere to our Code of Conduct.

Vacancy

As you all know, Mrs Kennedy is retiring at the end of this term and her post is currently being advertised on Jobs North East. The closing date is Monday at 9am so if you know of anyone who would be suitable in this role please remind them of the deadline.

Mrs Kennedy returns!

We are pleased to be welcoming Mrs Kennedy back on a phased return on Monday 6th October. Until Mrs Kennedy is back full time please continue to contact me until she is back full time (I will let you know when this is the case) for any queries or changes to arrangements.

Parking

Thank you for parking considerably and also helping to keep our families safe by not driving onto the village hall carpark while I am still greeting children.

Headteacher: Mrs Belinda Athey



Morning drop off

Just a reminder for parents / caregivers of children in Years 1-6 to please drop their child off at the wooden gate and not come onto the playground as we are finding that numbers of adults other than class teachers can be quite unsettling for some children so we are trying to have a calmer start to the day. If you need to pass a message onto your class teacher please either send them a dojo or tapestry message or let the person on Gate Duty (usually me) know and we will ensure it is passed on. Parents who drop Nursery and Reception children off please continue to walk around to Early Years entrance.

September germs!

We seem to always have a spate of illnesses once all the children are back together again after the holidays. At school we continue to promote handwashing and personal hygiene. Please ensure if your child has sickness or diarrhoea to keep them at home 48 hours after the last bout of illness and to email or telephone the office to let us know the reason for absence each day.

School Meals

We are so lucky to have such delicious meals cooked by Mrs Arkle. I take lunch duty in the hall each day and I have noticed that a lot of children are still struggling to use their knife and fork effectively and as a result there is a lot of food that is going on the floor. I am trying to work positively with all pupils to become more effective at using cutlery and also promoting the importance of good table manners but would appreciate if you could all continue to support school by reminding children at home.

School Money

Please note that the School Money System will send out reminders to all accounts that are in deficit no matter how small the deficit may be as our policy is that School Meals should be paid for a week in advance. To help families avoid unmanageable debt ***once meals for 2 weeks are owed*** then a letter will be sent to the family (usually on a Friday) asking if financial support is needed and to invite families to have a conversation with myself to see if support can be accessed. ***It is also expected that until the debt is cleared a packed lunch must be provided.***

Water Bottles

Please ensure your child keeps hydrated and brings a water bottle into school each day.

Silent Auction

We have had some amazing donations of new in box, remote controlled vehicles from Ken at Canny Clever Computers and will be holding a Silent Auction with sealed bids from Monday 6th October until Friday 24th October. I will be sending a poster out with details on Monday.

Parents Evening

Appointment invitations went out last week. Please let me know if you are having any technical difficulties.

Thank you for your support,
Belinda Athey – Headteacher.

School governors are very important in helping to run local schools. They're the largest volunteer group in the country. That's a lot of people working as school governors doing something positive to make a difference to education in their communities.

Would you like to join them?

All About Governors

What do governors actually do?

A governing body "governs" the school in partnership with the headteacher. They ensure that all children and young people receive an education that helps them to achieve their full potential.

Governors work with heads and school staff to improve and develop their school. The day-to-day management of the school is the responsibility of the headteacher. Governors give strategic direction and focus through agreeing plans and aims, setting budgets, deciding priorities, appointing staff, supporting the work of the school and challenging it to improve.

No special skills are required. The only essential is a keen interest and commitment to the school and the community it serves. Governors work as a team, to ensure that the school provides a good quality education. Individual governors have no power or responsibility. It is only the full governing body that has legal duties and powers and all governors share in that corporate responsibility.

Who can be a governor?

You can if you have a keen and active interest in education and school improvement. Contrary to popular misconception it's not essential for volunteers to be parents. Anyone from any background who is aged 18 or over and has an average of a couple of hours a month to spare is welcome to apply. Governors are ordinary people drawn from all areas of society. The most effective governing bodies are those that have a mix of experiences from different cultures and age groups. The most important things which any volunteer can bring to the role of governor are time, commitment and enthusiasm.

Do governors get any support?

Being a school governor can be a mutually beneficial role – not only does it benefit the education of children and young people but it also **gives governors the opportunity to develop new and existing skills.**

Training and support is available for governors in Northumberland at three levels – at school level, through training courses and work with schools organised by the Governor Support Team and through links with national support networks.

What type of Governors are there?

Every school (including nursery schools) has a governing body that is made up of:

- Parents, elected by other parents with children at the school
- Teachers and other staff, elected by the staff
- People appointed by the Local Authority
- People chosen by the governing body from the local community
- People appointed by the church, in church schools and some other types of schools

How can I be involved?

Currently we have vacancies for:

Co-Opted Governor

Local Authority Governor

Foundation Governor

I am interested, who do I contact now?

Our Headteacher, Belinda Athey will be happy to discuss any questions or queries you may have and can be contacted by email:

Belinda.athey@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk or by telephone: 01665574222.

An Amateur production by arrangement with LW Entertainment Ltd.



PROUDLY PRESENTS

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLO DREAMCOAT

Lyrics by
Tim Rice

Music by
Andrew Lloyd Webber

ALNWICK PLAYHOUSE
17TH-21ST MARCH 2026

7.00pm plus 1.30pm matinee on Saturday 21st March

Tickets available from Alnwick Playhouse 🐪 Premium - £25.00 🐪 Standard - £23.00 🐪 Child - £21.00

Box Office: 01665 660550 🐪 www.alnwickplayhouse.co.uk



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In March 2026, Alnwick Stage Musical Society are performing the popular family musical Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. We are very excited to make this a fun, vibrant, accessible event.

This is where your child/children comes in!

As you may know, a large part of this musical is a children's choir.

We would like to make this an exciting, creative opportunity for young people aged 8 - 14 (inclusive) to become involved in the theatre-making process and be part of a large-scale performance to be held from 17th - 21st March next year at the Alnwick Playhouse.

This could be a great chance for new and experienced performers alike. It will not be auditioned as we really want to encourage young people to join in and have a go.

If your child/children think they would be interested in this opportunity, there will be an initial meet up/information evening on Thursday 16th October at 7.00 in Swansfield Primary School main hall. This will be a chance to find out more details, ask questions and perhaps have a bit of a sing.

If you would like to attend the initial information evening, please email

Claire Barber (director):

claire.barber1975@gmail.com



AUTUMN

HARVEST

Festival



Thursday 17th October in St
Bartholomew's Church at 9.30a.m.

There will be an interactive family service giving
thanks for the Harvest led by Reverend Rich
accompanied by a selection of Harvest Songs for
everyone to join in with.