



Weekly Headteacher's Blog

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to our weekly blog as we head towards the summer holidays this will be the last Headteachers Blog of the school year. It has been a fantastic first year of Whittingham C of E Primary School. We have welcomed new staff and children as well as continued to work with children, families, governors and staff who have known the school for many years. Lots of fun has been had whilst learning new things. I hope you all have an enjoyable summer and look forward to welcoming you all back in September. As always, any queries and suggestions about anything we should be doing differently are very welcome. This can be done by calling into the office, by email or by using the suggestions box located in the main school entrance.

Kind Regards,
Belinda Athey - Headteacher.

Reminders -

Children in Year 1,2,3,4 and 5 will be having a fun swimming session on Monday 17th July at Willowburn. Please ensure children bring their swimming things.

Last day for milk orders is Monday 17th July.

New Nursery starters taster session on Wednesday 19th July 9.30-10.30.

Class 2 and Class 3 will be having their end of year trip on Wednesday 19th July. Please see separate letter for details.

Sports Day Thursday 20th July 1 p.m. Followed by Ford Castle parents information meeting at 3.30 p.m.

Plans of the MUGA and proposed facilities will be on show for you to comment on throughout the afternoon.

We are having a non uniform day on Friday 21st July and will be carrying out lots of fun activities. We will be outside for some of the time so please ensure your child has appropriate clothes for this.

Well done to the children for their fabulous reading. Please note sponsor forms and money should be returned to school before the end of term.

Any school uniform that your child has grown out of and is in good condition please wash and return to school as the PTA are going to build up a stock of pre-loved uniform to sell.

The PTA will kindly be selling creams teas to raise funds at our Sports Day. If you can help please let them know.

We break up at 3.15 p.m. on Friday 21st July and return on Wednesday 6th September.

Please follow us on Twitter - @WhittinghamCoPE as this is a cost effective way to communicate messages and reminders.



Facebook Update.

Working with staff, parents and governors I will be creating a school Facebook page. Please drop me a note if there is anything in particular you would like to see. Before the page is opened it is good practice to share with you all a code of conduct of use and membership rules so I will be sending these out before the end of term.

Online Payment Systems.

Mrs Kennedy and I are still trying to negotiate a best price as a lot of these systems are proving extremely expensive either for school to register or for parents to use. We will continue to work on this so it can be in place during the Autumn Term but this is not likely to be in place for the start of school in September. As always, I will keep you up to date.

Change of times for Nursery.

Pick up time for morning session is 12p.m.

Pick up time for full day session is 3.15p.m.

Please do not park in the village hall carpark at this time as the buses need to use the area at this time.

Exciting initiatives for September.

We hope to start the new school year with some exciting events the first week back. It is likely that on Wednesday 6th September we will have a day celebrating cycling as the Tour of Britain will have passed nearby earlier in the week. Dates will be confirmed by letter and on the school calendar.

We are working towards a Forest Schools accreditation so on Thursday 7th September we will all be out and about in our school grounds making things and working together.

As we will be outside taking part in Forest School activities every Monday in all weathers if you have waterproofs please bring into school to prevent school clothes getting muddy or damaged. These are an important part of the kit list for both our residents so are useful to have and can be picked up cheaply online or in specialist shops and even in discount outlet centres.

Also every child **MUST** have a pair of named wellingtons to be kept in school.

On Friday 8th September we will have a languages day in school which will include lots of fun activities and taster sessions in a range of languages and an Italian Themed Lunch. Please contact the office if your child usually has a packed lunch. Lunches from September are £2.20 per child's meal. £11.00 per week.

Swimming and Specialist Sports Facilities at Willowburn School Year 2017-18.

Class 1 (Year 1 and 2) and Class 2 (Year 3 and 4) will continue to swim and use the specialist facilities at Willowburn from September. Class 3 are going to develop their sporting provision with a new range of activities such as bike ability, mountain biking, geo caching, archery, outdoor and adventurous activities and will be the first of our children to work on the Archbishop of York Young Leaders award from the second half of the Autumn Term. Class 3 will not be swimming or using the facilities at Willowburn as all this activity can be provided elsewhere. All children have at least two sessions of P.E per week. We will continue to provide specialist coaches and we will welcome back Tom Vickers for the Chance to Shine Programme and Bear with Cramlington Rockets to name but a few.

I was at an event for Sports England this week and a key initiative for the forthcoming year is families keeping fit together. As part of our involvement in this initiative Mrs Fortescue our PE co-ordinator will be organising a range of Family Fun Fridays where we will all take part in fun activities together. These will run each month on the last Friday of the month. The first one is cricket on Friday 29th September from 2p.m. Please join us!