



**Whittingham**  
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Headteacher's Blog

Friday 18th March  
2022. Multiple page



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

We have had some mad March weather this week, sunshine, showers and lots more in-between as we hurtle through the school year.

Our uniform policy has been greatly relaxed over the past two years and as the weather gets warmer, the ventilated classrooms will feel that little bit warmer so on warmer days in the first instance I would like to see the children return to their full school uniform and only wear their PE kit on PE days.

After Easter, full school uniform will be expected. A copy of the uniform list can be found in the Parents Information section of the school website and in the school brochure which is also on the website..

**Full school uniform will be expected on our return from the Easter Holidays. In the meantime, a good selection of nearly new school uniform will be available and out to view and collect every Friday from 8.40 - 3.30 (weather permitting). Any donations of larger school uniform are greatly appreciated.**

Thank you for helping us to keep the school clean by reminding your children to bring a pair of trainers for outdoor play and the Daily Mile (wellies in Early Years) and school shoes for indoors. This has made a great difference to the amount of mud trailed into school.

We hope you have valued the opportunity to discuss your child at parent/ carer meetings this week. I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents, families, staff and the children themselves for all the effort that has been put in so far this year., and for the past two years in particular. As I write the 'Blog' today it is the two year 'anniversary' of when as a school we were given the Stay at Home message and many of our children began their home education journey.

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.

## STEM during British Science Week

The profile of these subjects has been well and truly raised this week and the children have really enjoyed themselves.



## Attendance

The class with the highest attendance for the last two weeks was Class 1 (Year 1 and 2) with 100% attendance across the week. This week, with 80% of the class attending every day are: Class 1 and Early Years.

Every half term the class with the most attendance across the weeks will be rewarded with 'Hot chocolate Friday'!

## Reminders

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>

## STEM at home

I have had some fantastic lab coat competition entries this week and will be tasked with the tricky job of judging the entries today.

While planning lots of fun activities for British Science week we have found a great website called Little Bins for Little Hands

<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com>

Below are some tutorials showing different STEM activities that can be carried out at home: called Saturday Science:

Lava Lamp -

<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/homemade-lava-lamp-density-science-experiment/>

Baking Soda Balloon Experiment

<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/balloon-baking-soda-vinegar-experiment-kids/>

Rubber Egg Experiment

<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/naked-egg-experiment-rubber-egg-science/>



## Child Exploitation

Today, residents in Northumberland are being reminded of how to spot the signs of this National Child Exploitation Awareness Day. The awareness day aims to highlight the issues surrounding Child Exploitation; encouraging everyone to think, spot and speak out against abuse and adopt a zero-tolerance policy to adults developing inappropriate relationships with children; or children exploiting and abusing their peers at any age. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, so it is important to learn how to Spot the Signs:

- Change in friends
- Change in appearance
- Missing day or night
- Going to new places
- Spending more time online
- Unexplained injuries
- Coping mechanisms; self-harm, alcohol or drugs
- New unexplained items



Find out more about how you can help a child or young person you are concerned about at <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Safeguarding.aspx>

## Parents Surveys

At Whittingham we always strive to continue to improve our education offer for all our pupils and an element of this process is that we really value parents opinions. As part of our increased focus on reading a Parent Survey was sent out. Despite the temptation of the chance to win an Amazon voucher for the returned entries I still only have 3 replies. I would like to thank those families who were able to complete the survey. However, for this to have an impact and help us make changes for the better I would love more replies. If you no longer have your survey I have attached it to the end of this weeks Blog and a copy is also in the News section of our school website in the month of January. I am currently trying out ways in which to make communication via forms and surveys easier and this seems to already have had a positive effect. I recently sent out a questionnaire to Nursery parents about Nursery provision via 'google forms' and so far have received an excellent 6 out of 10

possible responses. Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete this. I will be sharing this with staff and governors before the end of term.



## 50/40 Lenten Appeal (50 pence for 40 days) - reminder

A few weeks ago I passed on details of a fund-raising initiative from St Bartholomew's Church, supporting the innocent victims of war in the Ukraine. You are invited to take a prepared label home and to stick it on a jam jar and each day to put in 50 pence throughout the 40 days of Lent. It's quite an easy way to support and help focus the mind on those suffering and in desperate need. If everybody at St Bart's undertakes to be a part of the 50/40 campaign they would each raise £20! Thank you for your consideration.

Please return your jars to church on Easter Day or in school before we break up and I will ensure they are passed on.

**Fundraising** - As I have mentioned in a relatively recent Blog we have tried to limit the times we ask families to donate to charity as we appreciate that this can cause a financial strain. Historically, the children have chosen class charities and we have tended to stay away from events that are supported nationally and have a more local or personal meaning to our fundraising. This will be slowly re-introduced over the year with another Air Ambulance Bag collection on Air Ambulance Collection - 29th April - 1pm. Bags will go out to families beforehand.

## Swimming

Thank you for all the information required regarding swimming levels in KS2. I am just chasing the final few replies. A letter will go out before the Easter Holidays confirming the groups swimming and the groups who will be accessing their PE at Willowburn in Class 2 and 3.



## School trips and treats.

We are trying to avoid costs of trips and treats being passed onto parents. This is being done so far by using the money raised from Our School Lottery (£900 raised over the last year). Please support us if you can.

# Welcome to our Big Bike Revival pop up Dr Bike event

The  
**BIG BIKE**  
Revival

Free health checks on your bike  
to keep you cycling safely



## Friday 25th March

**Funded by Cycling UK's Big Bike Revival our school has been invited to take part in a free Dr Bike Event on Friday 25th March.**

**Children, adults, friends and families are encouraged to support this event by bringing their bikes to school for a free safety check and service which will be carried out by trained professionals throughout the day 9.00 - 3.00. Appointments not necessary.**

**Please contact the office for further details.**



### **Whittingham C of E Primary School**

We are really excited to share the news that we are looking to employ 2 Fixed Term (End of Summer Term 2023) Teaching Assistant Level 2 (SG17 Band 3) Initially 20 hours across 5 mornings.

To commence at the beginning of the Summer Term 2022 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Whittingham C of E Primary School is a successful Primary School of 101 pupils whose popularity in the local community has meant that our numbers have increased dramatically over the last few years. Over 20 % of our children come from out of our school's catchment area choose to come to our school because we have a dynamic staff team who are keen to try new initiatives and develop exciting opportunities for all our pupils.

Due to the impact of COVID and because of our commitment to ensuring our children achieve the highest possible standards, we are in the exciting position of requiring 2 teaching assistant posts to work in Year 1 and 2. This will enable an extremely high staff to pupil ratios (this is a class of 21 children) and will further aid the effective transition of pupils to Key Stage 2.

We want a Teaching Assistant who has the skills and desire to support an established and highly effective staff team develop and nurture every child in their care.

The successful candidate will support the teacher, deliver outstanding teaching and learning and to help all pupils achieve the best they can. They will act as role models, striving to inspire a love of learning in all.

At Whittingham C of E Primary School, you will have access to excellent professional development and training and will be supported by the expertise of the senior leadership team and experienced colleagues to develop yourself further as an outstanding teaching assistant.

Deadline for applications is Thursday 31st March 2022.

Interviews will also be held before the Easter Holidays and are likely to be Thursday 7th April.

Full details can be found on North East Jobs.

.



## Parent Reading Survey

Reading for pleasure - the kind of reading children and adults **choose** to do in their own time, for their own purposes is important. It contributes to our world knowledge, imagination and well-being, in addition to developing children's literacy. The will to read influences the skill (and vice versa). As a school we are exploring children's, parents and teachers' reading for pleasure outside school.

1. What kinds of things do you enjoy reading for pleasure? (magazines, newspapers, Facebook, websites, novels, poetry, non-fiction books etc.)

.....

.....

2. How frequently do you think your child sees you choosing to read such texts?

Regularly ☐      Often ☐      Sometimes ☐      Rarely ☐

3. Do you think your child sees you as a keen reader?

Yes ☐      Maybe ☐      Unsure ☐      No ☐

4. Where do the books you have at home come from? (Tick all that apply)

A local library? ☐      Bought online ☐  
Local shops ☐      Received as gifts ☐      Other ☐

5. Do you feel confident enough to support your child to enjoy reading independently?  
(Rate your view on a scale of 1-6, with 1 not being confident and 6 being very confident)

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6

6. Does your child have a favourite author? If so, please name them.

.....

7. How often do you read with or to your child at home (not including the school reading scheme/colour coded books sent home)?

Daily ☐      Twice a week ☐      Once a week ☐      Less than once a week ☐

8. Does your child read or share stories with others family members/friends? If so, how often?

Regularly ☐      Often ☐      Sometimes ☐      Rarely ☐

9. Does your child choose to read at home by themselves? If so, how often?

Daily ☐      Twice a week ☐      Once a week ☐      Less than once a week ☐

10. Do you have any questions or queries about developing your child's love of reading?

.....

.....

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ (optional) Class: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you**