



Whittingham, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 4UP | Telephone: 01665 574222  
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Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Parents/ Legal Guardians,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer with your families. This letter is packed with important information as well as dates for the new term.

Thank you to all the families who sent thank you cards and presents to staff at the end of term. A positive word or gesture means an awful lot!

As always, if you have any concerns, queries or news to share please contact me directly. I am now based in the office for the majority of the time and will endeavour to be around each day before and after school unless I am in meetings.

I look forward to seeing you all at our exciting events during the term.

Kind Regards,  
Belinda Athey – Headteacher.

### **Our Wonderful 'new' Primary School**

The Summer Holidays were certainly an eventful time for staff in school. As you can appreciate if any of you have been decorating over the holidays a new build and the refurbishment of our school and grounds was a mammoth task but by Monday night everything was looking wonderful! Thanks to those of you who were able to attend the Open Morning. I must also take this opportunity to thank Gayle and Thomas Johnson for their fantastic Wildlife Garden and to each member of school staff who spent hours moving things, painting fences, clearing classrooms etc. etc. All this work was completed on a voluntary basis. Thank you! I am sure you all agree school looks absolutely fantastic, as do the children in their smart new uniforms.

### **Communication**

Thank you for all of the positive comments regarding our weekly Headteacher's Blog. This will resume next week.

**Emails, texts, Facebook and Twitter** -We find emailing parents a very effective way to communicate as we can forward all sorts of information to you without being concerned for the environment or the school budget. By the end of the school year we intend to be completely paperless as information is sent out electronically through text, email, Twitter and displayed on

Website: [www.whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk)

the website. If you are able to support us in this mission sooner and currently request paper copies but wish to change to electronic copies please contact the office.

With regards to communication through social media we appreciate that negative comments about school are neither, constructive or helpful. If you do have concerns please contact school directly. I will be working with our advisors at Northumberland County Council, Staff and Governors to draw up a Code of Conduct regarding social media as we now have a Twitter account @WhittinghamCofE and we hope to work with the PTA and have a Whittingham C of E Primary School and PTA Facebook page.

### **The new look continues –**

Thank you to everyone who filled in the website questionnaires prior to the holidays or attended our Parents Forum. We now have a new website – [www.whittinghamprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.whittinghamprimaryschool.co.uk)  
As the days and weeks progress photos and information will be posted to keep you informed with activities and events in school.

### **Key Stage 2 Planners-**

All children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4 and 5) have been given a marvellous planner to record, events, homework and reminders. These are given to children free of charge but if they are lost or damaged a replacement will need to be paid for at the cost of £4.00.

### **School Brochure-**

The brochure has been updated and is on the new school website ( please contact the office if you require a paper copy). However, a new version is currently being created and will be ready later in the term.

### **School Day**

A reminder – to comply with **KS 2** teaching requirements children in Years 3, 4 and 5 will be welcomed into school from **8.40 a.m.** Teaching for these children starts at **8.45a.m.** This enables the younger children to have a morning break before school and prevents the need for different end of day arrangements for children in classes from Reception to Year 5. School for these children ends at **3.15 p.m.** Nursery hours are **9.00 -12.00 (12.30** pick up if they stay for lunch club). Children who stay all day in Nursery are to be collected from the Early Years Classroom at **3 p.m.** In order to encourage independence children in **Class 3** will be dismissed from the classroom and the class teacher will not necessarily come to the school door. They will be taught about what to do in the event of an adult not being there to pick them up. This will be for the first few weeks and members of staff will be extra vigilant. In addition to that, we always have members of staff outside school at this time. From Spring Term, Mrs Fortescue will follow the same routine with the Year 4 children in her class but we will inform you nearer the time. We feel that this increased independence is extremely important, if the children were to be at Middle School they would be travelling to and from school independently and we need to promote positive independence prior to the children starting Secondary School. For children who live in Whittingham Village those children in **Year 5** may wish to start to walk to and from school independently. Whilst this is an important milestone, we need to ensure the children remain safe so I will be discussing the matter with Governors during the Autumn Term and we will let you know once a decision has been made.

### **End of day arrangements –**

Please continue the good practice by writing a note or telephoning school with any changes to end of day arrangements.

### **Site Safety –**

Please continue to help us keep children safe by closing gates, not allowing children to run ahead off school premises and parking considerately if using the Village hall car park.

### **School Dinners**

School meals are £2.10 per day. Please could cheques be made payable to Northumberland County Council and in a named envelope, dated with the amount enclosed and what it is for.

### **Important After School Club News**

Before the holidays places were confirmed via text (July 19<sup>th</sup> 8.38 a.m.- 8.40a.m.) regarding whether your child had a place in book club, KS 2 Football Club, or KS 1 Computing Club. Another text was sent out to inform parents that there was insufficient interest for Thursdays Multi skills (sports and fitness club with Mrs Burrows) and KS 2 computing club and that places were available. Please could you check your texts as they will directly relate to your child as we sent club places confirmation out individually.

At this point in time we still have insufficient interest for KS2 Computing and Multiskills so if you would like a place please could you let school know by Monday morning otherwise we will have to cancel both clubs. Payment is required before clubs start.

In addition to this Mrs Maule will remind all children of their places today.

### **Family Lunches –**

These will continue in the Spring Term.

### **Tuck Shop and Snack time –**

We receive free fruit for children in classes from Nursery to Year 2. Previously when our school was smaller we were able to subsidise this. However, now we are increasing in numbers this is no longer possible. Children in Years 3, 4 and 5 are welcome to bring in their own piece of fruit for snack. I am working with the Year 5 children as part of my Food Technology work on introducing a Healthy Tuck Shop for the older children. The Y5 children will have an enterprise project running the shop, hopefully making a profit from which the children will decide on where the money is spent! Each class will have a turn every half term to cook (starting with Y5) and we will be using specialist facilities in the Village Hall for this purpose. All ingredients and equipment will be provided.

### **Community Powers**

Please be aware that if you have a child in nursery who is not entitled to 30 hours free entitlement we still have our Community Powers Nursery. Please contact school for further details.

### **Before School / After School Care-**

We will be sending a letter out very soon to assess whether there is demand for a daily Breakfast Club and also care after school.

### **Swimming and PE**

As was discussed before the holidays. Nursery and Reception do not go to Willowburn for swimming or PE at this time.

Class 1 will swim this half term.

Class 2 will use the specialist facilities for PE at Willowburn.

Please note there will be a cost involved for transport as PTA will no longer be subsidising transport. School continues to use the Primary Sports Funding Grant for the cost of hall hire and lessons.

**The contribution per week is £2.00.**

### **School Trips –**

We have a number of trips planned for the children and are in the process of finalising details. Separate letters to follow.

### **Staff**

A reminder of staff in school –

Mrs Athey – Head teacher, Early Years Lead and Food Technology Teacher.

Mrs Kennedy Office Manager - 8.30 -3.30 p.m.

Mrs Arkle – School Cook.

Mrs Weatherburn –School caretaker.

Miss Clark – Teaching Assistant.

Mrs Chisholm – Higher Level Teaching Assistant (this has been recently awarded after lots of hard work. Well done!!)

Mrs Lewis – Teaching Assistant.

Early Years ( Nursery and Reception) – Job share.

Miss Dick and Miss Todd.

Class 1 ( Years 1 and 2) – Mrs Maule.

Class 2 ( Years 3 and 4) – Mrs Fortescue. ( Deputy Headteacher).

Class 3 ( Years 4 and 5) – Mrs Fletcher.

Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2 Football – Paul Yeadon.

Class 2 and 3 PE Specialist teacher – Mrs Burrows.

Class 2 and 3 Art Specialist teacher – Mrs Durie.

From time to time we have students on placement and Mrs Fortescue and Mrs Athey are responsible for their time in school.

Please see separate page for our Diary Dates and also please bear in mind that additional dates may follow.

# Autumn Term 2016 Dates

Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Open Morning – 10-12 a.m.
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	School re-opens
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Clubs Start –( no Book Club for first week)
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	PTA Meeting 11.30 a.m. in school
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 5 Bikeability
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival 1.30 p.m. in Church
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Full Governing Body Meeting
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Nursery and Reception Stay and Play Session 9.30 – 10.30
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents Evening – details to follow.
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Break up for half term. School returns after Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	School returns after half term holiday
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	PTA Air Ambulance collection 1p.m.
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Individual Photographs – Tempest photographers
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Early Years ( N and R) Christmas Play!!! 9.30a.m. <small>Our first time. This will mean the children will not take part in Aladdin but have their own special show!</small>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	PTA Christmas Shop ( shopping experience with children in school time).
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle 1.30 p.m.
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Aladdin in Trouble – Performances Morning dress rehearsal 9.30, afternoon 1.30 and evening 5.30 for 6 p.m.
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Activities – wear your party clothes – all children.
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity and Carol Service 1.30 p.m.
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Break up 3.15 p.m.