

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

How the weeks are flying by as we head towards half term already. It is wonderful how we have not been massively affected by children's absences this term as it is so important that we make up for our missed time in school. Teaching staff are ensuring that not a moment is wasted so I would ask that medical and dental appointments are made out of school time. However, it is still very important that we keep each other and our wider community safe. Please continue to be vigilant regarding COVID 19. Take extra care if your child has a cold as this has on more than one occasion resulted in a positive result for COVID 19. Also, a temperature may indicate other illnesses but it is also still one of the main symptoms of COVID 19 and as such a PCR test should be arranged immediately and isolation procedures carried out until the test result is returned. As a reminder I attach the school guidelines that we ask for you to follow.

Stay Safe,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.

School Football Team

It is fantastic for the children to be back playing within the Alnwick Partnership of Schools Under 11 Football League. Our first game was at home against Seahouses Primary and we had a narrow defeat with the final score being 5-4. Nominated Player of the Match was Jamie - Well done! All the children must be highly commended on their resilience and respect at it was great to hear such positive feedback from the Seahouses staff. We look forward to our next game against St Micheal's Primary on Tuesday.



It is World Mental Health Day on Sunday 10th October.

Within our RHSE lessons at all ages we talk appropriately about how we feel when we are worried and what we can do to help manage these worries.

and as part of that I would like to share with you some helpful information from the Young Minds Website.

Support if you're struggling with school

School can be a source of support, belonging, learning and community. But many young people will find school difficult at some point or another. This could be for a number of reasons, but whatever the case, help is available. We have guides for both young people and parents with lots of information and advice.

Copy the link to read the Young Minds guide for young people <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/problems-at-school>

Copy the link to read the Young Minds guide for parents - <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/a-z-guide/school-anxiety-and-refusal>

YOUNG MINDS

Governor Pen Portrait - Toni Dick

As a teacher and governor at Whittingham I hope to provide an insight into how school works and help the other governors to understand how things are put into practise within our school. I am a governor as I would like to be able to support the school in continuously improving the education and experience that we offer the children in our care.

Outside of school I love to spend time with my family - Chris and our two girls, Millie and Daisy. We like to spend our time walking the dogs, riding our horses and looking after all of our animals.

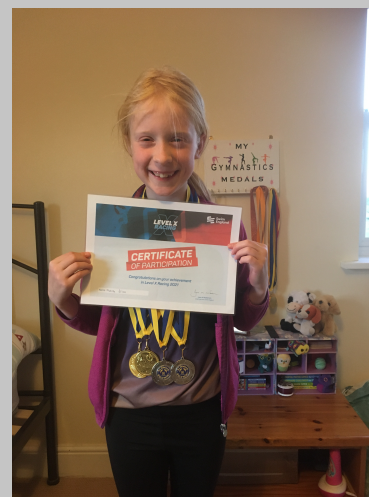
I am passionate about providing the best experiences for all children regardless of their starting point and feel passionately that school should be about more than just academic results. I hope that in my role I can help to make sure Whittingham continues to support all of its pupils and that we can continue to find new ways to support children based on their individual needs.

Early Years is my real passion, its such a special and important place to work, providing children with opportunities to ignite their little imaginations and help them to love learning. I find it incredible to see how much children come on in their first years of education, there is nothing better than watching children accomplish something they haven't been able to do yet or have found particularly tricky....I have been known to shed tears! I'm particularly lucky that at Whittingham I have some children for two and a half years, this is a long time when you're so little and we can develop great relationships.

I am currently on maternity leave, although still continuing with my governor role. As much as I am enjoying my time with my girls I can't wait to be back in school with all of our fab children and to meet lots of new faces!

Well Done!

It is great to hear about the activities and achievements that children have out of school. This week pictured are Tilly, in Class 3 Whittingham C of E Primary is in the top 3 for 100m backstroke for 9 year old girls in Great Britain and Eliza who got a silver medal in the 9 and 10 year olds category for 50m butterfly at the weekend at the Alnwick Dolphins gala.



Interviews for Class 2 Job Share Teaching Post.

It has been a very exciting process for Class 2 as they have been fully involved in the recruiting process for a new person to join Mrs Fletcher in Class 2. The children were involved in recording a guided tour of the school in the first stages and then they all thought of interview questions for the potential candidates some of which were asked as the children held 'mini' interviews with the candidates when they were in school completing the first part of their interview; a teaching session. The children conducted themselves fantastically and gave some very insightful observations of their potential new teachers! Today the candidates will be formally interviewed by myself and the staffing committee of governors and we hope to be able to inform you of the outcome of this very shortly.

Changes to isolation rules from September 2021 and how we are implementing them at Whittingham C of E Primary.

We are committed to keeping ourselves, our families and our school community safe so while we follow government guidelines, there are some additional safeguards that we have put in place as a staff to ensure the additional safety of our whole school community whilst also minimising disruption. Here are some common queries and misconceptions that we have come across since our return to school in September. This will be reviewed regularly.

Best wishes,
Belinda Athey.



We recommend that families take part in at least twice weekly Lateral Flow Tests. If your child has no symptoms of COVID 19 and the Lateral Flow Test gives a negative result your child can safely attend school. Please be aware that some of the early symptoms may include sore throat , sneezing and cold like symptoms so if your child displays any of these please take the additional precaution to keep yourselves and others safe by taking a Lateral Flow Test

A member of your household or close contact (less than 1m+ contact for more than 10 minutes) reports symptoms (see blue box for recognised symptoms list), a positive result or you have been contacted by NHS track and Trace.

If you do not display symptoms.

As a family, all take a lateral flow test and do not attend school until a negative result is reached.

If a member of your household tests positive. Arrange for the whole family to take a PCR test and do not attend school until results give a negative outcome

A positive result on lateral flow is achieved by someone from the immediate household. Please keep everyone safe and any children within the household please do not attend school. Arrange for immediate PCR tests and inform school of the results prior to returning.

Q - I am aware that children in my child's class are off and believe they have COVID will school let me know who they are?

You display symptoms of COVID 19 Take a Lateral Flow Test and also arrange for a PCR test to be taken promptly and remain off school until a negative PCR result is taken.

Main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

You feel unwell but do not display the main symptoms of COVID 19. Take a lateral flow test and do not attend school until a negative lateral flow result is achieved.

PCR Test gives positive result.

Do not attend school until the date given on your results email/ text at the earliest. Preferably keep all family members off school and home learning tasks will be arranged for them

A- School will not identify particular children. Each family with a positive PCR result are contacted by NHS Test and Trace and are obliged to give close contact information. If this is deemed the case you will then be contacted by Test and Trace.