



Whittingham
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher's Blog



Friday 17th December
2021 2 page issue

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Rather than sending out messages on a variety of emails I have added a final Headteacher's Blog of the year. May you all have a safe and Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. We all look forward to school re-opening to pupils on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

Best Wishes,

Belinda Athey -Headteacher.

Latest guidance re COVID 19

Just to highlight the DfE update below. The Actions for Schools guidance has also been updated to reflect the fact that daily rapid testing is now recommended for fully vaccinated adults and children aged 5-18 ½ who are close contacts of anyone with Covid-19 (whether Omicron or not) for 7 days instead of self-isolating.

Extract below:-

"From 14 December 2021, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result.

Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
- all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine"

I will remain on duty until Monday 19th December so please contact me directly

-belinda.athey@whittingham.northumberland.gov.uk if a pupil in school reports positive for COVID 19 in that time so that I can let families and Public Health Northumberland know.

Staying Safe at Christmas

Please see links below -

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/top-tips-for-staying-safe-online-at-christmas>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk>

<https://www.samaritans.org>

<https://www.nda.services>

NSPCC

Pictures from our Santa Dash



Fundraising

A huge thank you

Each year our PTA usually provide each child a with a small gift or treat at Christmas in addition to covering the costs of the Christmas lunch so that it is free to all. However, we have had a lovely gesture from a member of our local community, Nigel who has generously gifted a selection box to every child at our school as part of their annual giving to charity. Here are just some of the children with their wrapped (thanks PTA) selection boxes.



easyfundraising.org.uk
feel good shopping

amazon smile
shop. Amazon gives.

your school lottery

As we head towards the end of the Autumn Term I would like to inform you of some planned staffing developments that needed to be approved by Governors.

From January 2022 Mrs Fletcher has asked to further reduce her hours.

The Staffing Committee of the Governing Body have considered this request whilst deciding what is best for the continuity of our pupils, standards and staffing as a whole across the school. After careful consideration this was finally agreed at the Full Governing Body Meeting on Monday night.

It has been decided that a full-time teaching post is the best possible scenario for the pupils in Year 3 and 4 and we are pleased to say that Mrs Thomsen will be the full-time class teacher for the rest of the academic year. She will continue to be supported by HLTA Mrs Chisholm and myself.

As you will know if your child is in Year 5 and 6 we have had a regular supply teacher in Class 3 one day per week to enable Mr Charlton and I have leadership time. This role will be replaced by Mrs Fletcher. She will teach the children on Fridays and have responsibility for RHSE/ PHSE, Science, RE and MFL. Mr Charlton will continue to manage the rest of the curriculum and PE days will therefore change to Wednesdays and Thursdays.

More feedback from our Parent Questionnaires

Thank you for your feedback and I will continue to update you all with regards to how we are responding to your suggestions. We have always been extremely proud of our extensive After School Club provision in the past which unfortunately has been limited due to COVID 19 restrictions. Moving forwards with your suggestions we hope to be able to offer for January (from Wed 5th Jan) and February 2022 - Mondays - KS 2 - Computing and board games. In response for the request of both classes in KS 2 attending clubs we are looking to use the larger space of the school hall and the children will sit in their 'bubbles'. This may be subject to change depending on cases of COVID 19 in the school community but we will keep in touch with you via Class Dojo.

Wednesdays KS1 Mindfulness, Yoga, Meditation and Relaxation strategies

Thursdays KS 2 (organisation as above) Musical Theatre - We are really pleased to have secured this Music Partnership North exciting project!

All of the clubs above are after school and run 3.15-4.15. Pick up from the main gate. We continue to use school funds and some of the nominal COVID catch up grant that has been awarded to schools to cover the costs of these clubs so they are FREE OF CHARGE.

Fridays - lunchtime (KS 1 will be an ASC as the days will be lighter after February half term)

Year 3 and 4 Football 12.00-12.25

Year 5 and 6 Football 12.30 -12.55

If your child is interested please email the school office with the name of child and club(s) they wish to attend. **By 3pm Tuesday 4th January 2022** Please do encourage your child to think carefully before joining a club as they will be expected to commit to attending each week or a charge may be levied.



Christmas Lunch

As always, Mrs Arkle does an amazing job of providing a delicious Christmas meal for everyone and alongside Mrs Weatherburn makes sure that the school hall is looking fantastic too. Here are a small selection of photos from our Christmas meals this week.



Governor Vacancy

We have vacancy on our Governing Body for a Co-opted Governor. This role is open to members of the school community who feels they can help our Governing Body support school to be the best it can be. If you are interested in becoming a governor and would like a little more information please do not hesitate to contact either myself or one of the governors of our school. Details can be found: <https://whittingham.eschools.co.uk/website/governors/222057>