



# Headteacher's Blog

Friday 25th October 2019.

Dear Parents/ Carers,  
Welcome to our weekly blog. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any ideas of how to make our school even better or would like to offer to help in school in some way. Wishing you all a lovely half term.  
Kind regards,  
Belinda Athey - Headteacher.

2 page issue.



## Fundraising reminder.

Every week we run a School Lottery. For just £1 you have a chance to receive a weekly prize. At school 24 families are currently supporting us, they have joined and bought a ticket. Another 23 families have registered their interest but have not taken the final step of joining which means they have not purchased a ticket. Please check your details or join if you haven't already as so far we have raised over £400 for school.



## PTA Fundraising

### Air Ambulance Bags

Bags have gone home via the children and should be delivered to our usual places soon. Please drop off to school on Monday 11th November during the morning.

### Christmas Fayre Friday 8th November

Lots of local businesses are joining us for what looks to be a fantastic night. Please join us - Friday 8th November 6-8p.m. in school. Contact Louise Hodgson, our PTA chair or myself if you would like to book a table.

### PTA Bag Pack - Saturday 14th

**December.** Children aged 8 and over can pack as well as parents or families of younger children.

Please support us where you can as every penny directly benefits the children.



## Reminders -

Please note there is a teacher training day on Monday 4th November. School will re-open on Tuesday 5th November and there will be our traditional school - Bonfire Lunch! Thank you Elizabeth for your marvellous menu poster for the kitchen and to the children who have already made Bonfire Pictures to decorate Mrs Arkle's hatch.

Girls Football Match - Tuesday 5th.

Parent and Governor Workshop for Maths Thursday 7th November.

Individual School Photographs - Thursday 7th November.

After School Clubs will be on Mondays and Thursdays. I also hope to run a lunchtime Sumdog Club and Netball/ Football Club using the experience and organisational skills of the Year 6 pupils. Details to follow.

A number of staff will be out on training on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday as we look to develop new ways to make our teaching even better. Ms Buckingham and I will be covering Class 1 and Class 2 during this time.

### Harvest Festival

Thank you to all the children who were fantastic during Harvest Festival. Thank you to everyone who attended or was able to support Alnwick Food Bank with donations of tinned and dried food.

### Our new chickens have been named!

Thank you to everyone who was involved in choosing a name for the chickens. The names are Eggy, Henrietta, Diamond and Sapphire.



### Team Whittingham Success!

Four young riders have just returned from the national schools equestrian association championships held at addington equestrian centre in Buckingham riding for Whittingham CofE Primary School.

This national event which invites schools from all over the UK to compete in various qualifiers over the past 12 months had over 1000 ponies along with their riders compete over the four days to contest the finals.

Ellie Gray 11, Sam Herdman 11, Poppy Dods 11 and Frankie Herdman, 10 qualified for this event earlier in the year at two events in the Scottish Borders.

The children represented Whittingham School in four different classes over two days. They came 4th out of 37 teams in the 70cm show jumping event. Poppy came 9th individually and Frankie 18th out of 71 riders.

The team came 3rd out of 24 teams in the 75cm jumping with style event. A course of up to 20 coloured and rustic jumps.

In the 85cm jumping with style they finished in 21st place out of 35 teams. In this event they finished on zero penalties but placings came down to time as it was such a competitive event.

The fourth class they competed in was the 85cm showjumping. Again the team rode super to finish on zero faults and finished in 11th place out of 45 Teams.

Its a phenomenal achievement for a small school like Whittingham to be represented at national level in any sport and school is exceptionally proud of these results.

The team were very kindly sponsored by Carrs Billington at Wooler, Jobsons of Alnwick, Silvermoor Haylage and Equine Products Uk and would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their support.

Three of the team have now moved onto high school where it is hoped to establish a new Duchess team. Whittingham has many keen young riders so it is hoped a new team will be formed for next year too. Any information on riding for your school through the NSEA scheme please contact 07977200109. Thanks to Mo and all the parents involved. Well done!!!

### Year 5 and 6 Music Tuition.

Thanks to Reverend Ian who has given up his time to teach our school orchestra. Ian is now working within the Embleton Parish so won't be continuing at Whittingham but has kindly organised a replacement. Mrs Gardiner, who lives in the village and was previously a Secondary School Teacher will be taking over from after half term. She has visited school already and was very impressed with our players. She will teach on Thursday afternoons. If your child plays, please ensure instruments continue to be practised with and brought in when needed.

