



Whittingham, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 4UP
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Friday 28th June 2024.

Blog in letter format

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of Whittingham Primary,

Apologies, it looks like I will not be able to get the laptop fixed that runs the programme I use for the 'Blog' so for the rest of the term I will send updates and reminders via email. This information will then be copied into a letter and saved on the news page of the school website so you can refer back to it.

Sports Day -

Thank you to everyone who came to Sports Day and the PTA for helping to organise and serve on the refreshments stall. We will let you know how much was raised shortly. Thank you for the wonderful comments given for both the morning and afternoon sessions which ranged from comments about the organisation, the behaviour and attitudes of the children and the high level of sporting ability from our pupils. It is lovely to receive recognition of the hard work that goes into these events by the children and staff.

Beginning and End of Day Arrangements -

Start of Day -

Just a reminder that lessons start at **8.45** and children should be on site as soon as possible before that once the buses have driven away. **The gate will be locked at 8.45** so please be as prompt as possible.

While we appreciate some mornings, we may be a little late on occasion so could anyone arriving late please come in through the main school entrance but please do avoid doing this if at all possible as the front of school is extremely busy at this time.

End of Day -

As a staff we will commit to ensuring the buses have driven away and are off site and the side gate is unlocked by 3.15 as is the time the bus companies expect and also for our staff daily debrief to take place sooner.

Gates will be locked and any children not picked up by 11.50(end of morning nursery session) and 3.20 (end of school day) will be brought to the office to be picked up. While we understand families may run late on occasions please do be prompt in picking your child up to enable our meetings and work after school to start promptly.

If you need to speak to your class teacher at length about anything please send them a message to arrange an appointment so time and a confidential space can be given.

Headteacher: Mrs Belinda A they



Whittingham Show -

Each year during the end of the summer term children produce work for the Whittingham and Glanton Shows. The Whittingham Show this year have asked the PTA if they would like a stall during the show which would be great to help raise the profile of school and raise money. To do this we need help, even if it is for just an hour. If you are able to, please let us know on Monday.

Sponsored Events -

Please see the letter from your class teacher regarding the different sponsored events which will be held in school starting this Monday afternoon. We are looking to use this money to buy and install a wood burning stove into our new yurt (this will be 'officially' opened during the Year 6 Leaver's Treat) which will keep it dry and warm so it can be used all year round. If we raise a considerable amount this will help towards the cost of the decking base that is being installed for the yurt to stand on.

Times when school site will be out of bounds-

Please remember families should only be using the school grounds after 3.15pm if they have read and signed the Code of Conduct (copies available from the school office). Please note, for the safety of everyone the areas out of bounds generally and that the grounds should not be entered if there are workers on site.

29th and 30th June - This weekend the decking will be completed so please stay off site.

6th and 7th July- Next weekend the new yurt will be erected so please stay off site.

Week beginning - 22nd July - internal paintwork in school so please stay off site.

Week beginning 5th August - installation of sink and storage units in the newest classroom so please stay off site.

We also have 2 weeks scheduled for the external paintwork/ cladding to be painted so please stay off site - Date to be confirmed.

There is also due for BT to be on site to remove the current telegraph pole and replace it with a newer one. Unfortunately, I am unlikely to get a date for this until the last minute.

I appreciate this is a good deal of time where school site cannot be accessed but as you will understand this is for the safety and security of all involved and we remain one of the very few schools in the whole of the North East that allow access out of school time and it is important that we do as much work as possible in the holidays ensuring the school continues to look outstanding and that the facilities for our children and staff are the very best they can be.

Transition -

Just a reminder- Transition Day where children will 'move up' into their new year groups and, for some, new classes on Wednesday 3rd July. If your child is going to be in Year 3 and 4 please note a classroom change as they will move into the bigger classroom (currently

used by Year 5 and 6) and if your child is going to be in Year 5 and 6 they will be in the current Year 3 and 4 classroom. All other classrooms remain the same.

Both Class 2 and Class 3 will have PE on this day so please can they wear their PE kit. Just another reminder if your child is in Class 2 and they go swimming they do not have PE on this day so do not need to wear PE kit. However, if you have chosen for your child to wear PE kit on this day as it is easier to change in and out of that is not a problem for the last few weeks of term.

I will be meeting Year 6 at the entrance of DCHS on this morning but as I have an event to attend with the Bishop of Newcastle and Durham later in the day I will not be there to greet them at the end of the day so please can parents of these children let staff know who you are and who you are picking up.

Awards Ceremony -

The next Awards Ceremony is held in Whittingham Memorial Hall on Monday 15th July at 2.30. Mrs Marsden will send invitations out to EY parents/ caregivers via Tapestry and Mr Charlton will send out invitations via Class Dojo by Monday.

We had an amazing musical performance last time (thank you Class 3). This time we are going to select 2 pupils from each class to talk about their 'Best Bits' about their school year. The parents/ caregivers of these children will also be notified via Tapestry and Dojo.

Wrap Around Care -

Thank you for 22 replies about Wrap Around Care. Please remember the deadline is this Friday. However, I am able to use the current replies to inform my paperwork that needs to be submitted in order for us to get the funding to enable this to happen which I will be doing early next week. Please submit or record all the names of the children on your form if you have siblings who want to attend.

I have had some queries about drop in sessions which I will look into further but for those who have asked for this option could you let me know what notice period you would require for this service as I am looking at some evenings where there is no interest so staffing for this would be unpractical and asking someone to do this very last minute may be tricky while we look to see if we can employ someone specifically so a little further detail would be really helpful.

Please do be patient with the timelines regarding confirmation of clubs as I am having to apply for funding and provide extensive evidence of need, costings, forecasts etc and replies back to me may not always be as prompt as we would all like.

Baby and Toddler Sessions -

Thank you for 6 replies regarding this all of which wanted a group but there is an extensive range of need and no firm offers of help so once I have sorted out the Wrap Around Care I will move onto this perhaps arranging a meeting for all those interested to see if we can move forwards on this.

Just a reminder that we do run fantastic Babes in the Woods Forest Schools Baby and Toddler sessions, the next one being Thursday 18th July. Please contact the office to book your place. We will be looking to set dates for the new school year very shortly and cannot wait to start using our new yurt during the colder weather.

End Year Leavers and Celebration Friday 19th July in St Bartholomew's Church - All children in school will be involved as we look back at a very busy and productive year. Mr Charlton has also sent a letter directly to the parents of Year 6 detailing our 'Leavers Fest' on Wednesday 17th July and we very much look forward to that.

Annual Reports -

Annual reports will be sent out by Monday 8th July. If you need to speak to your child's class teacher following this report please contact them to arrange an appointment or if you need to speak to me please drop me an email.

Have a safe and sunny weekend.

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.