

Headteacher's Blog



Friday 7th May 2021
2 page issue.

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

I hope you all enjoyed the Bank Holiday weekend, despite the mixed weather. Unfortunately, the weather meant that our playground markings have been delayed so we are hoping for a dry spell so that this can happen. Our outdoor fitness equipment should be finished by the end of the day and I will be sharing photos of the children using it at different times in their bubbles as we will clean and/ or quarantine it in between uses. This will be a particularly helpful addition to the active month of May as we are working on an initiative called 'We are Rise' <https://www.wearerise.co.uk> which has been created to help promote active lifestyles and we have to demonstrate a different activity each day and share it on our school Twitter page.

Finally, thank you for continuing to support our procedures to ensure we keep our school and its wider community safe.

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.



Fundraising

While we have been unable to have any fundraising events this year using Amazon Smile, Easy Fundraising or Your School Lottery is a really helpful way of easily adding funds to school.

Christian Aid Week 10th -16th May.

Usually we hold some sort of event to fundraise and find out about world issues during this week but due to COVID restrictions this is not able to happen again this year so the children are looking at the focus of Christian Aid's work in their classes (this year it is Climate Change and Water) and will be performing a virtual assembly which should be out to you by the beginning of the following week via a secure You Tube link.

School Staff 'Pen Portrait'

The first 2 'Pen Portraits' are from the Senior Leadership Team:

Mrs Belinda Athey, Headteacher and Mr Neil Charlton, Deputy Headteacher and teacher in Year 5 and 6 .

Two children, Jess and Olivia in Year 6 have asked the questions so we hope you find this section of the Blog interesting reading!

Mr Charlton -

Q - Did you want to be a teacher when you were a child? If not what did you want to be?

A- I had lots of ideas when I was young. I wanted to be a rock star mostly though.

Q - What is your favourite part about Whittingham and why?

A- I love being in a beautiful area of Northumberland. It is stunning and makes me happy. I was also impressed when I visited the school, at how it felt like a family focussed school and was very supportive.

Q - What do you do in your spare time?

A- Play with my daughter, go to the beach and playing my guitar.

Q - Running or walking?

A- Running, I am doing the Great North Run next year.

Q - Why did you want to start teaching in the first place?

A - I enjoyed going into schools when I was with North Yorkshire Police and so trained to make this my career.

Q - What's your favourite hobby and why do you like it?

A- I like running and playing my guitar as it's a good way of relaxing and expressing myself as well as keeping healthy.



Pen Portrait - Mrs Athey - Headteacher

Q - Are you an optimist, realist or pessimist, how does this affect your work or does it not affect your work?

A- I am definitely 90% optimist as I feel that is important to have a positive attitude to help you have high aspirations for school. With this I have a small dose of realism as you don't always get what you would like, or things don't quite happen how you would like them to.

Q- If you could change one thing about this school what would it be and why?

A- I think our outdoor space is amazing so I would like to focus on the inside. I would like a larger school hall and extra class space.

Q - What qualities make a good teacher?

A - There are lots! I think the main ones are that you need to be friendly and caring, approachable, fair, fun and have high aspirations for your class so that everyone can be the best they possible can be.

Q - How long have you been teaching?

A- I trained to be a teacher for 4 years and then have been teaching in school for 25 years, so a total of 29 years!!!

Q- If you are faced with a challenging situation, how do you overcome it?

A- I take a moment to think and then ask for help if necessary.

Q- Why did you choose to work at Whittingham rather than another school?

A- I visited the school before and the children and staff were very friendly and I love the way the building is not too big and the classrooms are attractive and the area outside is fantastic.

Next week another 2 children will be interviewing Mrs Weatherburn and Mrs Arkle.



BEFORE

Thank you!

Last week I shared on our school Facebook page how our glockenspiel had been vandalised at the start of lockdown 1 and that the company we bought it from were unable to fix it and a replacement would cost £2000.

Lots of people offered to help and thank you to the Henderson family (Sydney's Dad in particular) for fixing it. The job was made particularly tricky as two of the 'pipes' were missing and had to be made. Hopefully the playground markings will be completed this weekend as they were delayed last weekend and then we will have some great improvements to our outdoor area.



AFTER

Well Done Everyone!

Mr Charlton and I have had a fantastic week observing maths lessons across the school and have seen some wonderful teaching and learning which is great to see considering the disruptions we have had due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Thank you families for all the work you do to support your children at home, thank you to the staff who have worked extra hard to ensure learning is right on track despite all the recent disruptions and mostly to our wonderful children who have shown great resilience over the past year.