



**Whittingham**  
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Headteacher's Blog



**Friday 28th May 2021**  
**2 page issue.**

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Whittingham C of E Primary,  
Thank you for the responses to our Community Questionnaire. We received 12 responses by the Friday deadline which was not quite the total of 20 we were hoping for. However, the questionnaires received were extremely informative and supportive in helping with our funding bid.

I appreciate it has been a time for asking questions in an attempt of including a parent voice in our decision making but we feel that this is extremely important. 9 responses were received from our After School Club Questionnaire and within that there were only 3 responses who wanted some sort of provision until 5.30 and this means that it is unfortunately we will not be offering the extended hours provision that we offered pre COVID 19 pandemic. 9 responses stated they wanted some sort of After School Club and Art and Sports Club were particularly seen as important. We are committed to developing pupils social and emotional skills and hope to include a twice weekly club from September depending on COVID 19 restrictions.

As always, if you have any questions, queries, suggestions or concerns please do not hesitate to send us a message or catch either myself or Mr Charlton after Gate Duty.

Best wishes,  
Belinda Arley - Headteacher.



## Family Learning Projects for over the half term!

### Make a scarecrow

We would like to give the Scarecrow Festival at Rennington <https://www.bradtguides.com/rennington-scarecrow-festival/> a little bit of competition and invite you to create a scarecrow that helps celebrate the theme of

Northumberland that can be displayed around our school grounds.

Please could scarecrows be brought to the main school gate by Thursday 9th June.

Photography activity



### Take a photo (or photos)

When you are out and about in Northumberland on Northumberland Day (30th May) and throughout the week if you are staying in Northumberland and share it with us via any of our communication tools including email and we hope to make a large photo montage to enhance our display. Here we have our first entry enjoying time at Alnwick Gardens.

Please could photos be in by Wednesday 8th June.

## Online Safety

As you will know from my letter sent out on Monday this week I attended training on Online Safety and I am now an accredited ThinkYouKnow trainer. Some of the useful resources I came across were:

National Online Safety @natonlinesafety - Parents: take control! Our #WakeUpWednesday guides this week show you how using parental control settings can stop many #OnlineSafety risks from ever reaching your child's iPhone or Android <https://t.co/umlGU27q6E> Download app: <https://t.co/jdKtDlUuV> <https://t.co/MlyEwx7znc>

As a school, we cover online safety in our lessons and I hope to be able to offer an information session for parents as soon as this is possible. In the meantime please feel free to message me or to catch me on gate duty if you have any concerns or queries. If I am unable to answer your questions immediately I should be able to find the answer or access support relatively quickly.

<https://parentinfo.org>

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## Appointments in School Time.

It has always been a rule at school that non-urgent medical or dental appointments should not be made within school time as this causes disruption to school and learning time is lost. During the COVID 19 pandemic we appreciated that appointments were hard to come by so some relaxation of this rule was given. I am now aware that both doctors, dentists and opticians are able to offer appointments after school so please do not book appointments in school time. Non-urgent appointments will be recorded as an absence and will affect attendance.

## School Website

We often add photos to our weekly blog or on the school Facebook or Twitter Pages. However, there are more on our school gallery [https://whittingham.eschools.co.uk/website/whole\\_school\\_photo\\_gallery\\_2019-2021/370979](https://whittingham.eschools.co.uk/website/whole_school_photo_gallery_2019-2021/370979) or your child's class page as well as our curriculum pages which are being developed.



### New 'gym equipment'

We are pleased to say the equipment is proving very popular for break times and in PE sessions for our class bubbles so far.

## Pen Portrait - Week 4.

This week the children in Class 1 interviewed Miss Clark and Miss Trafford.

### Miss Clark -

Do you have any pets?

Yes, I have two border terriers called Sky and Lola and I have 1 cat called Snow ball because when she was a kitten she rolled into a ball and looked like a snow ball!

What would be your favourite holiday?

When I was younger I went to Disneyworld in Florida and I saw Minnie Mouse, Mickey Mouse and Pluto. What do you like doing after school?

After school I put my walking boots on and go for a walk with my dogs. I like to go for long walks and sometimes I walk for 2 hours!

What is your favourite part of the day?

There are lots! But I love break time because I get to play snakes and ladders, try skipping and play darts using the bean bags with the children.

What is your favourite film?

My favourite films are Harry Potter. I loved the chamber of secrets because in that film we were introduced to Dobby and he is my favourite character.

What is your favourite joke?

There are so many fantastic jokes that I learn from the children! Knock knock jokes are my favourite as they have so many different variations.



### Miss Trafford.

Where have you taught previously?

I trained to be a teacher for 3 years at York St John University then I taught in Newcastle for 2 years and Leeds for 5 years before starting at Whittingham.

What do you do to relax?

I love to spend time with my family. I will often go for walks in the woods or on the beach.

I love the outdoors!

What are your hobbies?

I like to paint, sketch and make jewellery. I find it very fiddly but rewarding when I can make something that I can wear and share with others.

Who is your favourite author?

I love to read books by Alexander McCall Smith and my favourite series is The No.1 ladies' detective agency. I love the characters and where it is set.

What is your favourite subject to teach?

My favourite subject is definitely art as it enables the children to be very creative and free with their imaginations. We have created some wonderful art pieces this year!

What is your favourite thing about Whittingham Primary School?

I love how it feels so welcoming and warm. The children here are so kind, polite and ready to learn which means teaching them is such a pleasure.

After the half term holiday Mrs Morris and Mrs Manners will be interviewed.

Happy half term everyone!

