



Whittingham  
VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Headteacher's Blog



Friday 14th May 2021  
2 page issue.

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

It has been a rather exciting week! Our playground markings are almost complete and look absolutely fantastic and our outdoor gym and fitness equipment is now nearly ready for our class bubbles to use. Our school improvement continues next week as I will be meeting with the Building Committee of the Governing Body and the school buildings improvement team at NCC to look at developing a long term vision of building enhancement and improvement at our school. Following this meeting the Governing Body, Staff and I hope to work with you all to share ideas and start to put plans into action and I will be in touch as soon as this can happen.

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 Athey - Headteacher.

## Reminder - National Numeracy Day

To celebrate maths further, we will be taking part in the National Numeracy Day on 19th May 2021. On this day, there will be various maths related activities and challenges in each class, even linking within other subject areas. The children and staff will also be invited to wear clothing/ a costume that has a maths theme/ link. Please see the letter sent out last week for further details.



## School Staff 'Pen Portrait' Week 2

Thank you for the positive feedback regarding the first of our pen portraits this week another two children, Thomas and Jamie in Year 6 have asked the questions. The 'pen portraits' will also be copied onto our school website in the 'Meet the Staff' section.

### Pen Portrait - Mrs Arkle who manages the school kitchen.

Q- Did you apply for any other jobs before coming to Whittingham?

A- No I didn't. Actually, this is only the second job I have ever had, the first was working in Whittingham Village Post Office and Shop. Then when both my boys were in school I started working here, just over 30 years ago.

Q- What is your favourite dish to cook for us?

A- I think it has to be chicken curry, as most of the children seem pleased when they see it being served.

Q- What is your favourite series of books?

A- At the moment my favourite one is 'The Yorkshire Shepherdess' by Amanda Owen. I love reading about life on the farm, as it reminds me of my own childhood when I lived on a farm very similar to hers.

Q - What do you encounter on a daily basis?

A- Every day I encounter new challenges, for example if a delivery doesn't arrive I have to change the menu, or if I unexpectedly have more for lunch than I have cooked for I have to produce something quickly. Luckily that is a rare situation.

Q- Name the most rewarding part of your job?

A- That has to be the easiest question to answer. It is definitely the children. Everyday at least one person makes me smile.



## Clubs out of school time and picking up children at the end of the day.

It is great to see how the lifting of COVID restrictions are enabling children to attend clubs and activities out of school. Please note when you are booking your children onto clubs that our school day for Reception to Year 6 ends at 3.15p.m. and we cannot authorise it for children to leave school any earlier than this.

I continue to review our health and safety procedures and for the health and safety of everyone please could parents/ carers wait until the buses have left the carpark entirely before coming to pick up your children? We hope to be offering a range of after school clubs for the School Year 2021-22 COVID restrictions allowing so watch this space...

## Pen Portrait - Mrs Weatherburn - Caretaker and Cleaner in Charge.

Q- Does it make your job more difficult or easier to be related to be related to someone in this school?

A- No, as I've had my own children and now all my grandchildren through Whittingham. I treat everyone the same.

Q- Why did you want to be caretaker at this school?

A- I started off being a lunchtime supervisor and the caretaker job came up so it was ideal to have two jobs in the school.

Q - Do you like being a caretaker at this school?

A - Yes, it's a lovely school.

Q- What is the hardest part of taking care of this school?

A- Making sure the school is clean.

Q-What do you like to do in your spare time?

A- I love a walk along the beach and spending time with my family.

Q - How did you feel about cleaning during the Coronavirus pandemic?

A- I felt safe as I made sure everything and been sprayed and cleaned.

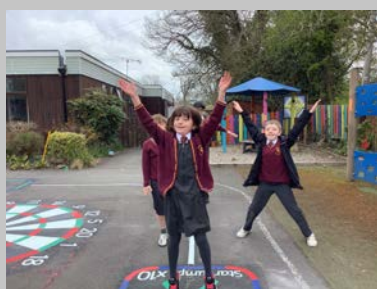
Next week another 2 children will be interviewing Miss Donkin and Mrs Chisholm



## Playground Markings

It is a shame that the markings weren't able to be in place for all the children returning to school back in March as we had originally planned due to weather conditions.

However, our new playground marking designs are almost complete (hoping for final touches being in place this weekend; weather permitting). Looking so much better already. It was great to hear the children's reactions to them this week and a well done to everyone who helped with the design process during February.



## Northumberland Gear Change Challenge.

There's never been a better time to change your travelling habits. By choosing to swap more car journeys for walking, cycling or public transport, you, your family, your community and your planet will feel the benefits from day one.

<https://www.northumberlandgearchange.co.uk/challenges>

It would be great if you choose to take part and share with us your photos of taking up this challenge.

### Potential cash prize!!!

You may have noticed that every day on our school Twitter page we are recording our activities and tagging in @WeAreRise\_NE and #TheDailyMileNorthumberland. If you do your own daily mile or dance activities at home please share this on Twitter mentioning the school your child attends school could be in the chance to win £1000!!



## Christian Aid Week 10th -16th May.

As I mentioned last week, it has been Christian Aid week this week and all the children have been filmed separately to provide you with a virtual assembly. It should be out to you by the beginning of the following week via a secure YouTube link. Some songs have been added at a later point as now restrictions have changed enabling us to put in place measures for children in school to sing safely without risking spreading COVID 19.



## Big Lottery

Please don't forget to return your questionnaires as the more we receive it shows how our application is well supported and the better our application chances will be.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing links for this week -

Action for Happiness is a really useful app and is well known for providing daily motivational quotes. <https://www.actionforhappiness.org>