

# Headteacher's Blog



**Friday 6th May 2022**

**Year 6 Roots and Shoots at Alnwick Gardens**

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

This week has been short, but eventful with COVID continuing to affect absences in school amongst children and staff. Thank you very much for all your support ensuring your child has a packed lunch while we have had to close our school kitchen. The kitchen will remain closed for the first part of the week and I will keep in touch about when school dinners will resume. Last week I mentioned that we hoped to be able to secure a place in the Big Sing for Years 3-6 and Big Sing, Mini Singers for Years 1 and 2 and I am pleased to share with you that we have secured places for both events which will run in June. We will be celebrating Northumberland Day and the Queen's Jubilee towards the end of this months. As for all events more details will follow nearer the time. Our much anticipated and delayed play equipment which was due to be installed over the Easter Holidays is now due to be installed over the May Half Term and we plan to have a mini 'opening ceremony' for this soon after installation. I will be speaking to governors very soon about the use of the school field for our pupils after school and as soon as we have met and discussed rules for use I will let you know. As always, please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher if you have a query or concern and in addition to that I can be contacted via the school office ( email, telephone or call in person) and Mr Charlton and I are on Gate Duty for this purpose too.

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.



## Lunchtime Clubs

As I have previously mentioned, lunchtime clubs are proving very popular. Mrs Chisholm runs the clubs this half term in KS2, Athletics, Kwik Cricket and Gardening. Thanks to Mrs Chisholm and her family who have spent weekends and time in the Easter Holiday further developing our Wildlife Area.

Mrs Lamb, our new teaching assistant in KS1 is now running 3 lunchtime clubs for Reception and Class 1, Football, Lego and Library Club.

Our outdoor reading area is now open to all the children every break time and is proving popular.

Thank you for the positive feedback regarding the variety of clubs we have on offer. Feedback is really important to us as it helps us to provide an even better 'service' to our pupils.

## Raising funds for school.

Now, more than ever as a school we feel it is important that we try and provide as many activities as possible at no charge to families. This has included school trips and swimming so far this year. We use the funds raised such as Your School Lottery, Air Ambulance Appeal and Easy Fundraising to help to do this as our school budget is already committed to other projects including the employment of additional staff and increasing staff hours so we can only continue to do so if families contribute by either buying a lottery ticket each week or using the easy fundraising app or tool on their computer when shopping online. Currently I am one of the 5 families who use the Easy Fundraising App and despite such low numbers £625.04 has been raised, by 38 families purchasing a lottery ticket almost £2000 has been raised! We will be having a PTA AGM very shortly so appreciate further ideas to raise funds and plan events.

## Reminders

Our annual consultation letter regarding wrap around care and so much more went out last week. Please help us to ensure we are providing as many opportunities as possible for our children and their families by completing it and returning it to me or letting me know while on Gate Duty

The dates for this half term are all on our school website calendar which can be found - <https://whittingham.eschools.co.uk/website/calendar/213885>