



**Friday 16th September
2022.
Multiple page issue.**



As one of the schools within the Alnwick Partnership we are deeply saddened by the passing of HRH Queen Elizabeth II. We extend our heartfelt condolences to The Royal Family, as we join the Nation in mourning, and give thanks and praise to Her Majesty for her lifelong service to our country and the Commonwealth.

As a school we have had moments of quiet reflection with our children dealing with any questions with quiet compassion and care. We will not send out letters, updates and any non essential communication on Friday 9th September or on Monday 19th September as a mark of respect.

Headteacher's Blog

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to the first 'Blog' of the new school year as we have completed our first full week back in school. It is lovely to see how the children have come back from their Summer Holiday refreshed and ready to learn.

Thank you for supporting them to come back well prepared and looking so smart in their school uniform.

While a good proportion of nearly new school uniform was collected by families for free at the end of term and on the teacher training days I have received some new donations this week. I hope to put uniform out again for people to help themselves to over the next few weeks (including at pick up time for Movie Night next week) and also during the Coffee and Chat prior to Class 3 Assembly on Friday 21st October.

We have lots going over the next term and have already booked in key events. These are all on the school website calendar which can be found -<https://whittingham.eschools.co.uk/website/calendar/213885>. This get updated regularly and also dates can be found on the reminder section of the Blog.

I would like to welcome all our new starters across the school, including new Year 1 and 2 class teacher Miss Lazenby. The staff team spent a very productive time during the training days and look forward to further developing our provision. This includes further developing the partnership with families and school and will reading at home. Reading Records in KS 2 will have a new look and information page and KS1 Reading Records contain an information page as well which we hope you will find helpful. The school library has fully re-opened and with the support of one of our parents will be open each week. Don't forget that thanks to the generous donations by the public to our school account at Barter Books we have an extremely healthy Barter Balance. It was lovely seeing pictures and hearing about the books that had been chosen. These books are free to keep or donate to our school library after they have been read and enjoyed.

As always, please do not hesitate to let us know if there is something we can improve or something which is particularly pleasing. Staff are on hand at the end of each day to talk to you at school and either Mr Charlton or I are on Gate Duty most mornings.

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.

PTA Meeting

Yet another successful PTA meeting was held this week and we look forward to hosting a Movie Night on Friday 23rd September and Harvest Disco on Friday 21st October. As well as a Coffee Morning in December.

Attendance

This week we shared with you your child's attendance for the whole school year. We have a target of 96% attendance for the whole school and will be mentoring this closely as due to the past few years which have been affected by COVID it is particularly important that children are in school every day unless unwell.



Music Lessons

After a long time of trying to organise the First Access Music Project to be held during the afternoons we have managed to do so this year. Class 2 will have whole school music tuition which is fully subsidised from school but if any families of children in Year 4, 5 or 6 who would like to carry on and pay for small group music tuition this can be done by contacting the Music Service at NCC. I also hope to get details for you over the next week. These lessons would be within school time and the Music Service would deal with the bookings and payment directly.

School bags - Please be reminded that space in the cloakrooms is limited and that the children in Early Years and Class 1 should bring to school a reading folder and if a bag is needed it should be a drawstring bag. Please keep large bags at home

Welcome back to our classes.



Parent Governor Nominations

This week the nomination information went out. We have vacancies for 2 Parent Governors to join our fantastic Governing Body. If any more information is required please do not hesitate to contact Sandra McCormack, our Chair of Governors or myself.



Jess, our school dog has become fully settled into school life and will be increasing her time in school to 3 days per week unless I am away for meetings. There is a risk assessment on our school website. Please continue to inform school if there are any changes to your child's medical history and if they have allergies or phobias around dogs and we will make sure these are accommodated.

Attendance Graphs
While I appreciate these graphs send quite a blunt message as a parent myself they did remind me of the importance of good attendance so I hope you find them an additional help to what we usually send out. If school can support in any way please do not hesitate to contact us.

Communication

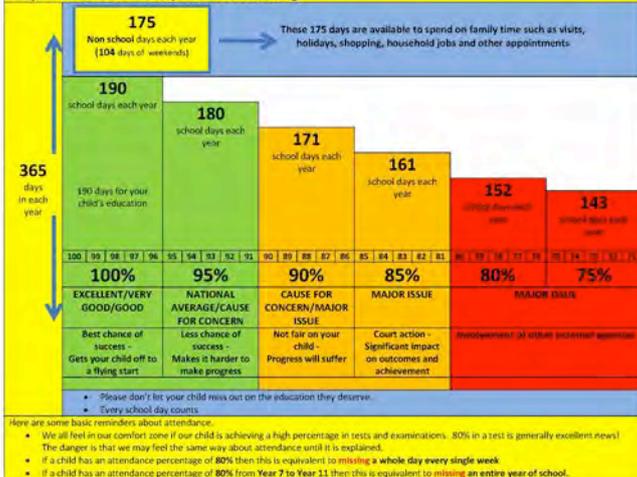
When school was only open to staff and key worker children we relied heavily on Class Dojo and Tapestry as ways in which to communicate with one another. Now that families are able to pick up their children at the end of each day please use this time to ask your teacher questions or just have a chat! If you do need to communicate electronically please communicate remember that staff working hours are Monday to Friday 8.30 - 4.00. While staff work much longer hours than this we would love it if you tried not to message outside these times. Also, as all staff are teaching full time they will be unable to respond to messages while the children are in school as they will be teaching and may have meetings after school which mean a response may be delayed. Coming to the classroom door at the end of the day is a great way of getting to know your class teacher and having any questions answered promptly. If you do wish to make a complaint please see the complaints policy which is on the school website which helps you with the protocol to follow so that any complaint is dealt with effectively.

SAFETY ALERT:

TO LEAVE THIS SITE QUICKLY
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If you are in danger, please use a safer computer, consider calling 911, your local hotline, the National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233 or TTY 1-800-787-3224, or the National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-800-656-4673.

Days off school add up to lost learning!



Attendance %	Missed Days	Missed weeks	Over 5 years	Annually	Impact over 5 years
100%	0	0	0	Excellent	
99%	1.9	0.38	9.5	Very Good	
98%	3.8	0.75	1.9	Very Good	
97%	5.7	1.14	28.5	Very Good	
96%	7.6	1.52	38	Good	
95%	9.5	1.9	47.5	National average	Quarter Year missed
94%	11.4	2.28	57	Below Nat. average	
93%	13.3	2.66	66.5	Below Nat. average	Approx. Third year missed
92%	15.2	3.04	76	Requires improvement	
91%	17.1	3.42	85.5	Requires immediate improvement/worryn	
90%	19	3.8	95	Cause for concern	Half year missed
89%	20.9	4.18	104.5	Serious concern	
88%	22.8	4.56	114	Major issue	
87%	24.7	4.94	123.5	Major issue	1 Year missed

¹ 97% and above - pupils with attendance at this level throughout their school career, will make the most progress and this should lead to better prospects for work, college and university.

² 95% - pupils with attendance at this level should reach their target grades and should have good prospects and opportunities for work, college and university but they are just below the national average rate of attendance.

³ 90% - pupils with attendance at this level are missing a month of school per year and are likely not to reach their target grades. Progress will be negatively affected and their attendance will be viewed negatively by employers, further and higher education.

⁴ 85% - pupils with this attendance will find it very difficult to keep up and their chances of achieving their potential will be significantly damaged.

⁵ Any attendance percentage below this will make it impossible for pupils to keep up with the work. An EPN (Education Penalty Notice) will be issued.

childline

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