



Week 15 Newsletter

Friday 19th December 2025

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of Whittingham C of E Primary,

Welcome to our last weekly newsletter of 2025. I would like to thank the children and staff for their hard work and to families and governors for their support and look forward to seeing you all for an exciting new term on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Seasons Greetings,

Belinda Athey – Headteacher.

For any further information, please also refer to our news page of our school website and school calendar as well as any messages from your class teachers on Class Dojo or Tapestry.

[Whittingham C of E Primary School - Calendar](#)

[Whittingham C of E Primary School - Nativity - A King is Born](#)

[Whittingham C of E Primary School - Weekly Newsletter, information plus monthly newsletter - Week 15](#)

Please also see our social media page - [\(8\) Facebook](#) Whittingham CofE Primary School

Information saved on the news page this week includes:

Alnwick Rugby poster

Babes in the Woods Forest School Poster

Mr Charlton's Monthly Newsletter

New appointment in the office - Following the retirement of Mrs Kennedy we are pleased to welcome Mrs Laura Gillot to our school and will be running the school office from January. For emails please use admin@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk which she will be using from Monday 5th January. Please also note her working hours differ slightly from Mrs Kennedy and she will be working shorter days so the office hours are as follows:

Monday to Friday 8.45-2.45.

Please note the later start and finishing time and if you need to contact the office please do so during these hours. Please can any changes to end of day arrangements after 2pm be made via telephone -0166557422.

Retirement of our Vice Chair of Governors and a new Parent Governor - After a number of years supporting our school in her role as Vice Chair of Governors I would like to wish Mrs Janet Young all the best on her retirement of this role. Following 2 vacancies of Parent Governors I am pleased to announce that Mrs Clare Frater is now a Parent Governor. ***We still have a co-opted governor and parent governor vacancy so if you are interested or know of someone who is interested.***

Attendance – Our termly attendance checks and letters went out this week. We understand that children need to be off when unwell to give them time to recover and to also stop the spread of illnesses. However, this has been the worst autumn term for a number of years where children have been taken out for days out and holidays. While it is not our schools' current practice to fine families this is against advice of our Local Authority who monitor our attendance and we may be forced to fine families, especially if holidays or days out happen on more than one occasion. We also use money from our budget to provide support and interventions for children and if they have 2 terms of repeated attendance under our school target of 96% this support may be withdrawn and allocated elsewhere.

If your child is going to be off school on holiday and you want extra work for them your class teacher will not provide extra work, instead:

- Get books to read from your local library to take and try and keep up with reading while you are away.
- Create a travel diary of writing and pictures that your child can share with their class on their return.
- Access online learning:
- Times Tables Rockstars and Spelling Shed (Y1 upwards)
- Oak National Academy - <https://www.thenational.academy/pupils/years>
- BBC Bitesize [Home - BBC Bitesize](#)

If your child has attendance less than 96% for two terms we are obliged to inform the Education Welfare Officer.

Rota Kids - We had a great deal of interest in the vacant positions and the Rota Kids shortlisted and interviewed these candidates on the last day of term. We had hoped to let the lucky candidates know before the end of term but with such a busy day we were not able to so will do so in the New Year. Thanks to everyone who was interested.

Academic and Sporting Successes – I am so pleased to share with you that Emily and Isla G's 500 Word competition entries have gotten through to the next round and that Isla G's Young Writers Rotary Club competition entry has got through to district level. We expect to hear about our entry into the art competition soon.

Years 3,4,5 and 6 have also qualified for the regional Multiskills Finals being one of only 2 schools from North Northumberland to do so!