

Headteacher's Blog

'Hand in hand together we will become resilient, respectful and responsible citizens of our community and the wider world.'

Friday 19th May 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to our weekly blog as we move through yet another particularly busy month!

We were proud to share with our families our 'good' Ofsted report this week and as I said on Wednesday, we are particularly pleased with the opening paragraph which encapsulates the ethos of our wonderful school perfectly.

'Whittingham Church of England Primary School sits at the heart of the community. The small size of the school helps staff to know pupils very well. Pupils feel safe in school and know that there is a trusted adult they can speak to if they are worried. There is a welcoming and friendly atmosphere at the school. Parents of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) feel well supported and are happy with the progress their children make.' Ofsted March 2023.

The Chair and Vice Chair would like to congratulate and thank all of our leaders, staff, parents, carers and Governors for the hard work and commitment which has resulted in this very positive Ofsted inspection outcome. We deeply appreciate the ongoing commitment to our children and school community.

I would like to thank parents and members of the wider community who have taken the time to congratulate staff either in person or through emails to school, such feedback is greatly appreciated and it is wonderful to have our hard work recognised while at the same time knowing that our children receive a very good education. However, we are not a school to 'stand on our laurels' and we continue to look to improve and grow and as always, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Mr Charlton on Gate Duty if you have any suggestions as to how we can improve, concerns, queries or comments. Staff are also happy to talk to you at the end of each day during collection time.

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.

Year 6 Leavers Hoodies - Thank you PTA

A Whittingham tradition continued last week with the Year 6 children being presented with their Leavers Hoodies. The children had all chosen their colours carefully and keen to be seen proudly wearing them this week. Thank you to the PTA who fully fund this gift. Please don't forget there is a PTA meeting this coming Monday (22nd) in school at 3.30p.m. Please join us.



Reminders for next week

As we head towards the half term holiday the events in school are as follows:
Monday - Wednesday Class 3 Residential. (Remaining KS2 children activity days -see letter to follow for further details).

Monday - PTA meeting at 3.30pm.

Thursday - Year 5 Dodgeball Festival (a letter has been sent out with full details, please don't forget to return permission slips for any trips we take out of school beyond our local community).

Friday - Adventure Babies - Toddler and EY Session.

Friday - Coffee and Chat followed by Early Years Class Assembly.

For future dates, the calendar on the school website is regularly updated and can be found:

<https://whittingham.eschools.co.uk/website/calendar/213885>

Please don't forget that we have a teacher training day on Monday 5th June and school re-opens to pupils on Tuesday 6th June for our final half term of the school year.

Early Years write to King Charles!

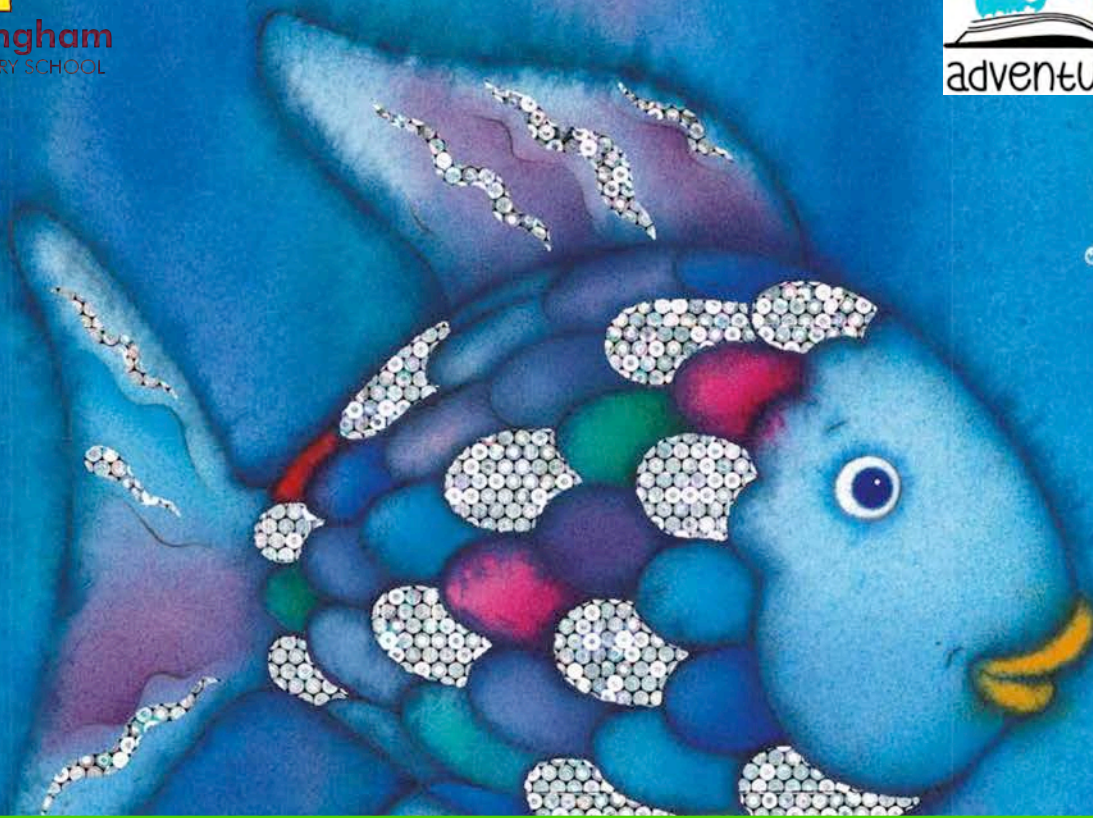
Although the excitement of the Coronation has passed. Early Years have been inspired to write letters to the King and took a trip to the post box in the village to post them. We will wait eagerly for a reply!





Whittingham
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Marcus Pfister



Our toddler and nursery sessions of Adventure Babies are extremely successful and the children loved their 'A Squash and a Squeeze' adventure last month. May's session is the wonderful story, Rainbow Fish. There are a limited number of places left for the toddler part (18 months to 3 years) of our session. This month the session will be on Friday 26th May 9.30 a.m.- 10.15a.m. £2.50 per child. Please contact the office 01665574222 to book a place.

THE RAINBOW FISH



Whittingham, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 4UP

Telephone: 01665 574222 Email: admin@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk

Website: www.whittinghamprimaryschool.co.uk

Wednesday 17th May 2023.

Ofsted Inspection Report

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware, Whittingham C of E Primary School was inspected by Ofsted for a 1-day inspection on 29th March 2023. We have now received a copy of the final report and are proud to let you know that Ofsted have judged us to continue to be a 'Good' school.

One of the key headlines that I am particularly proud that has been recognised is:

'Whittingham Church of England Primary School sits at the heart of the community. The small size of the school helps staff to know pupils very well. Pupils feel safe in school and know that there is a trusted adult they can speak to if they are worried. There is a welcoming and friendly atmosphere at the school. Parents of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) feel well supported and are happy with the progress their children make.' Ofsted March 2023.

Ofsted reports have a word limit therefore are only able to provide a brief summary of the key things noted by the inspectors during their very short time at our wonderful school.

However, the lead inspector, Jessica McKay, met with myself, Mr Charlton and governors to provide more detailed feedback at the end of the inspection and I want to take this chance to share some of this feedback with you which further enhances our good inspection outcome:

- Interventions across the school are planned extremely well. All staff are deployed effectively so that needs are identified quickly, and interventions are effective.
- Resources purchased are helping to escalate progress.
- Pupil talk is language rich and is developed effectively.
- Use of Pupil Premium and Primary Sports Funding are used effectively.
- The curriculum is exciting, and progress and changes made recently have enabled subject leaders to have thorough knowledge of the recently revised curriculum as do teachers and TA's. A positive start.
- Staff training and meetings are well planned.
- Behaviour across the school is exemplary, pupils across the school listen carefully and behave well.
- Pupils are engaged in learning.
- The PE lead is immensely passionate that PE should be a positive experience for all.
- The maths subject lead has thorough knowledge.
- Early Reading is taught consistently well and is extremely well led and managed by the lead teacher.
- Pupils are keen and confident.
- Pupils who are struggling are supported extremely well.
- Governors are extremely knowledgeable about the school.
- The school is a vital part of the school community.
- Measures for safeguarding are robust.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward working with families, governors and staff to further develop our school in the future.

Kind regards,

Belinda Athey – Headteacher.