



Whittingham
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher's Blog

Friday 22nd October
2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

What a busy half term it has been and how time has flown! A very well done to all the children who have settled into the routine of school and it is lovely to see how much can be done when we have a relatively uninterrupted half term. As you know, we have kept in place the vast majority of measures to help protect the spread of COVID 19 and keep our school and its wider community safe. This will continue after half term. I have been informed by NCC that I should expect an update from Northumberland Public Health today which is likely to ask schools to return to all the measures that were in place prior to September as the cases of COVID 19 are high. Fortunately, this is very unlikely to effect us but if there is something new I will let you know. I hope the children have a wonderful break and I look forward to welcoming Mrs Fletcher back to Class 2 and also extend a welcome to Mrs Thomsen, who will join her straight after half term. I really enjoyed seeing the children in church celebrate Harvest and I will send the links to you today so that you can watch this together at home.

I hope you all have a lovely week.

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.



DLD Awareness Day

As a school we celebrated raising awareness of developmental language disorder (DLD) in school on Friday 15th October. We all came to school dressed in the colours yellow and purple.

Early Years children (pictured) carried out some communication activities and soon found that how things were said, speed, words we used really made a difference. They had to follow instructions and listen carefully to successfully colour their pictures in. Here are some of the Early Years children.

My School Lottery

Over the last 2 years we have managed to raise £2322 by selling an average of 34 My School Lottery tickets per week. This has been an invaluable way of supporting school funds while we have not been able to have our traditional PTA fundraisers so please do continue to support us or if you don't already buy a ticket. I am hoping to create a new library space so any additional funds would be amazing. If you happen to be doing any birthday or Christmas shopping online please don't forget to use Easy Fundraising and Amazon Smile. Also, please fill your Air Ambulance Bags!

Thank you to everyone who is donating their Morrisons vouchers

Swimming

Prior to the COVID 19 pandemic the children in KS 2 had swimming lessons as part of their PE provision. Obviously, with the COVID pandemic and on going high cases of infection the return to swimming has been carefully considered and not continued from September. We are hoping that we will be able to resume swimming on a weekly basis from Summer Term. We will look carefully at which KS2 class this is best suitable for as we remain committed to ensuring that all children leave Year 6 being able to swim at least 25 metres. As you know we have an amazing wealth of sporting and physical activities that are offered across the school and our standards in PE are extremely high (confirmed with yet another convincing win from our Year 5 and 6 football team on Thursday) so the children are not missing out. This will continue to be reviewed and I will keep you informed as necessary.