



Whittingham
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher's Blog

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

Friday 15th December 2023
Multiple page issue.

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Whittingham Primary School,
Welcome to the final Headteacher's Blog of the year and what a year it has been; lots of amazing learning enhanced by enrichment activities, residential, visits and visitors not forgetting some fantastic sporting successes both regionally and nationally and an amazing Ofsted inspection. I am so proud of the children and staff who get the very best out of every day and thankful to families for their ongoing support.

We have Christmas dinner in school and our Christingle Service (please contact the office if you are joining our service as I mentioned back in early November and subsequent posters in the weekly blog we will be making our Christingle's in family groups and letting us know beforehand will ensure we can reserve seating so you are sitting together and have the items needed to make a Christingle ready beforehand.

Following the Christingle Service at 3.15p.m. we will break up for the Christmas Holidays and will return to school on Monday 8th January 2024. Lots of things are already planned for 2024 including family sharing sessions and a djembe drumming workshop for Years 5 and 6. So don't forget to keep up to date by checking our school calendar -
<https://www.whittinghamprimaryschool.co.uk/website/calendar/213885>

As always, Mr Charlton or I are contactable on Gate Duty each morning, during the day in the office- 01665574222 or directly by email belinda.athey@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk (please do not use any other email as there may be a delay in your email getting to me as it does not go directly to me). With regards to feedback and what we could do to improve a parent has mentioned to me that they would appreciate further support with helping their child with their homework. We had Maths and English workshops back in September and the powerpoint for these can be found on our school website. However, if you do need more support please contact your class teacher via Tapestry, Class Dojo or at the classroom door at the end of the day. If we identify a need we can look again at the workshops we offer or our homework provision.

Festive Greetings and well wishes for the New Year,
Belinda Athey - Headteacher.

Keeping Safe during the Festive Period -
Christmas can be a wonderful time of year for lots of families, for others it may be a tricky time. Please see links below which may provide some helpful information of services to support.
<https://www.nda.services>
<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>
<https://www.operationencompass.org>
<https://www.alnwickdistrictfoodbank.co.uk>
<https://www.samaritans.org>

A week in review - Santa Dash, trip to Alnwick Playhouse and our amazing performances - Wizard of Oz and Humph the Camel.



Enrichment Clubs
We are extremely proud of the range and quality of clubs we offer. We try to keep charges low but if your child wants to take part in an enrichment activity after school and you are unable to finance this please speak to me in the strictest of confidence as I may be able to access funding to help cover costs.

Sponsored Walk Update - If you follow the school Facebook page you may remember back in November I took part in Walk 50 miles in November for Samaritans. Alongside Teddy and Jess I exceeded the target miles and raised £145 so thank you to everyone who sent words of encouragement or sponsored me. Mental Health can effect anyone and charities such as Samaritans provide vital support so I am proud to have made a small contribution but mainly to raise awareness and fight the stigma surrounding mental health.



Whittingham
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christingle



Christingle Service in Church 21st December at 1.30p.m.

We are really pleased to have regular involvement with the Church since Reverend Rich has been in post and following my meeting with him today we have decided to run our Christingle Service in a different way this year.

Reverend Rich will lead the Christingle Service on Thursday 21st December in Church at 1.30p.m.

Families will be invited to join their children to make the Christingles together in Church during the service interspersed with the children singing some lovely Christingle songs.

I will be sending out a letter very shortly with full details and also for families to sign up to this special service but wanted to make sure everyone was aware beforehand so they can sort out work commitments etc.

Looking forwards to a very special service to bring us all together at the end of a busy term.

**Best wishes
Belinda Athey - Headteacher.**

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We are pleased to share with you that our Year 6 children who have taken part in the Active Northumberland School Games Virtual Multiskills North Northumberland Qualifiers have succeeded in making the regional Finals which will take place towards the end of January. WELL DONE!!!