



**Whittingham**  
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Headteacher's Blog



Friday 7th June 2024

Multiple page issue.



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Whittingham Primary School,  
Welcome to the first Headteacher's Blog of the half term. It has been a busy week in school with three trips out. As always, the children gained a lot of knowledge and enjoyment from their trips and were excellent ambassadors for our school. We continue with trips out and events in school so please do keep a check on our website calendar <https://whittingham.eschools.co.uk/website>

A very big thank you goes to all the volunteers and staff involved in the Countryside Day, Ed and Angela and members of the congregation who welcomed our Reception Class to St Andrew's Church in Glanton and to Damian Cruden, artistic director at Alwick Playhouse who invited us to the studio space to enjoy the Not So Big Bad Wolf.

Well done to the Year 4 children for completing their Year 4 Multiplication Test this week. Next weeks sees the Year 1 and some Year 2 children complete their Phonics Test too.

As I mentioned in my email on Thursday I am at various training or supporting school trips across the week next week so Mr Charlton will be the face to face point of contact. I will respond to emails when not training too.

Best wishes,  
Belinda Athey - Headteacher.

## Before and After School Provision

As you know, throughout the year I have tried to raise the profile and increase our wraparound provision with varying degrees of success. Indications of need for September in the responses to letters sent out last half term show that there is no need for before or after school provision for the vast majority of families at this point and therefore financially economically unviable.

However, I have expressed interest in being part of a pilot scheme of daily before and after school provision. If my 'bid' is successful then school would get a small grant to support any shortfall for a period of time with the view that the provision could become financially sustainable. My application was made in advance of the 31st May deadline so I am hopeful that this may mean we can continue to offer some provision in September and will let you know as soon as I know!

## Baby and Toddler Group

In the past we have run a Baby and Toddler group when there has been the need. If there are any families out there who would like to be involved or see one set up again please contact me - [belinda.athey@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:belinda.athey@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk)

## Uniform

Just a reminder for your children to still be wearing full school uniform until the end of term unless directed otherwise. Earrings should be removed on days where there is PE and left at home and if this is not possible please can children bring their own tape or plasters to cover their earrings. Earrings should be small studs.

Hair styles should not have patterns in them. Hair, if needs to be dyed should be in a natural colour palette.

Eyebrows should not have shaved lines in them.

Shoes should be leather/ leather look and not trainers which are fabric. Thank you for supporting us in ensuring the children look smart and are following our school policy.

## School Grounds and Code of Conduct

It is wonderful to be able to keep our school grounds accessible. However, please ensure children are supervised and that code of conduct has been read and signed for this school year. Just a gentle reminder, there are areas which are not accessible at all which appear to have been used in the half term holiday. This include:  
Early Years outdoor space.

## MUGA

All space beyond the football pitch which includes the Garden Area and the Forest School Area.

## PTA Refreshment Stall on Sports Day a few spaces left

Thank you to everyone who has been able to offer to help on the refreshments stall. There are still a few spaces so if you are coming and able to help please contact the office.

# RISING 3 YEAR OLD PROVISION



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## New Childcare Reforms

You may already be aware, starting from April 2024, existing childcare support will be expanded for working families. This means that:

From **April 2024**, working parents of 2-year-olds will be able to access up to 15 hours childcare support. Parents can apply for their funded childcare codes through the [Childcare Choices website](#) from 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.

Details of the code and confirmation of eligibility will need to be given to school before a place is confirmed.

We are pleased to offer some afternoon places for **Rising 3 Year Old** 1.00 - 3.15 for working parents or a fee paying place through our Community Powers Nursery from **15th April 2024** using our school environment and specialist facilities for younger children.

For further details please contact the school office and ask to speak to Mrs Athey or Mrs Marsden on 01665574222 or