

Welcome to
**Whitburn Village
Primary School**

Whitburn Village Primary School 2021 - 2022

Whitburn Village Primary School
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Blue Skies Federation
w/ Marine Park Primary School
& Dunn Street Primary School

Chair of Governors: Ms. Jackie Gilmore
Executive Head Teacher: Mrs. A Burden



The future begins here!

WELCOME TO WHITBURN VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

It is a real pleasure and absolute privilege as the Head Teacher of Whitburn Village Primary School to welcome you to our school. Our unique school is part of the wonderful Whitburn Village Community and is close to beautiful countryside, coast and plays an integral part in the life of the village. The whole school team aspire to create a truly outstanding school built on secure foundations of excellent teaching, a memorable and creative curriculum and consistently high academic attainment and progress for all of our learners. Our aim is the children of Whitburn Village Primary leave us in Year 6 as happy, successful, articulate, aspirational and empathetic young people. We want our children to feel confident to express their individuality, their talents and know that success in any aspect of their lives will be rewarded and celebrated. Together we will make Whitburn Village Primary an exciting place for our children in which to learn, grow and flourish in the centre of our vibrant community and also as a beacon of excellence across our town.

Yours Sincerely

Alison Burden
Executive Head Teacher

Our school is set in a beautiful location, on the outskirts of Whitburn Village, verging on green fields and open countryside. We are close to local facilities, parks and of course, the North East coast. Whitburn has a rich cultural heritage.

Within the school building, there are 8 classrooms, a shared Foundation and Key Stage 1 area, an ICT suite, a study room, a library, a small dining hall and an Assembly hall. To the exterior of the building, there are separate KS1 and KS2 yards and a large field. There is also an integral, purpose built Nursery department. Many children joining the main school have already experienced the facilities on offer there and have enjoyed a positive, stimulating learning experience. We are also fortunate to have a lovely enclosed garden.

It is our aim that we use these fabulous facilities to extend and enhance the curriculum to ensure that, not only is learning purposeful and fun, but that children are knowledgeable about where they live and how they fit into the wider world.



STAFF

Teaching staff

Mrs. Alison Burden	Executive Head Teacher
Mrs. Gail Maddock	Head of School
Mrs. Lynne Benson	EYFS & KS1 Manager
Mrs. Kerry Littlewood	KS2 Manager
Mrs. Jill Grieveson	SENCo
Miss. Susan Beetlestone	
Mrs. Marnie Jago	
Mrs. Lynsey Macgregor	
Miss. Zara Peart	
Mrs. Louise Thoburn	

Support staff

Mrs. Michelle Brooks
Mrs. Karen McGuire
Mrs. Suzanne Smith
Mrs. Sherry Brooks
Mrs. Sue Meikle
Mrs. Kim Metcalfe

Non-teaching staff

Office Manager

Mrs. Janice Carroll

Administrative Assistant

Miss. Jordanna Dejonge

Caretaker

Mr. Brian Clark-Barkess

Family Welfare Officer

Mrs. Lynn Nettleton

Breakfast Club / Supervisory Assistants

Mrs. Jannette Seward
Mr. Steve Conway

Nursery:

Morning session -
Afternoon session -
Full Day -

Hours of school day:

8.30a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
12.30pm - 3.30 p.m.
8.30am - 3.30 p.m.

Key Stage 1: 8.55 a.m. – 3.15 p.m.

Key Stage 2: 8.55 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.

Morning Break: 10.30 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.

Lunchtime: 12.00 p.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Afternoon Break: 2.20 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.

We hold a breakfast club every day from 7.45 - 8.55 a.m. in the school hall where the children are offered a range of breakfast choices and activities. A daily charge of £3 per child helps cover the costs of food and supervision. If a child stays for the full week, the cost is reduced to £12.50.



We also have a range of after school activities for children to attend. Letters go out every half term with the list of clubs we provide. Payments can be made on ParentPay – you will receive login details once your contact forms have been returned to school.

Curriculum

Our curriculum ensures learning is effective, exciting and above all, allows the children to explore the world they live in and prepare for the opportunities and challenges of life in the 21st century.

Whitburn Village Primary aims to provide a curriculum that is engaging, balanced and relevant. While emphasis is placed on children learning core skills of English and Maths, we place great value on developing the 'whole child' and provide an engaging programme of study in all curriculum areas. The whole school team aspires to create a truly outstanding school built on secure foundations of excellent teaching, a memorable and creative curriculum and consistently high academic attainment and progress for all of our learners.

We are required to base our teaching on the National Curriculum, which sets out clear, full and statutory entitlement to learning for all pupils. It determines the content of what will be taught, and sets attainment targets for learning. It also determines how progress will be assessed and reported.

Our drive is to have a curriculum, which meets all statutory requirements of the National Curriculum and allows children to explore the world they live in and prepare for the opportunities and challenges of life in the 21st century. Our unique school is part of our wonderful Whitburn Village community and is close to beautiful countryside, coast and plays an integral part in the life of the village. With that in mind, we have a strong focus within the curriculum on our locality and surrounding areas.

We follow a Learning Challenge Curriculum for Foundation subjects which is built around questioning and helps to 'hook' the children into their learning. We aim to create deep learning opportunities through our curriculum and the use of questioning so that every child is curious and challenged.

Further information about our curriculum can be found on the school website.



Religion

Though we are non-denominational, we do enjoy good links with Whitburn Parish and Methodist Churches.

We also welcome links from any other faith groups. We live in a culturally diverse society and we believe that this should be reflected in the experiences children have within our school setting.

By law, parents have the right to withdraw children from Religious Education and Collective Worship. If you have specific reasons for doing this, please tell us and if possible provide an alternative activity for your child.

We adopt the Local Authority policy for Collective Worship. This is based on a series of themes and events. The content is broadly Christian, but other major faith festivals are included.



Uniform

The wearing of school uniform is compulsory in this school. Wearing uniform not only looks smart, but it shows a commitment to the aims and values of the school. You would have received a letter in your starter pack with what our uniform consist of.

All of our uniform can be ordered from www.totstoteams.co.uk or bought without the logo from local shops. The P.E kit includes a light blue top, dark blue shorts and plimsoles. Football strips are not allowed for PE.

School Council

We value the thoughts, wishes and beliefs of every pupil and have an active school council who help to collect views and suggest ideas for improving our school even further. Every year, each child has the chance to stand for the council, before the classes vote to elect their class councillors.

Healthy Lifestyles

Whitburn Village Primary School is a Healthy School and we encourage pupils to lead healthy lifestyles.



In each class, P.E. lessons are planned to match children's abilities, so that the children have fun developing their skills in a safe, but challenging environment.

Year 3 & 4 partake in swimming lessons throughout the school year. They will need to have a swimming hat, a costume and a towel (hats are available from the school office, priced £1.50). This lesson is compulsory. If a child has a foot infection they can still participate, but will need to wear a sock.

A range of sporting extra-curricular activities are available for children to take part in. These include gymnastics, football, multi-skills and netball. We also provide playtime equipment and have a Trim Trail to encourage the children to be active during break times.

Gardening

At Whitburn, we are very lucky to have an enclosed garden with the school grounds. Each year group has the opportunity to spend time in the garden, learning how to care for plants, growing and harvesting food and cooking healthy, nutritious snacks.



Library

We have a well-stocked school library, which the children can visit each week. At the library, we spend time reading, choosing books or completing quiet activities. We often run competitions in the school library that every child is able to enter.



Educational Visits

Educational visits are an essential part of the enriched curriculum here at Whitburn Village Primary School. Some visits may be a short distance from the school and invoke no financial outlay (e.g. R.E visit to local Church), while others require payment of transport and / or admission charges (e.g. Farm visit).

We do ask for voluntary contributions from parents / carers in order to provide a wide range of learning opportunities. No child will be excluded from a visit because of lack of payment, but if insufficient contributions are not made overall, a trip may have to be cancelled.

Parents / Carers will be asked to sign a general consent form for local visits within South Tyneside at the beginning of each year. More specific consent forms will be provided prior to other visits taking place.



Milk

School milk is free to any child on the Free School Meals register or Nursery children; otherwise, a payment of £27.30 can be made on ParentPay for the whole academic year.

School Meals

All pupils in Reception and KS1 will be provided with a school meal free of charge. **It is important that parents in receipt of benefits claim for Free School Meals so that the children can also receive free milk.** Forms to apply for Free School Meals are available from the School Office. Dinner money is to be paid via ParentPay.

The school promotes healthy eating and would ask parents not to include fizzy drinks, sweets or chocolate in children's packed lunches.

For health and safety reasons, no cans or glass bottles are allowed.



Holidays in Term time

Guidance from the Government does not allow parents to take their children out of school during term time unless in exceptional circumstances. Education is important. The Head Teacher is not allowed to authorise absences unless supported by acceptable evidence. Please see attendance policy on the school website for further information.

Communication with Parents

At Whitburn Village Primary School, we use an app called ParentHub. This is a way of communicating with parents without the use of letters. You will receive login details once your contact form has been returned to school.

Information regarding all aspects of school can be found on our school website, including half-termly updates from each class about the work they have completed. Photographs and examples of work may also be shared through Google Classroom – each child will be given an account upon entry to the school.

We would appreciate that you keep us informed of any circumstances, which might affect your child in any way. Informal visits to discuss pupil progress or any other school matters are welcomed. If you would like to request a meeting, please inform the school office and the relevant person will contact you.

There are two open evenings during the course of the year, in autumn and spring term. At the end of the summer term, children will bring home a written report detailing their achievements and progress.

