



Whittonstall and Broomley First Schools
Weekly Newsletter
10 September 2021



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Our overall attendance this week was

97.8 %

Well done everyone for a fantastic attendance record this week.

HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE : I hope you all enjoyed a good summer break. Although the weather wasn't always great, I am sure that you managed to plan lots of enjoyable things to do and keep busy. Typically the weather has been really hot this week and we are looking forward to the temperature dropping a little bit towards the end of the week!

I would like to draw your attention to the letter that I sent out prior to returning to school, detailing changes in the way schools are required to manage any cases of COVID, and the differences in school arrangements. Whilst most of the restrictions have been lifted, we are still exercising caution in school. I will continue to monitor the local and national picture and make any changes necessary in line with our school contingency plan.

A big shout out to the Reception and Nursery children who have joined us this week. They have come into their newly decorated classrooms without any fuss; the transition has gone amazingly well. Once again, credit to their parents for carefully preparing them for school life, all that preparation has paid off.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the other pupils who have joined our school at the beginning of this term, they have also settled very well and have quickly adapted to the school routines.

I am hoping that the school year 2021/22 will be much easier than the last 2 academic years, and the words that spring to mind as I write this note, 'Things can only get better!' Fingers crossed that is true.

We look forward to you joining us on Monday evening for the curriculum presentations with your child's class teacher. They will share information about the revised curriculum, homework and reading book routines and key dates for this academic year. Please use the links below to join the meetings via google meet, if you are unable to attend we will share the powerpoints and information on Tuesday of next week.

STARS OF THE WEEK:



Class 1: all of our Reception class children. Well done to our new starters for settling so well and to those moving up from Nursery for helping them to get to know our classroom and routines. A super start everyone!

Class 2: Olivia Bullivant for helping Mrs Howe and Mrs Sempers settle so well into Class 2!

Class 3: Louis Brenen - for his fantastic and creative imaginary country for our atlas.

SCHOOL UPDATES

Curriculum Meetings for Parents - Monday 13th September:

On Monday 13th September, each teacher will be running a class curriculum meeting for parents and carers from 4-5pm. This is the opportunity for the class teacher to discuss the plans for this academic year. It will also cover homework and reading book information and the daily routines of your child's new class. The meetings will be held via google meet and will be recorded for those who are unable to attend or who have more than one child in school. Links to the meetings are as follows:

- Class 1 - <https://meet.google.com/ahj-dbaw-mvn?hs=122&authuser=0>
- Class 2 - <http://meet.google.com/ucd-fhvp-utb>
- Class 3 - <http://meet.google.com/ggz-gbxb-byb>

Flu Vaccinations:

Before the summer holidays, your child will have received a consent form for the nasal flu vaccination, which will take place in school during the Autumn term (date TBC) for Years Reception to Year 4. This will either have been sent home with your child or posted to your home address if your child was not in school.

If you have not returned the completed form, you will be sent a parentmail and another copy will be sent home with your child. Please complete the form **even if you do not want your child to receive the vaccine** - there are options to either give consent or not.

As the immunisation team are vaccinating so many children this year, this will be the only opportunity for your child to have the vaccine, there will be no catch up clinics as they have done in previous years.

If we do not receive a form giving your consent your child will not receive the vaccine.

School Photographs:

We have provisionally booked Debbie Young Photography to come into school on Tuesday 28th September to take individual and sibling photographs of the children. We will send home more information nearer the time as we are just waiting to confirm the date.

Contacting School:

As you will be aware we have been experiencing problems with our phone system this week. This issue has not yet been resolved unfortunately; although we are receiving some calls intermittently most callers are still unable to get through. Please continue to use the admin email address to contact school. This inbox is checked regularly throughout the day.

admin@whittonstall.northumberland.sch.uk



School Dinners and Universal Free School Meals:

Just a reminder that for children in Y3 and Y4 (and nursery too), school dinners cost £2.20 per day. Our preferred payment method is via Parentmail - if you log into your account payment items will either be shown on the main payment screen or in the school shop tab. We can also accept payment by cash or cheque - please make cheques payable to Tyne Community Learning Trust, and send into the school office in a named envelope.

Children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 receive free school meals under the government universal free school meal scheme so no payment is required for them.

Children can choose to have all school dinners or home packed lunches or a mix of the two. The teachers will mark their lunch choice in the register each day so you do not need to let us know in advance.

For next week only we have a slightly different menu. The choices will be as follows -

- Monday - Cheese or ham panini with potato wedges and sweetcorn, ice cream fruit or yogurt
- Tuesday - Pork sausage or vegetable nuggets with roast potatoes and peas, choc chip muffin, fruit or yogurt
- Wednesday - Cheese and tomato pizza or chicken goujons with potato wedges and beans, choc chip cookie, fruit or yogurt
- Thursday - Sliced ham or vegetarian sausage with hash browns and spaghetti hoops, ring donut, fruit or yogurt
- Friday - Hot dog in a bun or Veggie burger in a bun with chips and sweetcorn, ice cream fruit or yogurt

For next week only there will be no jacket potatoes available.

We will be starting a new Autumn term menu w/c 20th September, a copy of which will be sent out next week.

Benefit Related Free School Meals:

Although children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to receive Universal Free School Meals through a government funded scheme where all infant age pupils are entitled to a hot school meal free of charge regardless of individual financial circumstances, it is still essential that if you are entitled to **income related** free school meals you apply, as greater benefits will be received for your child, your child's school and yourself.

The approval of a FSM application would entitle a child to:-

- Additional funding given to school to support the child's personalised learning
- Help with music tuition and instruments - Parents can claim a refund of £3.00 per session from the costs when 7 of the 10 classes have been attended by the student. The child's school will make the appropriate arrangements for this service.
- Help with curriculum related residential trips or school visits - The child's school will make the appropriate arrangements for this service.

The above are not included in the government's free meals to children up to Year 2. To access these benefits families must be in receipt of a qualifying benefit and must have an approved Free School Meal claim with Northumberland County Council.

As long as family circumstances don't change the claim will already be set up for children entering Year 3.



Music Lessons with Miss Humble: for those children who have small group music lessons with Miss Humble, these start again **next Tuesday 14th September**, so please ensure that your child has their instrument and any books or music with them. The payment item for lessons is now available on Parentmail for those children taking part.

Things to do:



The exhibition 'Animating Hexham' will be opening tonight and will show animations projected onto shopfronts and landmarks.

The exhibition is funded by Historic England and is lead by the Queen's Hall Arts.

All of the animations have been based on stories and memories about the High Street, which have been collected by Northumberland Archives and Hexham Libraries.

Visitors will be able to download a map of the animations and follow it around to see commissioned artists work around the town.

You can download it from this link:

<https://www.queenshall.co.uk/sites/default/files/8CBF346E-4880-47A1-87A7-AA9D5DAD1D33.jpeg>

The exhibition will be on till 12 September from 7pm to 9pm.



Did you know the Children's Cancer Run is back, taking place on Sunday 26th September at Gosforth Park, Newcastle? You can sign up now until midnight on 22nd September through the Children's Cancer North website to run as a family group, raising funds and awareness to help children with cancer in our region -

<https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/ChildrensCancerRunNewcastle>. We hope to take part as a school team again in May 2022 but in the meantime we hope you can join this very special event as a family and have a fun day out for a great cause!



Come and try Squash!

Fast paced, exciting individual sport in a welcoming and supportive family atmosphere

Hexham Squash club's qualified coaches are delivering approx.

10 Junior Coaching sessions of 45mins on either Saturday or Sunday starting 25/26th September (excluding half term)

Cost £3.00 per session

Try a first taster session for Free

All standards Welcome, including Beginners.

School Years 3 and Above

If you are interested then please email Paul Satow- Club Coach on paul.satow@yahoo.co.uk or call 07740080827 for further information by 19th September

DIARY DATES

- Monday 13th September Class Curriculum Meetings - see above for log on details
- Tuesday 14th September Small group music lessons begin with Miss Humble - please ensure your child brings their instrument into school
- Tuesday 28th September School photographs to be taken by Debbie Young Photography - date to be confirmed
- w/c 11 October Virtual Parents' Evenings - dates and times to be confirmed
- Friday 22nd October Teacher Training Day
- Mon 25th - Fri 29th October Half Term
- Monday 1st November Return to school for Autumn 2
- w/c 29th November Interfaith week - more information about planned activities and trips to follow

On behalf of staff and governors may I wish you all a lovely weekend, take care and stay safe.

Mrs Barker

Executive Head Teacher