



**Whittingham**  
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Headteacher's Blog



**NSPCC**



**Friday 30th September 2022. Multiple page issue.**

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to the Headteacher's Blog of the week. As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries, concerns or comments as to how we can make our wonderful school even better. Mr Charlton or I are on Gate Duty every morning.

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.

## Reading at home initiative-

As you will know, we have reading as a whole school priority for our pupils this year and would like to further develop the wonderful links already developed between home and school and are going to introduce a reading challenge. This term the children from Year One to Year Six are all expected to read to an adult at least three times per week and for this to be signed as confirmation in their reading record books. Staff will check reading records each week and award all children who have managed this a raffle ticket which will go in a termly grand prize draw where a child from each year group will be picked to join Mrs Athey to travel by bus to Barter Books in Alnwick, where they will choose two books to take home and keep. The trip will culminate in a hot chocolate in Barter Books Café!

## Additional Support for Families experiencing financial hardship during the Energy Crisis

As a school we are looking for ways in which we can not only support our children academically, socially and emotionally within the school day but also with their wellbeing before and after school.

We are looking at options within school, as we already have staffing and resources in place for this half term and beyond. Therefore, we would like to offer both breakfast club and after school club free of charge to families in receipt of pupil premium free school meals, and also for families who do not meet this criteria currently, but may be finding it financially impossible to ensure their houses are kept warm throughout the day. Therefore, our school could become a "warm hub".

## Reminders.

There are lots of exciting dates for the diary this term. These are added to our school website calendar and it is updated regularly - <https://whittingham.eschools.co.uk/website/calendar/213885>.

## Keeping Safe

We try to regularly update you with ways in which we can keep our children and families safe. A really good website for families <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides> which has a number of guides for families in order to keep their children safe online and also - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk> <https://www.nda.services>

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Belinda Athey, Neil Charlton and Caroline Kennedy.

We are an Operation Encompass and Endeavour School.

Full details can be found on our school website as we annually send a letter out. [https://whittingham.eschools.co.uk/website/operation\\_encompass\\_annual\\_update\\_letter/595802](https://whittingham.eschools.co.uk/website/operation_encompass_annual_update_letter/595802)

Family Hubs are re-designation of what was previously Surestart Centres. These hubs will work with children and young people up to 18 and 25 years if they have additional needs. Please see Mrs Athey for further details with regards to the location of the nearest hub.

If you do have a concern about a child within your local community you can contact OneCall- <https://healthwatchnorthumberland.co.uk/onecall-northumberland-social-services/>

## Safeguarding Team - Designated Safeguarding Leads



## Curriculum Workshops

A letter was sent out this week asking for feedback regarding workshops for parents. Thank you for the responses so far. If you have not had chance to do this so far please do.

## Well done for this week!

Stars of the Week - Lexie, Isaac, Penny and Emily. Effort Cup - Josh.



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# HARVEST

dreamstime

## *festival*

On Friday 21st October at 9.30 a.m. in St Bartholomew's Church we invite you to our Harvest Festival. The children in Early Years have chosen Alnwick Food Bank as their class charity so we welcome donations of tinned goods, cereals, pasta, pasta sauces and so on. These can be brought into school any time during the week leading up to the Harvest Service.



# CLOTHING SWAP



**As we head towards the time where we collect clothes for the Air Ambulance the Rota kids have thought this would be an excellent opportunity to keep aside some children and young adults clothes and donate the to our 'Swap Shop'. We would love it if every child in school brought in clothes that either they have just grown out of ( older brothers and sisters clothes are welcome too!) or have never really got wear out of them. These clothes will be displayed in our Rota Kids 'Swap Shop' so that during the day the children will have the chance to go shopping for free!**

**What needs to happen: Please put aside children and young adult clothes that are in good condition. Send them into school in a plastic bag ( we will re-use these in our shop) from Monday 10th October.**

**The shop will be open to the children on Thursday 13th October 1.30 - 3.00 then 3.30 -4.00 for families to attend ( Rota Kids are welcome to stay for this but this is not compulsory). All unclaimed clothes will go to our Air Ambulance Appeal so there will be no waste.**

**Thank you for your support,  
Rota Kids - Emily, Lacey, Bobbi and Octavia.**

# PTA PRESENTS



# DISCO

## ≡ NIGHT ≡

Friday 21st October in Whittingham Memorial Hall

Nursery and Reception aged children are welcome but please note: parents or carers need to stay with them while they are at the disco. Disco time is 5pm - 6.30pm.

Class 1 parents and carers can stay with them but this is not necessary. Disco time is 5pm - 6.30pm

Class 2 and 3 children do not need to be accompanied by an adult and have a longer time of 5pm - 7pm ( **Please note 6.30pm -7.00pm is for Class 2 and 3 children only**).

Food, drinks, glo sticks etc will be available to buy. Tickets (£3 PER CHILD) must be bought in advance from the School Office in October. Costumes may be worn.

# TICKETS £3



THE MORE  
YOU BRING,  
THE MORE  
YOU RAISE!

# HELP RAISE MONEY FOR THE GREAT NORTH AIR AMBULANCE



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On Monday 17th October the children in school will be given an Air Ambulance Bag to take home and fill hopefully over the half term holiday.

**By bringing into school  
bags and bag of unwanted...**

**CLOTHING  
BLANKETS  
TOWELS**

**We also collect**

**MOBILES**

**INK/TONER CARTRIDGES**

Please bring bags back to school on the morning of Monday 31st October. We will also be dropping off bags through doors in Whittingham.



[www.greatnorthairambulance.co.uk](http://www.greatnorthairambulance.co.uk)

Registered Charity No. 1092204 Registered Company No. 4436859

