



Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026



Dear Parents,

Just like that Christmas is over and a new term has begun! I sincerely hope that you all had the most wonderful Christmas and wish you all a peaceful 2026. The children have settled well into school again and they are already familiar with their routine. Class One and Two went swimming for the first time this year and Miss Parr reported that their behaviour was impeccable and so I really am super proud!

As this is the beginning of a new year, I have been reflecting upon what we have to offer as a small school. Besides staff who really are invested in the children, we have breakfast club and now After School Wraparound care. We have Forest School and a number of different clubs on offer and we are always looking forward. As Parents, we would like you to spread the word and advertise the school. Please tell friends and neighbours about us and even spread the word through social media (obviously without photographs of the children). We really would like to build our pupil base and we are really keen to let everyone know about our fabulous provision! Mrs Kellett is busy working on an advertisement and we will plan an Open Day in the Spring time but any other help with promotion will be gratefully received!

## After School Wraparound

Don't forget we have after school wraparound care available now **EVERY Monday to Friday ...**

Option 1 - 3.20pm - 4.30pm

Option 2 - 4.30pm - 5.30pm

Option 3 - 3.20pm - 5.30pm      **Booking available on the usual App.**

## Clubs this half term

**Monday** - Mindfulness

**Tuesday** – Gymnastics

**Wednesday** - Drama Club

**Thursday** - Cookery Club



## Attendance

(15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> December 2025)

EYFS 100%

Class 2 – 99.1%

Class 1 – 86.7%

Well done Early Years! You have won the attendance cup this week!

## Keeping Children Safe at Whitley Chapel First School

**Designated Safeguarding Lead – Angela Hayward**

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Penny Parr**

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Josephine Thornton**

Dates for the Diary

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January – Open the Book**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January – emotional Regulation sessions for parents here at Whitley Chapel. Please can all parents arrive at 1.50pm if possible.** The sessions will be led by ladies from the Primary Mental Heath Team and they will lead a supportive session for Parents and Carers focusing on understanding emotional regulation. The workshop explores recognising and labelling emotions, identifying pressure points during the day, and responding to big feelings in a calm and supportive way. Parents are also introduced to practical strategies such as breathing, mindfulness, relaxation, and distraction techniques that can be used at home. There is still time to sign up if you are able to, please simply email [admin@whitleyfirst.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@whitleyfirst.northumberland.sch.uk)

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February (am) – Whole school visit to Acton Farm (More information to follow)**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February – School is closed all day for staff training**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February – Half Term**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – School re-opens for the second half term of the spring term**

Staffing Update

Next half term (W/B 23<sup>rd</sup> February) Mrs Robinson will be returning back to Whitley Chapel as her maternity leave will be coming to an end. (It has gone superfast!) As a result, this means that Miss Parr will be leaving us and will be going back to teach at Slaley.

We will miss Miss Parr so much here at Whitley Chapel, but is really is a bitter sweet feeling as we are also looking forward to Miss Robinson returning. Mrs Robinson will teach in Class 2 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Mrs Thornton will continue to teach on Thursdays and Fridays. Please be assured that there will be appropriate transition meetings so that the change will run as smoothly as possible.

**Have a wonderful weekend everyone! We will see you all next week!**

**Mrs Hayward** 