

Head teacher Comments

Happy New Year to you all and I hope that you and your families all had a brilliant Christmas! Time certainly flies and I cannot believe that it is 2024 already.



We are so proud of our children already as they have all started the new term so positively. We appreciate returning back after Christmas is not easy but they have all done so well!

The term ahead, as always, looks to be a busy one. Our Y3 children have already had their 'Wow' Stone Age Experience Day and arrived at school wearing some extremely impressive costumes this morning! Next week, the EYFS children will be excited because as part of their topic on 'People who help us', they have the police visiting.

Next week, our enrichment begins again and for the spring term overall we have a very action packed sporting calendar—more information to follow when the events take place.

Enjoy the term everyone and all good wishes for a happy and healthy 2024!

Kind regards,

Richard Stock

Headteacher, Witham St Hughs Academy

Office Opening Hours

Monday — Thursday

8.15am—4.15pm

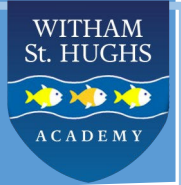
Friday

8.15am—4.00pm

Facebook

As always, please remember to follow all of our brilliant and varied curriculum activities and find out what your children have been doing on our Facebook page.





www.withamsthughssacademy.co.uk

EYFS Open Morning



Tuesday
9th January 2024
at 9.30am

If your child is due to start school in September 2024 then please do come and visit us!




You have until **15th January 2024** to apply for an EYFS place and will need to apply on-line through the Lincolnshire County Council website.

Staffing News

You may have noticed this week that we have a new member of staff who has joined us. Steve Ross will be our new Deputy Headteacher when Mrs Broadley goes on her maternity leave. I am sure you will make him feel welcome as he starts to get to know our school this term.

We are delighted to inform you all that Mrs Younger has had a wonderful baby boy called Jude. I am sure you will join us all in wishing her family the very best.

We are sad to say that Miss Miller, our Y3 teacher, will be leaving us at February half term. She is seeking new challenges and opportunities outside of teaching. This means that the recruitment process for her position will commence as soon as possible. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Miller for everything that she has done for our school and wish her the very best in her new adventures.

If you do have any questions about any of our staffing news then please do let us know.

School Uniform

- Please make sure that all items of school uniform are clearly labelled in case belongings are misplaced.
- Children should not be wearing nail varnish
- Children should not have their hair dyed
- Children should be wearing black school shoes
- Bags must be able to fit into the school lockers.
- Please remember socks for PE

Remember that we also have our uniform rail inside the main entrance to school so if you do need any uniform feel free to come and have a look.



Enrichment Clubs

All of our fantastic clubs begin next week so please ensure that your child brings the necessary resources and kit if needed.

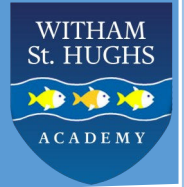
Thank you for all of your support with our club offer and we really do appreciate the high uptake of all of our clubs.

Outside School

If your children are walking to school, please can you ensure that they do not arrive too early in the morning.

The school gates do not open until 8.50am which means there is no reason for children to be loitering outside the school gates much before this time.

We will be monitoring this situation and if we see children arriving outside too early we will be informing parents.



Lost Property

Starting this month, we will be emptying the lost property box every two weeks to ensure that this is managed better and will hopefully mean that everyone has a greater chance of finding any lost property.

Please do help us by ensuring that any item of clothing is labelled clearly and please also do regular checks to ensure that your child has not lost anything!

Thank you!

Y5/6 mobile phones



In supporting our children to feel safe when coming to school, we have allowed some of our pupils in Years 5 and 6 to bring a mobile phone into school if they are walking home unaccompanied by an adult. If parents/carers do allow this to happen, it is important that pupils follow

the Academy expectations when it comes to the use of mobile phones.

As an Academy, we want to ensure that all of our expectations are followed and any use of technology on our premises must be managed effectively. *As such, this is a reminder that an agreement has been sent to parents and should you wish for your child to bring a mobile phone onto the Academy site this must be returned.* This agreement outlines the expectations of the Academy in terms of pupil mobile phones, and must be signed by a parent or carer before a pupil may bring a mobile phone onto site.

Thank you!



The PTFA would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and thank you for the support you have given to the events we have put on so far this academic year.

We are excited to be holding our first Family Bingo Night on Monday 29th January, 5.00pm - 7.30 pm in the school hall. This is a ticket only event and is only bookable on our PTA events site. Please see our posters and www.pta-events.co.uk/withamsthughesptfa for full details. Please note that tickets are limited for this event and that the closing date for booking tickets is 26th January 2024.

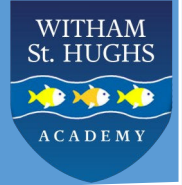
Your child will be bringing home a book of raffle tickets today and we would be grateful if you would sell them for us, the raffle will be drawn at the Bingo Night. Please could all ticket stubs and money be brought into school in a sealed envelope by the morning of Monday 29th January. Any unsold tickets can be returned then too and we will offer them for sale at the bingo.

We look forward to seeing you there.

School Values

Just a reminder of our school values. These form the heart of our school ethos and we promote them each day. Our KS1 children bring home stickers home if they show our values and our KS2 children earn citizenship points for showing them.





Diary dates

January 2024

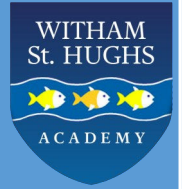
<i>Wednesday 3rd January</i>	<i>Term three starts</i>
<i>Tuesday 9th January</i>	<i>EYFS Open Morning for children starting in September 2024</i>
<i>Tuesday 16th January</i>	<i>Y3 Animation Workshop</i>
<i>Thursday 18th January</i>	<i>EYFS visit to Play Arena</i>
<i>Tuesday 23rd January</i>	<i>Y1 Phonics Meeting—further details to follow</i>
<i>Monday 29th January</i>	<i>PTFA Family Bingo Evening—5.00pm until 7.30pm</i>

February 2024

<i>Monday 5th February</i>	<i>Children's Mental Health Week</i> <i>Y6 Victorian Britain experience day—further details to follow</i>
<i>Wednesday 7th February</i>	<i>Y6 Parents' Evening from 4.00pm—7.00pm —further details to follow</i>
<i>Thursday 8th February</i>	
<i>Friday 9th February</i>	<i>Term three ends</i>
<i>Monday 19th February</i>	<i>Term four starts</i> <i>Young Voices in Sheffield—Choir Performance</i>

March 2024

<i>Tuesday 5th March</i>	<i>Y5 Space Centre visit</i>
<i>Wednesday 6th March</i>	<i>Hobgoblin Theatre Company</i>
<i>Thursday 7th March</i>	<i>World Book Day</i>
<i>Friday 8th March</i>	<i>Y3 Cresswell Craggs visit</i>
<i>Thursday 28th March</i>	<i>Term four ends at 2.00pm</i>



Welcome to the Witham Well-Being update. As we start a new year many of us make new year resolutions and think of things we would like to change, improve or try. At school one of our values is RESILIENCE. The children are amazing at trying new things and practising new skills and could maybe try something new at home.

Whilst trying something new there are many different ways to support our own well-being.

Below are just some ideas to support yourself and your children.

- **CONNECT** - spend time with those around you. Plan days out and nights in to have quality conversations and experiences.
- **BE ACTIVE** - find an activity that the whole family can enjoy and make it part of your routine.
- **KEEP LEARNING** - learn a new skill or take up a new hobby. Share what you have done with others and enjoy sharing your achievements.
- **GIVE TO OTHERS** - give a smile, a thank you or a kind word. Even small acts count and every interaction is an intervention.
- **BE MINDFUL** - practice mindfulness and relaxation techniques.
- These could be as simple as breathing exercises or some yoga.

Here is a useful website that the children use at school;

<https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga/videos>



Pastoral Support

Ms Ford continues to support those children who may need additional support. She has dedicated time during the school day to talk to children about their feelings. These sessions take place in the nurture room on an individual or small group basis. There are a range of groups which Ms Ford regularly leads including :

* Young Carers * Bereavement * Separated families * Emotions and Feelings

Please do let us know if you would like more information about these groups.

Who to contact?

Remember that we are always here to support you and Michelle Dexter our distinct groups leader contacts many parents regularly to make sure everything is going well. Her email address is michelle.dexter@withamsthughs.org If you think that you need further support then do not hesitate to contact school on: 01522 869590 or enquiries@withamsthughs.org

Useful Numbers

Child Line: 0800 1111

Young Carers Helpline: 01522 553 275

Samaritans: 01522 528 282

Family Services: 0800 195 1635

Women's Aid: 0808 2000 247

Attendance

Part of Mrs Dexter's role is continuing to monitor attendance at the academy. She will regularly contact families where children's attendance has dropped below 90% with a welfare check and to offer support if required.