

Headteacher Comments

Welcome to the October newsletter and I hope that you have all had a great start to the Autumn term—the children certainly have!

As we finish for the half term break, I would just like to share how amazing the children have settled this term. They have worked so incredibly hard; have impressed us all with their brilliant learning; and have shown so much eagerness to learn new skills and knowledge.

As always, the children have experienced lots of exciting curriculum opportunities this term! Some highlights include: Y6 taking part in the PGL residential and a visit to Snipe Dales; the Y1 toy experience day; Quidditch for all of KS2; and Y3 have visited Woodside Wildlife Park. We have also had a whole school Harvest Festival led by our brilliant Community Council and each class have taken part in Challenge Week! Well done to everyone!

Next term, we are really looking forward to our Remembrance event and will be having an English in Action event for parents. Before we know it we will all be counting down to Christmas

As always, thank you for your continued support and if you do have any questions or queries then please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Enjoy the half term break everyone!

Kind regards,

Richard Stock

Headteacher, Witham St Hughs Academy

Office Opening Hours

Monday — Thursday

8.15am—4.15pm

Friday

8.15am—4.00pm

Facebook

Please remember to follow all of amazing curriculum activities and find out what your children have been doing on our Facebook page.





Parents' Evenings

A massive thank you to all of our parents for attending parents' evening this week.

It really is brilliant to see so many of you show such a great commitment and interest in the progress of your child.

Your engagement with us is so important and this is why we are so lucky to have such great support from you.

During the course of this week 98% of our parents have attended which is amazing.

As always, if you do need to know anything else or have any concerns or worries then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you!

Staffing news

As you are aware, Mrs Broadley will be going on maternity leave in term three. This term we have been recruiting to cover for Mrs Broadley in her absence.

We are delighted to inform you that Steve Ross will be taking on the position of Deputy Headteacher and he will start in January 2024 and work alongside Mrs Broadley in the first instance until she leaves. He is extremely excited to be joining our team and I am sure you will make him welcome when he arrives after Christmas.

Mrs Younger will also be starting her maternity leave next term and during this time Miss Riddell will be taking on the role of Key Stage 1 and EYFS Phase Leader.

We would like to wish Mrs Younger and her family all the best and will of course keep you updated with any further information.

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.

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.



Sport in school

We are excited once again about the sport we offer our children. Below are events coming up:

- School team trials will take place the first few weeks back
- We have entered the High 5 Netball league, Cross Country events, Lincoln Primary Schools Football League for girls and boys
- We have also received our School Games offer with a range of different sporting events happening in the near future

Attendance

As part of our ambition to ensure that all of our children know the importance of attending school we have been looking at our attendance protocols and systems across our Academy.

From next term, we are asking parents for evidence of appointments that are during school time. The evidence can be in the form of a letter, text message, screenshot for example, and then emailed to our enquiries email address:

enquiries@withamsthughs.org

Thank you for your support with this.



Clothing and cold weather

After half term, as the weather turns colder, all pupils will be expected to wear a coat when going outside at playtimes each day. Please ensure that your child brings their coat to school with them every day.

Lost Property

Already this year, we have a significant amount of lost property and this can be found in the box on the playground. Currently the box is full after six weeks!

If your child has lost anything it might be worth taking a look. Items lost already include new coats, jumpers, trainers, polo tops and cardigans.

Please help us by labelling clothing.

Thank you!

Outside of school

Please could you remind your children that they still represent Witham St Hughs Academy before and after school whilst they are wearing our school uniform.

During the past few weeks, it has been brought to our attention that some groups of Y5 and Y6 children have been outside school at 8.30am and have been playing games in the outside car park opposite the Market Lounge.

When there are so many children and parents arriving this is not safe and makes it incredibly difficult for everyone to navigate through the crowds, especially if they have pushchairs. Children should not be arriving this early if they walk to school and they should also not be playing large group games.

Next term, we will be monitoring this and speaking to the children involved if it continues.

Nut free school

This is a reminder to everyone that we are a **nut free school**.

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 will be bringing stickers home if they show our values and our KS1 children earn citizenship points for showing them.



PTFA

Halloween disco—30th October 2023

Please note that the closing date and time for booking places at a disco is **9pm on Wednesday 25th October 2023**. **NO** bookings will be accepted after this time.

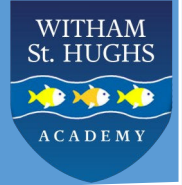
Christmas cards

Please can you return all card designs, with the details on the back of the picture completed, to school by **8th November** at the latest. The printers will then email you directly with details about how to order. All items ordered will be delivered to school and will be handed out as soon as we receive them.

Christmas Fair

We look forward to seeing you at our Christmas fair at **3.30pm on Friday 24th November** in the school hall.

Email - wshptfa@gmail.com



Diary dates

October 2023

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| Friday 20th October | <i>Term one ends</i> |
| Monday 30th October | <i>Term two starts</i> <i>PTFA Halloween disco</i> |

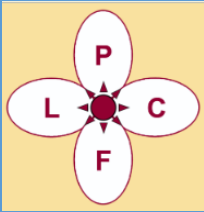
November 2023

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| Friday 10th November | <i>Remembrance service</i> |
| Monday 13th November | <i>Anti-bullying week</i> |
| Wednesday 15th November | <i>Forces breakfast</i> |
| Friday 17th November | <i>Children in Need</i> |
| Monday 20th November | <i>English in action week</i> |
| Wednesday 29th November | <i>Y5 Viking experience day</i> |

December 2023

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 5th December | <i>EYFS Christmas production—TBC</i> |
| Wednesday 6th December | <i>EYFS Christmas production—TBC</i> |
| Friday 8th December | <i>Christmas Jumper Day</i> |
| Tuesday 12th December | <i>KS1 Christmas production—TBC</i> |
| Wednesday 13th December | <i>KS1 Christmas production - TBC</i> |
| Thursday 14th December | <i>Health Team in to do flu spray mop up session—further information to follow</i> |
| Tuesday 19th December | <i>Term two ends at 2.00pm</i> |

Welcome to the Witham Well-Being update. As part of our continued support for all of our children at the Academy we feel that inviting parents and carers to speak to professionals is important.



Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum Drop in Event

Date: Thursday 9th November

Time: 2pm @ Witham St Hughs Academy

We are Lincolnshire's parent carer forum for parents of children with additional needs and disabilities. Your child does not need a diagnosis to join our membership and we have no upper or lower age limit. We can support children who have a range of issues; SEND, behaviour issues, anxiety etc.

Come along for a chat and find out what help and support the forum can offer your family throughout your parenting journey. Come along on the day to find out more about: -

- The role of Parent Carer Forums
- How they can help you.
- Benefits of joining the forum.
- What difference they have made.

A trained LPCF volunteer will be available for any questions you may have.

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.