



Witham St Hughs Academy
A L E A D Academy

Witham Newsletter

Headteacher welcome

February 2026



Last month saw so many exciting things happening across our school community. Our children represented us brilliantly in a swimming gala, while the cross-country club were out running the streets of Witham with determination and enthusiasm. We enjoyed a fantastic 'Glow Party' Disco, complete with glow lights and some fabulous outfits that certainly lit up the hall!

Year 6 had a wonderful opportunity to visit the Waterstones Book Festival in Lincoln, where they met authors in person and celebrated their love of reading. Mr Medley also organised a brilliant sports fundraiser to raise money for sport in school. While his goalkeeping skills may have been a little shaky, the children's penalties were absolutely top notch, perhaps England could learn a thing or two from the wonderful children of Witham!

Our amazing singers also travelled to Sheffield to take part in Young Voices, performing in a packed arena alongside 5,000 other children. It was a truly unforgettable experience, filled with incredible singing and dancing, and the staff weren't too bad either!

There has been lots of great work going on in school and we are incredibly proud of the effort and enthusiasm shown by our pupils. This week we have launched our 'Safe, Ready, Respectful' rules, and the children have responded brilliantly. It has been a really positive start and we are already seeing the impact around school.

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our staff, volunteers and parents who generously give up their time, support with transport and help behind the scenes to ensure these events can happen and that our children continue to enjoy such a rich range of opportunities and experiences.

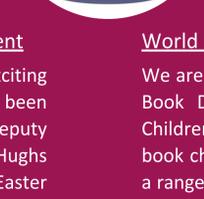
We have so much to look forward to in the coming weeks, including World Book Day, a number of exciting trips, special visitors to school, engaging curriculum lessons and a full sporting calendar. And in other good news, we have even been treated to some sunshine at the school gates during morning drop-off and evening collection, which has certainly put a smile on my face.

Here to another exciting term at Witham St Hughs Academy, and thank you as always for your continued support.

Mr Coy



Witham News

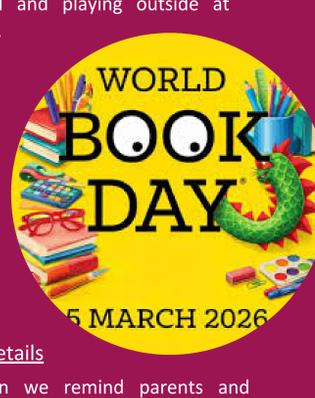


Deputy Headteacher Appointment

We are delighted to share the exciting news that James Durkan has been appointed as the new Deputy Headteacher at Witham St Hughs Academy, starting after the Easter holidays. James is currently an experienced senior leader at Welton St Marys C of E Academy and brings with him a wealth of experience in teaching, learning and curriculum development. Following a very competitive selection process, we are confident that his expertise, enthusiasm and leadership will have a positive impact on our school community. We are very much looking forward to welcoming James to Witham St Hughs and to the difference he will make as he joins our team.

World Book Day

We are so excited to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. Children are invited to dress up as a book character for the day and enjoy a range of book-themed activities. We ask that costumes are still practical for school and playing outside at breaktime.



Update details

Please can we remind parents and carers that school must be informed of any changes of address or contact numbers. It is important that the details we hold on our system are up to date should we need to contact parents or carers for any reason.

New appointment in Year 6

We are pleased to announce that Diane Charlesworth has been appointed as a teaching assistant working in Year 6. Mrs Tyrrell will be working within the Year 4 team now that Mrs Bertram has begun her maternity leave.

Naming items

As we head into the (hopefully!) warmer weather, children will begin removing jumpers and cardigans etc more frequently. Please ensure that all items are named so that lost belongings can be returned to their owners. There is now no central lost property box, meaning that all named items will be returned directly to classrooms/lockers.

Swimming and Singing!

At the end of last term, 8 of our fantastic Year 5 pupils took part in a swimming competition, doing the Academy incredibly proud! Both our girls' and boys' teams made it through to the finals! The boys secured an impressive 3rd place overall, and the girls narrowly missed out after a brilliant effort. Our brilliant choir also represented the Academy last term at Young Voices in Sheffield. They had a fantastic time and sang beautifully!



Uniform Rail

A reminder that our pre-loved uniform rail is available in the front office. Please do help yourself to anything that you may need, there is always lots available and is completely free to a good home!



Online Safety & Wellbeing

Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Images - What Parents Should Know

As part of our recent Safer Internet Week, children across the Academy spent time learning about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how it is increasingly shaping the online world they are growing up in. AI is already used in many everyday tools, from search engines and games to image creation and social media, and while it can be incredibly creative and helpful, it also brings new challenges for families to be aware of.

One area we explored with pupils was how AI can now create very realistic images. While this technology can be used in fun and imaginative ways, it can also be misused. AI tools can take existing photographs and alter them, sometimes creating images that are misleading or inappropriate. These images may look convincing, even though they are not real, which can be confusing and upsetting for children if they come across them online.

This has raised important questions for schools and families alike. We now know that images shared publicly can sometimes be taken out of context or misused. There is no simple answer or single action that removes all risk, but there are steps we can take to reduce it and help children understand what they might see online.

During Safer Internet Week, pupils talked about the importance of remembering that not everything they see online is real, especially when AI is involved. They were encouraged to question images, think critically, and talk to a trusted adult if something feels confusing, worrying or wrong. We also reinforced key messages around privacy, consent and being thoughtful about what we share online. AI is continuing to develop at a rapid pace, and it is likely to become an even bigger part of children's digital lives. Our aim is not to avoid technology, but to help children use it safely and responsibly. By keeping conversations open at home, showing interest in what children are seeing online, and reminding them that they can always ask for help, we can support them to navigate an AI-driven world with confidence and care.

Helpful Websites for Parents and Carers

NSPCC – Artificial Intelligence Safety Tips for Parents

The NSPCC provides easy-to-follow guidance explaining what AI is, how children may be using it, and practical steps parents can take to keep children safe. Their advice focuses on conversation, reassurance and understanding rather than restriction.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2025/artificial-intelligence-safety-tips-for-parents/> [nspcc.org.uk]

Internet Matters – Parents' Guide to AI

Internet Matters offers parent-friendly guides on topics such as AI chatbots, image generators and online tools children may encounter. The site includes clear explanations, age-appropriate advice and conversation starters to help families talk about AI together.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advic...> [internetmatters.org]

UK Safer Internet Centre – Parents and Carers

The UK Safer Internet Centre provides a wide range of guides and resources for parents, including advice on AI, social media, gaming and smart technology. It also offers conversation starters to help families talk regularly about online safety.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers> [saferinternet.org.uk]

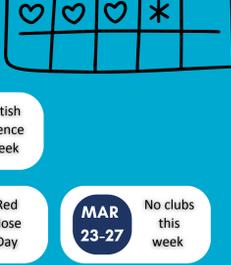
Safe, Ready, Respectful

We are pleased to introduce our refreshed school rules: Safe, Ready and Respectful. These simple, clear principles have been developed to ensure a shared language and consistent understanding of expectations across every classroom and all aspects of school life. They will help pupils to be clear about what is expected of them, while allowing us to celebrate the many ways our children demonstrate that they are safe, ready and respectful each day. The rules have been shared with pupils and developed in consultation with staff to ensure they are easy to understand, remember and apply. This is not a major change, but rather a step towards greater clarity and consistency across the school, supporting both positive behaviour and effective learning.

Our Rules at Witham St Hughs Academy

- SAFE**
Keep ourselves and others safe
- READY**
Prepared to learn and participate
- RESPECTFUL**
Kind, polite and considerate

Diary Dates



- MAR 2** Y6 SATS parent talk
- MAR 3** Y5 trip to National Space Centre
- MAR 5** World Book Day!
- MAR 9-13** British Science Week
- MAR 10-11** PTFA Mother's Day shop
- MAR 10** Y3 trip to Creswell Craggs
- MAR 13** PTFA non-uniform day
- MAR 20** Red Nose Day
- MAR 23-27** No clubs this week
- MAR 24 & 26** FS-Y5 Parents' Evenings
- MAR 30 & 31** Year 3 & Year 4 Production
- APR 2** PTFA Family Egg Hunt
- APR 2** Last day of term - 2pm finish
- APR 20** INSET day
- APR 21** Children back to school
- APR 27** Clubs start back
- MAY 4** Bank holiday
- MAY 11-14** Year 6 SATS week
- MAY 18-21** Year 5 Bikeability
- MAY 20-22** Year 2 Rand Farm residential
- MAY 22** Last day of term



Who to contact?

Remember that we are always here to support you and to make sure everything is going well.

If you need support or have any questions, then do not hesitate to contact the school on:

01522 869590 or admin@withamsthughssacademy.co.uk

Witham St Hughs Academy
A L E A D Academy

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

