

Witham Newsletter

March 2026

Headteacher welcome



As we approach the Easter holidays, I would like to wish all our children, staff, parents and carers a wonderful and well-deserved Easter break. It has been a busy and highly successful term, and I hope this holiday provides an opportunity for rest, family time and a little bit of chocolate too.

This term has been filled with excitement, enrichment and memorable experiences for our pupils. We have enjoyed a wide range of activities, including the fantastic Year 3/4 production, which was a joy to watch and showcased the confidence and talent of our children. There have been some brilliant educational visits, including trips to the Space Centre and a visit to Lincoln Castle for our Year 1 pupils, helping to bring learning to life beyond the classroom.

Our Science Week was a real highlight, with children across the school fully engaged in investigations and hands-on learning, demonstrating curiosity and enthusiasm. We also raised a significant amount of money for Comic Relief through our Crazy Hair Day, thank you for your generosity, creativity and support. World Book Day was another special occasion, with costumes that were truly out of this world and a real celebration of reading across the school.

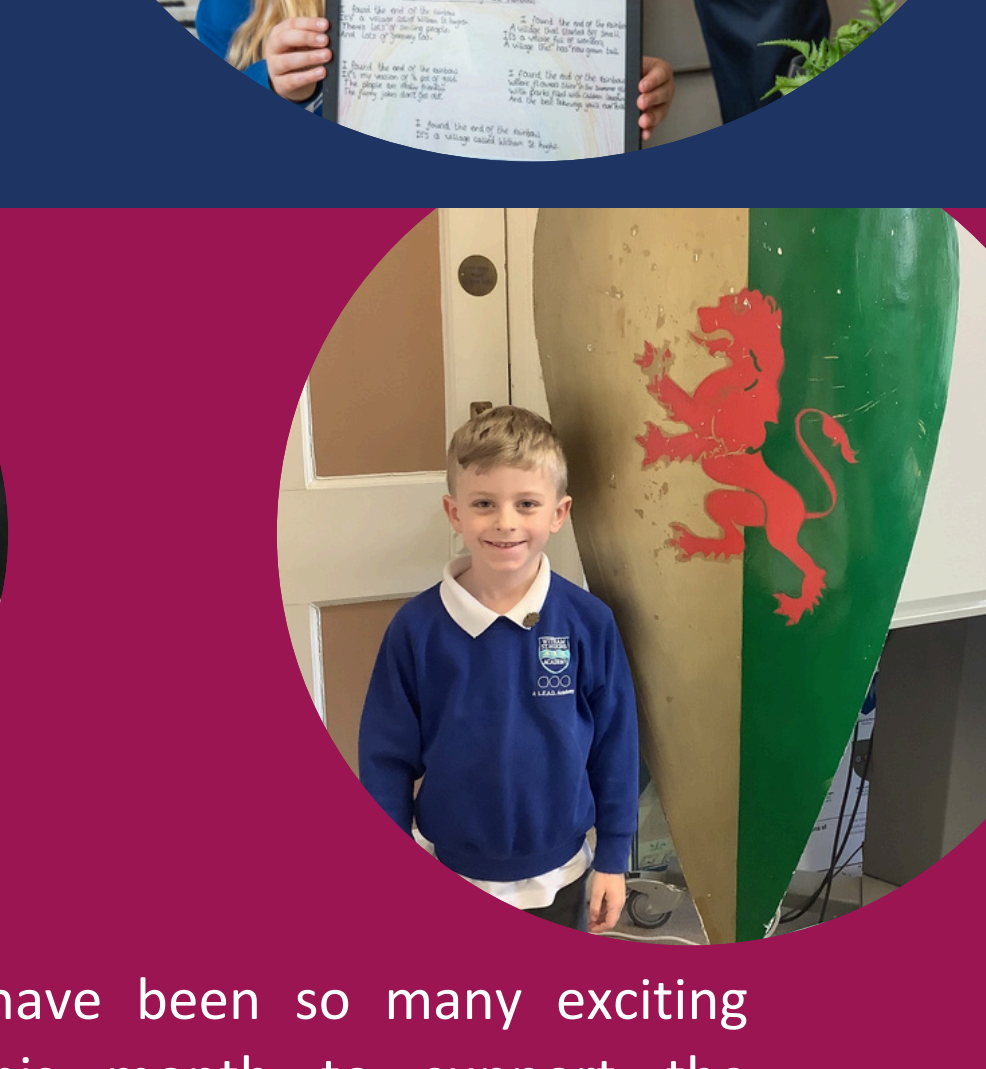
It was a pleasure to welcome so many of you into school for Parents' Evening, thank you for taking the time to meet with teachers and support your child's learning journey. We were also incredibly proud of our recent music assembly, which showcased the wonderful talents, confidence and enthusiasm of our children. In addition, our school football team continues to impress, currently sitting at the top of the league, following in the footsteps of Lincoln City, a fantastic achievement that reflects their teamwork and determination.

I also had the pleasure of taking a group of Year 6 children to a Maths Challenge at Sir William Robertson School, where they competed alongside schools from across Lincolnshire. The team performed brilliantly and finished in 5th place against strong competition, tackling some very tricky questions along the way. I must admit, I was particularly pleased to have the answer sheet during the marking process!

On a more personal note, it is with sadness that I share that Mrs Broadley will be leaving us at the end of this term. I know you will all join me in wishing her every success as she moves on to an exciting new role. I would like to publicly thank her for her 13 years of dedication to Witham St Hughs and for the incredible support she has given me as I have settled into the school. Her commitment to the children, staff and wider community has been exceptional, and she will be greatly missed by us all. A reminder that Monday 20th April is an INSET day, and school will close at 2pm on Thursday 2nd April. Please ensure arrangements are in place for collection at this earlier time.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continued support in making a difference for our children. The strong partnership between home and school is something we value greatly. We are proud of the high-quality work taking place across the school, and we were delighted to receive a very positive visit from the Department for Education, who recognised and celebrated our work in early reading and phonics. This is a testament to the hard work of both staff and pupils. Wishing you all a chocolate-filled, egg-citing Easter, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 21st April, ready for another exciting term ahead.

Mr Coy



Witham News

Sports Day Dates

We understand that many parents and carers like to know sports day dates well in advance in order to organise work or other commitments. The dates for sports days are as follows:

- EYFS - June 29th at 2:00
- Year 1 & Year 2 - June 30th at 9:15
- Year 3 & Year 4 - June 29th at 9:15
- Year 5 & Year 6 - July 1st at 9:15

We of course cannot guarantee events will happen on these days, as they may need to be rescheduled in the event of poor weather. We will always endeavour to let parents and carers know of any changes with as much notice as possible.



Sporting Fixtures

As we are well into sporting fixtures this year, a huge thank you to the parents and carers who support these events. Whether taking your child to a sporting event, or turning up to support, it is hugely appreciated - thank you!



Lost Village Funding

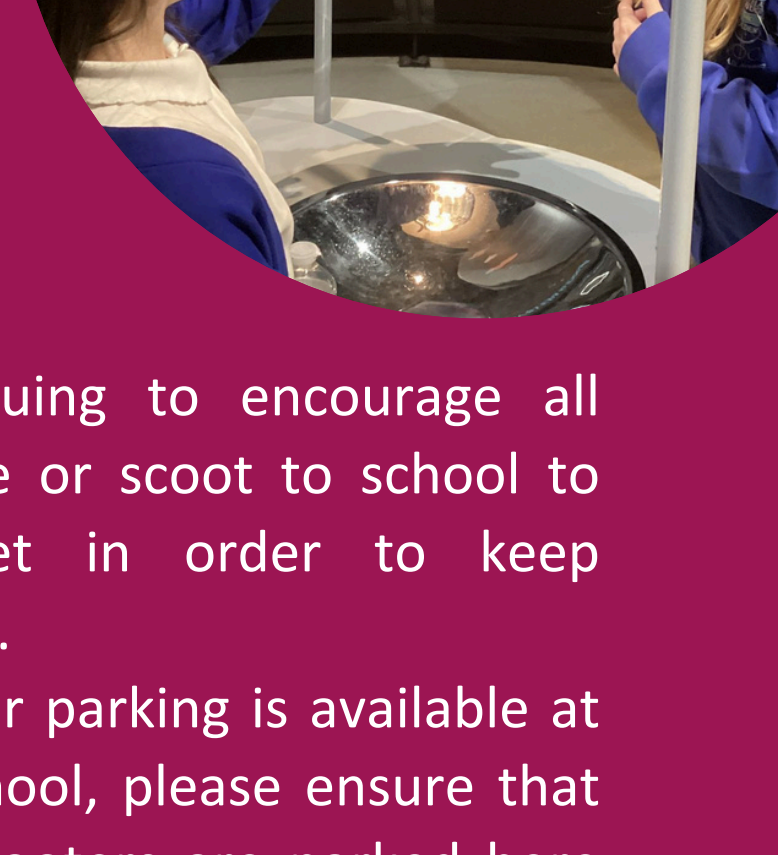
Thanks to a generous Charity Impact donation from Lost Village Festival, we are excited to be able to enhance and expand our outdoor equipment over the coming months. This will provide even more opportunities for the children to explore, play, and learn in our outdoor spaces.

We are incredibly grateful for this contribution and the positive impact it will have on our setting and would like to thank Ben Atkins and the team for all their support.



Trips

There have been so many exciting trips this month to support the learning taking place in school - Year 5 visiting the National Space Center, Year 3 taking a trip to Creswell Crags and Year 1 visiting Lincoln Castle! A huge thank you to the parents and carers that volunteer their time to help on these trips - without you they simply wouldn't be possible!



Bike Helmets

We are continuing to encourage all pupils who bike or scoot to school to wear a helmet in order to keep themselves safe. Bike and scooter parking is available at the front of school, please ensure that all bikes and scooters are parked here and not overhanging the gate as this poses a trip hazard. Thank you.

Parking on yellow lines

Please can parents and carers refrain from parking on the double yellow lines around school. It is important that these are left clear for everyone's safety when entering and exiting school. In particular, the area directly outside of the car park gates should remain clear, as school trip coaches cannot safely pull into the school car park if cars are blocking this entrance. Equally, should it ever be needed, a fire engine would also not be able to pass cars parked in this area.

EYFS area after school

We have noticed some children playing on the EYFS equipment in the Reception outdoor learning area after school. This equipment is not supervised during this time so must not be used. Thank you for your support in this.

Fidgets

We understand that some children benefit from the use of 'fidgets' to aid their concentration in school. School have a range of fidgets available and can be given to children following discussion with Mrs Hall and Mrs Dexter. Children should not bring in fidgets from home, but instead parents and carers can speak to Mrs Dexter if they feel there is an additional need in which a fidget may support learning in the classroom.

PE kits

Please can parents and carers ensure that pupils have their PE kits with them in school Monday to Friday.

Online Safety & Wellbeing



Understanding your child's digital footprint

As children spend more time online, whether playing games, using apps, chatting with friends or completing homework, they are building something called a digital footprint. This footprint is the collection of traces they leave behind: photos, posts, searches, comments, likes, and even information collected quietly in the background by websites and apps. Many children don't realise how quickly this footprint grows, or how long parts of it can remain online.

What we're seeing more and more is that children tend to prioritise fun, connection and belonging over privacy. They often click "accept" on pop-ups without thinking, share information because friends do the same, or engage with platforms that quietly collect data about how they play, learn and interact. Younger children may see the online world as a playground filled with filters and fun tools, while older children are more focused on identity - likes, followers and social approval sometimes matter more than caution.

As adults supporting them, it's important to help children understand that their digital footprint is part of the story they tell about themselves. Future schools, clubs, universities or employers may look at a child's online presence one day, but more importantly, other young people their age already do. Helping them make thoughtful choices now can protect their wellbeing, privacy and confidence later on.

The good news is that small conversations make a big difference. Here are some simple ways parents can support their child's digital footprint in positive, healthy ways:

- Talk about what they share online, and remind them that once something is posted, it's often difficult to remove completely.
- Check privacy settings together on the apps or games they use - many children assume these are private by default when they are often not.
- Encourage children to pause before posting, and ask: "Would I be happy for a teacher, a family member or a future employer to see this?"
- Discuss sharing personal information, like full names, schools, birthdays or location. Many children don't realise how easily these details can be collected or misused.

Supporting your child's digital footprint isn't about monitoring their every move, it's about helping them build safe, positive digital habits that will grow with them over time.

Useful website links:

Supporting young people | Digital Wings

What is a digital footprint and why is it so important?



Safe, Ready, Respectful

We are thrilled with how confidently all of the children in school now know our 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 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. Many of our pupils have already been recognised for their exemplary behaviour in relation to these rules and enjoyed a hot chocolate with Mr Coy!

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



APR 2	PTFA Easter Raffle Draw	APR 2	Last day of term - 2pm finish
APR 20	INSET day	APR 21	Children back to school
APR 22	Earth Day	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		
JUN 1	Children back to school	JUN 2	Book Bus in school
JUN 5	Year 4 Trip to Lincoln Castle	JUN 8	New to EYFS 2026 Parent Meeting
JUN 8-12	Year 4 Times Table Check	JUN 9	Reception Trip to Pink Pig Farm
JUN 10	Year 6 Trip to Bomber Command	JUN 11	Year 3 Athletics Trip
JUN 18	Year 1 Trip to the beach		
JUN 24	New to EYFS 'Stay and Play'	JUN 29	Y3 & Y4 Sports Day (morning)
JUN 29	EYFS Sports Day (afternoon)	JUN 30	Y1 & Y2 Sports Day (morning)
JUL 1	Y5 & Y6 Sports Day (morning)		

Who to contact?

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

If you need and 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

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