

Witham St Hughs Academy
A LEA D Academy

Witham Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher July 2026

I always think the final few weeks of the summer term have a unique energy about them. Somehow, we've managed to fit in Sports Days, trips, visitors, transition activities, celebrations, performances and some incredible learning, all whilst trying to stay cool during what has felt like one of the hottest spells of the year! Add in enough ice creams to keep the freezer industry afloat, hundreds of stickers handed out, the daily hunt for unnamed water bottles and a lot of sun cream, and it's fair to say we've certainly earned the summer holidays.

What I've loved most is that, despite the busy calendar, our classrooms have remained full of curiosity, laughter and brilliant learning. Our children have continued to impress us with the way they've embraced our Safe, Ready and Respectful values, whether welcoming visitors, representing the school on trips and sporting events or simply looking after one another in the playground. It's those everyday moments that make Witham St Hughs Academy such a special place to me.

The countdown to the holidays is nearly over, and I suspect there are quite a few children, and adults, looking forward to a few slower mornings! I hope the summer brings plenty of adventures, family time and opportunities to make special memories. Just to confirm, for a little bit of the holidays, I will be practising one very important summer skill: perfecting the art of snoring on a sunbed.

Before we know it, Wednesday 3rd September will be here. We'll have the gates open from 8:50am, ready to hear all about your summer adventures, welcome back familiar faces and give a very special Witham St Hughs Academy welcome to our newest Reception children and their families as they begin their journey with us.

So, here's to a summer of sunshine (fingers crossed!), BBQs that don't get rained off, ice creams, adventures, lie-ins, family time and making memories (and hopefully lots of reading). Enjoy every minute, and we'll see you back through the gates on Thursday 3rd September at 8:50am, ready for another brilliant year together.

Mr Coy

Witham News

Enrichment Programme – Autumn Term

Our Autumn Term Enrichment Programme has been sent to families and is available on our website. Bookings open on Thursday 3rd September and close on Thursday 10th September, with clubs starting from Monday 14th September. Please note that there will be no enrichment clubs during the week commencing 12th October due to Parents' Evening. We look forward to seeing lots of children taking part in our exciting range of enrichment opportunities!

Supporting Safe Gaming Conversations

AskAboutGames has always been an incredibly useful resource for parents with lots of advice and guidance for parents in relation to children and gaming. Recently they have released two new resources:

- The Power-Up Pact - which is all about starting conversations around safe gameplay so that video games can fit into family life.
- Conversation guide - as well as video games in the Power-Up Pact, this guide helps parents keep the conversations going by asking about apps, websites and online spaces children use every day.

Link: [Power-Up Pact](#).
Link: [Conversation guide](#).

Attendance and Punctuality

As part of our ongoing Attendance Improvement Plan, we will be introducing a late form, which will ask parents and carers to provide a reason if a child arrives after the start of the school day. Being on time helps children settle quickly, take part in important morning learning activities and start the day feeling ready for learning. Even a few minutes late each day can add up to a significant amount of lost learning time over the course of a year. We appreciate your support in helping children arrive on time each day because every minute counts.

Uniform Reminder for September

As families begin to prepare for the new school year, we would like to remind everyone of our uniform expectations. A smart school uniform nurtures a sense of belonging and pride, reflecting the aims and values of our Academy. Please take a moment to check our uniform requirements before purchasing items for September. Full details can be found on our website: [Uniform - Witham St Hughs Academy](#).

A particular reminder that children should wear black school shoes, not black trainers, unless there is a specific medical reason agreed with the school.

We would also like to remind families about our jewellery expectations. In line with guidance from the National PE Association, children are not permitted to take part in PE lessons while wearing earrings. Pupils should either be able to remove and reinsert their earrings independently or should not wear earrings on PE days. For this reason, if your child is having their ears pierced over the summer, we strongly recommend that this is done at the start of the holiday, allowing sufficient time for earrings to heal and be removed before returning to school in September.

We do have a uniform rail in the school reception area, which contains a range of good-quality pre-loved uniform items available free of charge. We encourage parents and carers to make use of this resource if needed.

Finally, please ensure that all uniform, PE kits, coats, lunch boxes and water bottles are clearly named so that lost items can be returned quickly to their owner. Thank you for your support in helping all children return in September looking smart, feeling proud and ready to learn.

First News

The children's newspaper, First News, is offering pupils free access to their online editions for the duration of the school summer holidays. Follow the link to register.

<https://subscribe.firstnews.co.uk/su/mmer-reading-2026/?fn=CRK3REX8>

Parental Consent

Just a reminder that the consent permissions we hold for your child can be updated at any time. If you wish to review, change, or update any consent preferences, please contact the school office. Thank you for helping us keep our records accurate and up to date.

Wishing You a Wonderful Summer

As we reach the end of another wonderful school year, we would like to thank all our parents and carers for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. Your involvement plays a vital role in helping our children thrive, and we are grateful for everything you do. We wish all our families a safe, happy and restful summer break. Please take a moment to check the diary dates at the end of this newsletter, where you will find key dates for Terms 1 and 2, including information about Parent Meets with your child's new teacher in September.

Water Safety

As the weather improves, many children and young people spend more time near rivers, lakes and other open water. These places can look inviting, but they often carry hidden dangers such as cold-water shock, strong currents and sudden changes in depth.

We're sharing this water-safety leaflets below to help you talk with your child or young person about staying safe. It includes simple guidance on recognising risks, making safe choices and what to do in an emergency.

Please take a few minutes to read through it together. A short conversation at home can make a real difference and help prevent accidents.

Further information is available via the following websites:

[Home | StayWise - Saving Lives Through Education](#)
[Respect The Water](#)
[Float To Live - What To Do If You Fall In Water](#)

Water Safety Starts with You: a Parent/Guardian Guide

WATER CAN BE GREAT FUN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, BUT IT CAN ALSO PRESENT HIDDEN DANGERS. WHETHER YOU'RE AT THE BEACH, BY A RIVER, NEAR A POND, OR POOL IN THE GARDEN, ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN QUICKLY AND UNEXPECTEDLY.

HOW TO HAVE FUN AND STAY SAFE

STAYING TOGETHER

- DO THEY ALWAYS TELL SOMEONE WHERE THEY ARE GOING
- DO YOU KNOW WHEN THEY PLANE ON RETURNING?
- ARE THEY ABLE TO CALL FOR HELP? TAKE A PHONE WITH THEM?
- DO THEY ALWAYS GO OUT IN A GROUP?

ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT THEM. IF THEY ENJOY SPENDING TIME NEAR WATER REMIND THEM TO:

- STAY BACK FROM THE WATER'S EDGE, STICK TO SAFE PATHS
- PAY ATTENTION TO WHERE YOU ARE WALKING OR CYCLING
- BE EXTRA CAREFUL IN POOR WEATHER OR LOW LIGHT
- WATER SAFETY STARTS ON LAND.

SOMEONE IN TROUBLE IN THE WATER? TEACH THEM TO:

- PHONE 999 TO GET HELP
- TELL THEM TO STAY CALM AND FLOAT ON THEIR BACK
- THROW RESCUE EQUIPMENT TO HELP THEM FLOAT
- NEVER ENTER THE WATER TO ATTEMPT A RESCUE

1 PHONE Phone 999 to get help.

2 FLOAT Tell them to stay calm and float on their back.

3 THROW Throw rescue equipment to help them float until emergency services arrive.

The StayWise website provides a range of resources on safety-related topics

Water Safety Starts with You: a Parent/Guardian Guide

WATER CAN BE GREAT FUN FOR CHILDREN, BUT IT CAN ALSO PRESENT HIDDEN DANGERS. WHETHER YOU'RE AT THE BEACH, BY A RIVER, NEAR A POND, OR POOL IN THE GARDEN, ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN QUICKLY AND UNEXPECTEDLY.

HOW TO HAVE FUN AND STAY SAFE

YOU MIGHT THINK THAT TAKING A DIP IN A RIVER IS THE PERFECT WAY TO COOL DOWN...DANGERS LIE BENEATH THE SURFACE.

Float to Live

- STRONG CURRENTS
- COLD TEMPERATURE
- UNEXPECTED ITEMS THAT COULD HARM

IF YOU FIND YOURSELF STRUGGLING IN THE WATER, TEACH THEM TO FLOAT TO LIVE:

- RELAX AND TRY TO BREATHE NORMALLY.
- TILT HEAD BACK AND SUBMERGE EARS.
- USE HANDS AND LEGS TO HELP YOU STAY AFLOAT.
- ONCE BREATHING IS UNDER CONTROL, CALL FOR HELP OR SWIM TO SAFETY.

ENSURE YOUNG CHILDREN:

- STAY TOGETHER
- STAY CLOSE TO AN ADULT, PARENT OR GUARDIAN
- KEEP WITHIN THEIR DEPTH
- KNOW TO CALL 999 IN AN EMERGENCY

SPOT THE DANGERS TOGETHER

THE STAYWISE WEBSITE PROVIDES A RANGE OF RESOURCES ON SAFETY RELATED TOPICS

Safe, Ready, Respectful

We are delighted with how confidently all of the children know and demonstrate our school rules: Safe, Ready and Respectful. These simple principles provide a shared language and clear expectations across our school, and we are incredibly proud of the positive attitudes, kindness and responsible behaviour shown by our pupils every day. Many children have been recognised for living out these values and have enjoyed a hot chocolate with Mr Coy!

As we look ahead to September, teachers will spend the first few weeks of the new school year explicitly teaching and embedding routines linked to being Safe, Ready and Respectful. This will help ensure that all children have a clear understanding of expectations and are set up for success from the very start of the year. We encourage families to use the same language at home to help reinforce these important rules.

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

SEP 1-2	INSET day	SEP 3	Children return to school	SEP 8	Year 1 Parent Meet - 3:00pm	SEP 9	Year 2 Parent Meet - 3:00pm	SEP 10	Reception Parent Meet - 2:45pm
SEP 14	Clubs begin	SEP 14	Year 3 Parent Meet - 3:00pm	SEP 14	Year 5 Parent Meet - 5:00pm	SEP 14	Year 6 Parent Meet and PGL Information - 5:00pm	SEP 15	Year 4 Parent Meet - 3:00pm
SEP 17-18	School photographs	SEP 23	Year 6 Snipe Dales trip	SEP 28	Phonics Parent Workshop - 3:30pm	OCT 6	Flu Spray	OCT 12	No clubs this week
OCT 13 AND 15	Parents' Evening	OCT 15	Usborne books at Parents' Evening	OCT 21-23	Year 6 PGL	OCT 23	Term ends		
NOV 2	Children return	NOV 9	Year 4 swimming week	NOV 11	Remembrance event	NOV 12	Year 2 theatre workshop	NOV 14	Y5/6 catch up swimming week
NOV 17	New to EYFS Open Morning	NOV 20	Children in Need	NOV 26	New to EYFS open morning	DEC 1-2	EYFS Nativity Concert - 2:30pm	DEC 8/9	KS1 production 2:15/9:30
DEC 11	Christmas lunch and jumper day	DEC 14	No clubs this week	DEC 14-18	Christmas parties	DEC 18	Carols at 1:15pm	DEC 18	Term ends

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

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