Wisdom St Hughs Academy
Year 6 Journey

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 while trying to stay cool during what feels 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 unopened water bottles and a bit of sun cream, and it's fair to say we've certainly earned the summer holiday.

What I've loved most is that, despite the busy calendar, our classrooms have retained 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 Wisham 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! Enjoy 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 practicing 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 8.45am, ready to hear all about your summer adventures, welcome back familiar faces and give a very special Witham St Hugs 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, long walks, family time and making memories (and hopefully lots of reading). Enjoy every minute, and we'll see you back through the gates on Wednesday 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 conversations 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.

Healthy Snack Reminder

Please remember to send your child to school with a healthy snack for break time. Suitable snacks include fresh fruit, vegetables, cheese, or other healthy options that provide children with energy for learning. We kindly ask that sweets, chocolate and crisps are kept for lunchboxes rather than break times. Thank you for your support in promoting healthy eating habits.

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 Hugh's 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 has pierced ears piercing 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.

A Star Performance and £187 Raised for Charity

A huge thank you to our Year 5 and Year 6 staff and children for their hard work and dedication in bringing Pirates of the Curtyboan to life. The performance was full of humour, energy and wonderful singing, and every child played their part brilliantly to make the show such a success. We are incredibly proud of all the pupils and grateful to the staff for creating such a memorable experience for everyone. We would also like to thank parents and families for their generous support. We are delighted to announce that £187 was raised for Cancer Research, the charity chosen by our Year 6 children. Thank you for helping us support such an important cause.

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/mmm-readfor-2026/?l=CK2RK4B

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 leaflet 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

IT COSTS £0 TO BE SAFE AROUND WATER. YOU DON'T NEED EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT OR PAID COURSES. MOST OF THE SKILLS AND ADVICE IN THIS GUIDE ARE FREE TO USE, WITH FREE LESSONS, GUIDANCE AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT AVAILABLE.

HOW TO MAKE SURE YOU STAY SAFE ON THE WATER

STAYING TOGETHER

- DO THAT A BUDDY SYSTEM WILL SOMEONE WHERE THEY ARE GOING
- DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY PLAN ON RETURNING
- DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD GETS LOST WITHIN THEIR? DO THAT YOUR CHILD KNOW WHAT TO DO?

INCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT THEM. IF THAT HAPPENS, THESE ARE THE SIGNS WE WANT YOU TO SEE:

- STOP, BACK FROM THE WATER'S EDGE. STICK TO SAFE PLACES
- TELL SOMEONE YOU'RE GOING TO THE WATER AND WHEN YOU'LL BE BACK
- DO THAT YOUR CHILD KNOW WHAT TO DO IF THEY GET LOST OR SEPARATED FROM YOU?

SOMEONE IN TROUBLE IN THE WATER? TEACH THEM TO:

- STOP AND TO STAY AFLOAT
- TELL THEM TO STAY CALM AND FLOAT ON THEIR BACK
- TELL THEM TO SHOUT FOR HELP AND WAVE ARMS
- NEVER ENTER THE WATER TO ATTEMPT A RESCUE

The StayWise website provides a range of resources on safety, including lesson plans and guidance for parents.

Water Safety Starts with You: a Parent/Guardian Guide

Float To Live

THE BREATH THINK THAT TRAPPED IN A SITUATION IS THE PERFECT WAY TO COOL DOWN. DANGEROUS BEHAVIOUR INCLUDES:

- STRONG CURRENTS
- SUDDEN DROPS IN DEPTH
- UNLEVEL GROUND THAT COULD SWIM

Float to Live IF YOUR FIND YOURSELF STRUGGLING IN THE WATER, TEACH THEM TO FLOAT:

- TELL HIS AND SHOUT FOR HELP
- TELL THE BACK AND SUBMERGE EVEN
- TELL THEM TO STAY CALM AND FLOAT ON THEIR BACK
- TELL THEM TO WAVE ARMS AND SHOUT FOR HELP

ENSURE YOUNG CHILDREN:

- STAY TOGETHER
- STAY CLOSE TO AN ADULT MONITOR OR GUARDIAN
- WEAR A LIFE JACKET
- WEAR TOWELL AND SUN PROTECTION

SPOT THE DANGERS TOGETHER

THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE PROVIDES A RANGE OF RESOURCES ON WATER SAFETY, INCLUDING LESSON PLANS AND GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS.

Safe, Ready, Respectful

We are delighted with how confidently all of the children know and demonstrate our school values: 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

CALENDAR

SEP 1	INset day	SEP 3	Children return to school	SEP 8	Year 1 Parent Meet 3.45pm	SEP 9	Year 2 Parent Meet 3.45pm	SEP 10	Reception Parent Meet 3.45pm
SEP 14	Clubs begin	SEP 14	Year 5 Parent Meet 3.45pm	SEP 15	Year 3 Parent Meet 3.45pm	SEP 16	Year 4 Parent Meet 3.45pm	SEP 17	Year 6 Parent Meet 3.45pm
SEP 21	School photographs	SEP 23	Year 6 Swim Dates tbc	SEP 24	Physics Parent Partnership Meeting 9.30-11.30	SEP 28	School photographs	OCT 1	No clubs this week
OCT 5 AND 6	Parents' Evening	OCT 12	Year 6 PSG	OCT 13	Term ends	NOV 2	Year 2 theatre workshop	NOV 3	Pick-up/cross-swimming week
NOV 9	Children return	NOV 9	Year 6 swimming week	NOV 12	Remembrance Sunday	NOV 20	Year 1 theatre workshop	NOV 26	KS1 Christmas Concert
NOV 26	KS2 Year 6 Christmas disco	NOV 30	Children in Need	NOV 30	Year 5 PSG	DEC 1	EYFS Nativity 9.30-10.30	DEC 2	KS1 Christmas Concert 2.15/5.15
DEC 9	Christmas lunch and jumper day	DEC 14	No clubs this week	DEC 16	Christmas parties	DEC 18	Carols at 1.55pm	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 support or have any questions, then do not hesitate to contact the school on:

01522 869590 or admin@withamsthughsacademy.co.uk

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