

Witham St Hughs Academy
A L.E.A.D. Academy

WITHAM ST HUGHS
ACADEMY

Witham Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher September 2026

What a fantastic start we have had! The sun has mainly continued to shine, Lincoln City keep winning, and, most importantly, school has got off to an amazing start!

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to Witham St Hughs Academy. The children have quickly settled back into our routines, and school has been an absolute pleasure to be Headteacher of. It has been lovely hearing all the holiday stories, seeing smiling faces each morning and, perhaps best of all, having children excitedly come to show me work they are proud of. In many ways, it feels like we have never been away! A particularly warm welcome goes to our new Reception children, as well as the other new pupils and families who have joined us across the school. Welcoming new people into our school community is always special, and we hope you quickly feel part of the Witham St Hughs family.

We have an exciting year ahead. We will continue to reflect, tweak and make positive changes to ensure that we provide the very best opportunities and a high-quality education for every child. Our vision remains at the heart of everything we do: to make a difference to every child, every day. These aren't simply words; they are central to the decisions we make and the work we do.

Our clubs have already got off to a flying start, with chess, puzzles, sport and music just some of the many opportunities available to our children. It has been fantastic to see such a great turnout and so many children keen to get involved. Year 6 have their residential on the horizon, our choir has been busy auditioning, pupil leadership applications are now underway, and the buzz around reading across school has been brilliant. There is so much to look forward to!

I have also been incredibly proud of how well the children have returned to our Safe, Ready, Respectful expectations. It is lovely to hear them talking with such clarity and enthusiasm about what these expectations mean and to see them putting them into practice every day. They understand that these simple principles help make our school a happy, positive and successful place for everyone.

As Headteacher, it genuinely has been a pleasure to be back in school. I am grateful for the kind comments from parents, the smiles and conversations at the gate, and the continued support you give to our school. That partnership between home and school makes such an important difference.

We have achieved a great deal already, and we are only a few weeks in! There is a real sense of energy and excitement around school, and I cannot wait to see what the year ahead brings.

As always, thank you for your continued support in helping us make a difference to every child, every day.

Here's to an incredible year at Witham St Hughs Academy!

Mr Coy

Witham News

A Great Start – Thank You!

We have had a fantastic start to the year with attendance and punctuality, so a huge thank you to all our families for your support. We know mornings can be busy, but every minute in school matters, including that all-important welcome from their teacher at the start of the day. Thank you for helping our children get each school day off to the very best start!

School Fence Safety Reminder

We know that saying hello to children comes from a place of care and friendliness. However, we kindly ask parents and family members not to approach or speak to children through the fence by the road at the back of the school field during break or lunchtimes. As members of the public also walk past this area, we teach children not to engage with adults through the fence. It is therefore important that we keep this message clear and consistent to help keep all of our children safe.

Uniform

Please remember that only stud earrings should be worn to school, and hoops and bracelets are not permitted. Children wearing stud earrings must be able to remove them independently for PE.

Please also remember to clearly label all uniform with your child's name. Where items are labelled, it really helps us to reunite lost uniform with its owner quickly. Thank you for your continued support!

Lost Cabin Works

Work will be taking place on the school field on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th September to complete our new 'Lost Cabin', funded through a successful grant from the Lost Village Festival. Children will be kept safely away from the work during the school day, and we ask that families ensure children and younger siblings stay well clear of the work area at drop-off and collection times.

Healthy Snacks, Healthy Habits

A reminder that children should bring a healthy snack for breaktime. Please do not send sweets, nuts or products containing nuts, including Nutella, chocolate bars, cakes or crisps, as these are not suitable breaktime snacks. We also ask that children bring water to drink in school rather than juice. Water is the healthier choice and helps us avoid sticky spills and stains in classrooms. Thank you for your support.

Year 6 Geography Fieldwork at Snipe Dales

Year 6 enjoyed some brilliant geography fieldwork at Snipe Dales. They explored and sketched the different features of a river, used their listening skills to identify its source and even ventured into the water to carry out kick sampling. They then used identification keys to classify the animals they found. A huge thank you to the parents and grandparents who supported us on the trip, and a special mention to Mr Welham, who was overjoyed to land the biggest catch of the day: a fish from the river!

Focus Tools

We understand that some children benefit from using a fidget to support their concentration and learning in the classroom. School has a range of appropriate fidgets available, which can be provided following a discussion with Mrs Hall or Mrs Dexter.

We would just like to remind families that children should not bring fidgets or similar items into school from home. We have had a small number of occasions where items brought in have become more of a toy or distraction than an aid to learning.

If you feel your child has an additional need and may benefit from using a fidget to support their learning, please speak to Mrs Dexter. We can then work with you to make sure that an appropriate fidget or resource is available in school. Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep classrooms calm, focused and ready for learning.

Great Running Challenge

We're looking forward to our Great Running Challenge on Monday 12th October! Children can wear sports clothing or dress as a sporting hero, and we would love your support in gathering sponsorship to help us provide even more sporting opportunities for our pupils. Find out more and get involved here: <https://withamsthughsacademy.co.uk/the-great-running-challenge/>

PE Kits – A Quick Reminder

If your child takes their PE kit home for an after-school club, please remember to send it back into school the next day. PE is an important part of our curriculum, and we want to ensure that every child is able to take part fully in their lessons. Thank you for your support!

A Buzz at Lunchtime!

Our new lunchtime equipment has been a big hit! From a range of different types of balls, hoops, bean bags and target nets, to Octoplay, K'NEX, Catch Cups and our new drawing space, there are now even more ways for children to enjoy their lunchtimes. It has been fantastic to see the buzz on the playground and children showing Unity by playing, sharing and working together. We are really proud of our lunchtime provision and, once our Year 5/6 Play Leaders are in place, we will continue to reflect on how we can make lunchtimes even better for everyone.

Welcome to Our Team!

Welcome to Miss Maya Weeramanthri, who joins us in Year 5 as a trainee teacher! We're proud at Witham to play our part in developing and inspiring the next generation of teachers.

Spotlight on:
Learning Environments

As a school, we are always reflecting, developing and building on what we do well to ensure we continue to provide the very best opportunities for our children and wider school community. Over the coming newsletters, we will occasionally shine a spotlight on different aspects of teaching and learning, sharing some of the thinking and ongoing professional development that takes place behind the scenes. We hope this gives parents and carers a greater insight into how we continually strive to make our already wonderful school even better.

Our Learning Environments

Parents and carers may have noticed a slight evolution in the look and feel of some of our classrooms. Our environments remain tidy, beautiful, welcoming and engaging, while continuing to develop to ensure every element is calm, purposeful and supports learning.

As part of our ongoing staff development, we have recently explored cognitive load. Put simply, our brains can only process a certain amount of information at one time. For children, reducing unnecessary visual information and distractions means they can give more of their attention to the learning that matters.

You may therefore notice softer, more neutral and pastel colours, carefully selected fonts, well-organised resources and increasingly purposeful use of classroom walls. Displays are becoming more like working learning tools, with information added to, adapted or replaced as the learning in the classroom develops. The key question we are asking ourselves is simple: How does this support children's learning?

Our aim is to create calm, clear and purposeful spaces that actively support focus, self-regulation and positive behaviour. Children's fantastic work will, of course, continue to be valued and celebrated, while classroom displays are used thoughtfully to complement and support the learning taking place.

This is very much an evolution of our wonderful learning environments. As you can see below, our existing reading areas, shared spaces and the warmth and character that make our school special remain. We are simply continuing to refine and develop our approach, using the latest professional learning to give every child the best possible environment in which to learn, focus and thrive.

Safe, Ready, Respectful

We have been incredibly pleased with how well our children and staff have settled into the new school year. Classrooms across school are calm, focused and purposeful, and it has been wonderful to see children so quickly embracing our expectations and routines.

A key focus this year is on having clear, consistent routines throughout school. When children know exactly what is expected, transitions are smooth, classrooms are calm and valuable learning time is maximised. Ultimately, these routines help every child to be ready to learn and able to give their full attention to their learning.

Our three school rules of Safe, Ready and Respectful sit at the heart of this. We have already seen so many children in KS1 receiving stickers and children in KS2 earning citizenship points for showing respect, which is both one of our school rules and an important school value. It has been fantastic to see this being demonstrated in classrooms, around school and in the way children treat one another.

Staff have spent time explicitly teaching and embedding these routines and expectations so that every child understands what Safe, Ready and Respectful looks like in practice. We would love families to use this same language at home too, helping us to reinforce these important messages and provide consistency for our children.

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 28 Phonics Parent Workshop – 3:30pm	OCT 6 Flu Spray	OCT 12 No clubs this week	OCT 12 The Great Running Challenge
OCT 13 AND 15 Parents' Evening	OCT 15 Usborne books at Parents' Evening	OCT 21-23 Year 6 PGL	OCT 23 Term ends
NOV 9 Year 4 swimming week	NOV 11 Remembrance event	NOV 12 Year 2 theatre workshop	NOV 16 Y5/6 catch up swimming week
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 14 No clubs this week	DEC 14-18 Christmas parties	DEC 18 Carols at 1:15pm	DEC 18 Term ends
NOV 2 Children return	NOV 17 New to EYFS Open Morning	DEC 11 Christmas lunch and jumper day	

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@withamsthughsacademy.co.uk

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