



January 2020

Newsletter



Diary Dates

January 2020

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| 15th | KS1 Life Sim sessions |
| 20th | Konflux Theatre Company in school |
| 22nd & 24th | Y3 STEM Day 1 and Day 2 |
| 27th | Konflux Theatre Company in school |
| 30th | Y5 LEAD Enrichment Day |
| 31st | Y3 MSP sports competition |
| 31st | Y5 (Miss Parker's class) Class Assembly |

Diary Dates

February 2020

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| 3rd | Y5 STEM Day 1 |
| 6th | Skipping experience day |
| 7th | Skipping experience day |
| 7th | Rhubarb theatre company in Year 2 |
| 11th | Y5 STEM Day 2 |
| 13th | Children break up |
| 24th | Children return to school. |
| 27th | SATS information talks—Y2 and Y6 |



Happy New Year!

Welcome back to a new term and may we take this opportunity to say 'Happy New Year' to all of our families; we hope 2020 is a year of happiness for all. As always, the start of the Spring term brings with it lots of exciting new learning opportunities for our children and some wonderful new learning environments carefully curated by our talented staff team. Please do feel free to take a peek inside the classrooms at the exciting learning planned for this term, be it Viking Longboats, World Travellers or Victorian Workhouses!

Thank you!

As always, your continued support of all we do here at Witham St Hughs Academy is vital and valued. From attending performances, supporting our wider curriculum such as educational visits, experience days and forest school to volunteering your time within the Academy, all forms of support are truly appreciated. As always, if there is anything we can do to help, please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Broadley, Mrs Younger or Mrs Dexter who are on the playground in the morning and the afternoon, your child's class teacher or the school office.



Autumn Term Fundraising

The end of the Autumn term saw some fantastic performances by our Foundation Stage and Key Stage One pupils. The confidence with which they performed was utterly brilliant and we couldn't be prouder of them. As always, we do not charge for tickets to these performances but instead choose to raise money for charity. Thanks to your kind donations, this year the children managed to raise £50.98 for the British Heart Foundation and £247.76 for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

PE Uniform

A polite reminder that the Academy's uniform for PE is a plain white t-shirt, black or dark blue shorts or jogging bottoms and a plain black or navy jacket for the colder months. Trainers should be worn for outdoor PE lessons and we advise that these are Velcro until your child can confidently tie their own laces. Earrings should not be worn for PE, although if ears have been recently pierced, children may bring their own plasters to cover studs during PE lessons. PE kits should be brought to school on a Monday and remain in school until Friday.



Bags

We know that children enjoy bringing their own bags to school, and we celebrate the individual identities children are able to show through these items. However, bags are getting increasingly large and the cloakroom spaces available simply cannot hold these in a tidy manner. May we request that any bags additional to PE kits and book bags are only brought to school if absolutely necessary. Thank you for your support and understanding in this matter.

Book Blog Books

My Book Blog continues to be a huge success within the Academy and something we are incredibly proud of. All My Book Blog books purchased by the Academy carry a sticker on the spine identifying them as such. Please can you have a check at home for any Book Blog books that may need returning to school as, unfortunately, the shelves are looking a little empty!

Lost property

A gentle reminder that all items of uniform, coats and lunch boxes should be labelled with your child's name. We have some wonderful parent volunteers who work tirelessly alongside the staff team to ensure labelled lost property is returned but unfortunately, many items are still unnamed.

Independence Skills

As you are aware, our Life Skills curriculum is central to all that we do here at Witham St Hughs Academy. This term, we as a staff team are focussing on the 'independence' strand of our Life Skills curriculum. As always, your support in this would be greatly appreciated and we firmly believe that by working together, we can achieve better outcomes for all. Below are some suggestions to consider in relation to independence that will complement the work happening in school:

- Encouraging children to recall the items needed for their day e.g. Water bottle, lunchbox and book bag.
- Encouraging children to carry their own belongings to and from school.
- Problem solving e.g. You've lost a glove, what should you do next?

Posts on the Playground

As you will be aware, we have recently installed protective blue padding around the posts on the playground. All children have been made aware not to run at these for both reasons of keeping themselves safe, but also that this badly damages the guttering above. Please could this message also be shared with children at the beginning and the end of the school day to ensure safety for all. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Pastoral Support

Shortly into the new term, you may notice a new noticeboard on the playground. This board is updated regularly by our pastoral support team and outlines the pastoral support available within the Academy as well as more general support information. If you want to know more about this board or any of the information on it, please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Dexter.



Collecting Pupils

A polite reminder that the school day finishes at 3:30pm and unless attending a club, children should be collected from the playground at this time. Where children are regularly being picked up later than this time, this is putting unnecessary strain on the school office and the staff team who are needing to supervise pupils past the end of the school day. We completely understand that occasionally there are exceptional circumstances which mean children cannot be collected at 3:30, and in these cases we ask that the school office is contacted as soon as is possible.



New Style Curriculum Newsletters

You will shortly be receiving your child's curriculum newsletter for this term. This outlines the key areas of learning that will be covered across the Spring term. You will notice the format of this has changed from previous newsletters. We hope that this new format is a little easier to digest but still provides the information you might want about your child's learning this term. Feedback about this new format would be greatly appreciated!

Safeguarding Newsletter

Last term saw the return of our 'Safeguarding Newsletter'. Last year we received very positive feedback about this addition to the information we share with our families and hope that this remains useful. If there are any topics you would like to see covered in our safeguarding newsletter, please do let us know, as we strive to make this as useful as possible.

Co-Op Funding

We are pleased to share that the Academy has received £727.18 in funding from the Co-Op and thanks to your spending in store. We are going to be using these funds to purchase some new outdoor play equipment for the children to use. A huge thank you to the Co-Op for this generous funding.

Yours sincerely,



Emily Broadley

