



November 2020

Newsletter



Diary Dates

November 2020

2nd	Children return to school
w/c 9th	VR headsets in school
25th	Flu sprays
w/c 30th Nov	Year 2 phonics screening check

Diary Dates

December 2020

8th	Open Evening 1
10th	Open Evening 2
11th	Christmas jumper day
w/c 7th	Class Christmas parties
14th	Christmas lunches
14th	Panto Day!
14th	Open Evening 3
16th	Open Evening 4
17th	Last day of term - Early finish



Welcome to our November newsletter

Welcome to our November newsletter. After such a positive start to the school year last term, we are excited to welcome the children back after their half term break. There are lots of exciting learning opportunities planned for this term, as well as fitting in some Christmas celebrations too. Be sure to keep an eye on our Academy Facebook page for photographs of the children's learning in action.

Colder Weather

As the colder weather inevitably sets in, may we remind parents and carers that coats, hats, gloves and scarves should all be named to ensure these can be returned to your child if they are lost. We know that winter coats can be expensive to buy and don't want any going missing! From now, staff will not be letting children go out to play unless they are wearing a coat. As we know, the consequences of developing coughs and colds at the minute are a little more serious and we do not want to do anything to encourage these spreading around school. In the event of snow, please do listen to Lincs FM and check the school Facebook page and website for any school closure information.

COVID-19

Throughout Termlet 1, parents, children and staff have done a phenomenal job of following the new rules and keeping everyone safe and well. Without this, we would not be in the fortunate position of not yet needing to close any pods for self-isolation. It is however, important to recognise that there remains a significant possibility that this may need to happen in the future. In the event of a class or year group needing to self-isolate following a positive case, we would let all affected families know ASAP via a letter on email and a follow up text. We kindly request that parents do not then call school for further information as this blocks the Academy phone lines that are vital in contacting Public Health England and other advisory bodies needed to support school at this time. Please rest assured that school will contact anyone we feel needs to be contacted and, as always, you are always free to send an email to enquiries@withamsthughs.org



Parent's Evening

Thank you for positive feedback following Parent's Evening consultations in October. These early conversations are vital to build relationships between parents and class teachers and create a mutual understanding for the benefit of pupils. Please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher at the classroom door should you need any further information or have any questions.



Year 2 Phonics Screening Check

Due to lockdown, our current Year 2 pupils did not take the National Phonics Screening Check in June. They will now do this in the w/c 30th November using a previous year's test paper. Further information regarding this check will be shared this week via email and on SeeSaw. Please do speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs Younger if you have any questions.

Intervention Groups

Following Parent's Evening, may we take this opportunity to clarify the role of 'intervention groups' at school. Intervention groups have always been used as part of the outstanding teaching and learning provision here at Witham St Hughs Academy. They serve to offer pupils the opportunity to further develop their skills in a smaller group session. These groups take place all day across all subjects and all ability levels and most children will access some form of intervention at some point in the year. This is absolutely nothing to worry about and is integral to the daily high quality provision pupils receive.

Healthy snacks

A reminder that snacks for break time should be healthy in nature. Fruit, veg or cereals are all perfect snacks. Our EYFS and KS1 pupils continue to receive free fruit at snack time. Due to COVID-19 safety measures, the tuck shop remains closed this term. We will of course inform you when this re-opens.

One-way system - Kids Club

Please can we remind parents pick up and dropping off at Kids Club that they must follow the same 1-way system as all other parents. This is to ensure parents and children are not crossing over in small passageways or through gates.

Christmas

Understandably, this year Christmas celebrations at school will look a little different. Due to our children being in year-group pods, they will still be able to have their Christmas parties at the end of term but there will be no festive productions for EYFS and KS1 this year. There will also not be a KS2 carol concert on the last day of term. We are however, planning lots of exciting festive experiences for pupils to try and make this time as special as possible. Miss Johnson is busy organising a 'Panto Day' for pupils and we are exploring ways of bringing some safe festive carols to our families. Should they wish to, children will be able to bring Christmas cards for their friends from December, but these will only be able to be shared within their year group - the Christmas post box will need to be rested this year.



End of Term 2pm finish

As is always the case, school will finish early on the last day of term before Christmas. Mirroring the existing collection window, pupils may be collected between 13:50 - 14:10 on Thursday 17th December.

Open Mornings & Video Tour

November is always the time for our new Reception intake Open Mornings. Clearly this year these will need to take a different format. We will be running 4 open evenings to allow parents to visit the Academy, meet some of the staff team and ask any questions. The original dates for these evenings were in November, but due to the new National Lockdown these have been rescheduled for December. These evenings will be for adults only and with a maximum of 5 visitors per group. To ensure adequate track and trace measures are followed, anyone wishing to attend must pre-book a space and not attend if they or anyone in their household is displaying any COVID-19 symptoms. We are aware that pre-school children will want to see school too, so we will be releasing a professional video tour of the Academy which can be shared at home with your child.

Rewards in school

We have many ways in which we reward positive behaviours and achievements at school. Positive praise, reward points, stickers, citizenship points and star of the week/day are just some of the ways in which this is done by all members of the staff team. We encourage children to be proud of their own progress and achievements and celebrate those of others. We remind parents that we are only a fraction of the way through the school year, and all children will be recognised throughout the year where specific achievements are involved.



Yours sincerely,

Emily Broadley

