

Headteacher Comments

Welcome to the Autumn term everyone and I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer break and managed to have some quality family time!

First of all, I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone for making the start of this term go so well. Despite new routines and new classes, all of our children have made us so proud with their absolutely brilliant attitude to school.

Our children have settled in so well and it has been lovely to finally see all of our children mixing together at playtimes and lunchtimes. We have also had some whole school assemblies and again the children have been superb! Our new Reception children have been amazing and have done so well this week.

For the first time since March 2020, school finally feels much more normal and all of the staff at Witham are so excited about the year ahead and feeling more together as a school community.

We are all looking forward to being able to invite parents into our Academy once again and share and celebrate the children's achievements.

Next week we start our exciting new Enrichment Programme across the Academy and we are delighted with the interest and cannot wait to get started.

As always, thank you for your continued support and if you do have any questions or queries then please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Enjoy the next few weeks of term!

Kind regards,

Richard Stock



Office Opening Hours

Monday — Thursday

8.15am—4.15pm

Friday

8.15am—4.00pm

Gym Equipment and

Trim Trail Reminder

Please ensure that children do not play on the new gym equipment or trim trail at the end of the day.

This equipment would usually be supervised at all times so it is important that the children are not playing on it.

Thank you



Coronavirus Updates

- Use of bubbles are no longer in use within the Academy
- No requirement for parents to wear face coverings during drop off and pick up
- Handwashing routines continues throughout the day
- Continued use of effective ventilation throughout the Academy

Health and Safety

As always, our main priority is the safety of all pupils, staff and parents.

Public Health Information

The way schools manage children or members of staff who test positive is different from September 2021.

NHS Track and Trace take responsibility for any close contact tracing and will consult with schools when and if appropriate. Based on the information shared by the person who has tested positive, they will use their knowledge and expertise to establish who the close contacts are and make contact themselves with these people.

From September, please continue to make school aware if your child has tested positive for COVID-19 so we can still have an overall understanding of the impact this might have on the school setting. Please email enquiries@withamsthughs.org

*We would like to clarify that if a child has tested positive then they **MUST** self-isolate for 10 days. If someone else in their household has tested positive then unless they have a positive PCR test themselves then they can still come to school.*

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

School Uniform

- Please make sure that all items of school uniform are clearly labelled in case belongings are misplaced.
- Children should not be wearing nail varnish
- Children should not have their hair dyed

Achievement Assembly

We are delighted that we can now invite parents back into school to share their child's wonderful education journey and their successes.

From next Friday our Achievement Assemblies will resume. KS2 (Y3/4/5/6) will take place at 10.10am and KS1 (Y1/2) will take place at 11.25am.

If your child has been chosen as an achiever you will be notified on Wednesday afternoon and can join us in the hall on Friday. We very much look forward to seeing you all.

For this term, our Reception children will not be taking part in our assemblies but instead they will be receiving their certificates in their classroom.

Care Plans

Keeping your child safe and well whilst in school is our utmost priority.

To ensure that your child is safe, and that we fully understand the nature of any medical needs they may have, we implement 'care plans' for some children. These may be in place for a range of reasons including medical diagnosis that impact on school life, allergies or where medication is required to be taken within the school day. This is not an exhaustive list, and care plans may be needed for many other circumstances.

If you feel your child may need a care plan, please contact the school office by either popping in, calling on 01522 869590 or emailing enquiries@withamsthughs.org

We will then ensure that the paperwork is provided to create a bespoke care plan for your child.



MacMillan Coffee Event



Come and help us raise money for such an important charity after school on Friday 24th September 2021.

More information to follow shortly.

School Values

At the end of last term we spent time considering our school values and what this means to us.

Starting this year, we now have five key words that we aspire to achieve every single day:

Respect

Unity

Enjoyment

Resilience

Ambition

Children have already started to consider these and we will continue promoting these throughout the term.

Class teacher conversations

We are very aware that having the opportunity to meet the new class teacher is not always easy.

If you would like to arrange to speak to the class teacher then please arrange an appointment via the school office.

You are welcome to have brief conversations on drop off or pick up but if you require a good length of time then please follow the process above.

Staff changes

We are delighted to welcome some new members of staff to our Academy.

Miss Grimley—Year 4 class teacher

Miss Cassidy— Year 5 class teacher

Mrs Hutchinson— 1:1 teaching assistant

Mrs Whincup—1:1 teaching assistant

Miss Coney —1:1 teaching assistant

Mrs Postles—1:1 teaching assistant

Mr Norton—Y2 teaching assistant

Two of our members of staff have also got married over the summer break. Miss Parker is now Mrs Alder and Miss Hickling is now Mrs Vilkotis.

We also have Mrs Poyser working with Mrs Lill in Year 3 this year and she will be completing her Teaching Training Programme.

They have all settled in so well already this week and the children have made everyone feel so welcome.



Diary dates

September 2021

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Thursday 2nd Sept | <i>Staff training</i> |
| Friday 3rd Sept | <i>Staff training</i> |
| Monday 6th Sept | <i>Term one commences</i> |
| Wednesday 22nd Sept | <i>Y6 Snipedales Visit</i> |
| Thursday 23rd Sept | <i>School photographs</i> |

October 2021

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Week beginning 11th Oct | <i>Parents' Evening week</i> |
| Thursday 21st Oct | <i>Term one ends</i> |
| Friday 22nd Oct | <i>Staff training</i> |

November 2021

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|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Monday 1st Nov | <i>Term two starts</i> |
| Friday 12th Nov | <i>Children in Need</i> |
| Tuesday 16th Nov | <i>EYFS Open Morning</i> |
| Thursday 25th Nov | <i>EYFS Open Morning</i> |

December 2021

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|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Friday 17th December | <i>Term two ends at 2.00pm</i> |
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Welcome back! It is lovely to see all the children back smiling and feeling positive. As they start a new academic year there are many changes they will encounter and differences to the routines they were used to before. To support the children in school we are talking about the new routines they will follow every day and ways to help them to remember.

A new year

At the start of any new school year the children can feel a little uncertain. They have a new teacher, new friends and a new classroom. This year is different again as the children have less restrictions placed on them and more movement around school and mixing with other year groups.

Here are some key points to support children on their return to school;

Be positive

Talk about all the things that the children are looking forward to this year. What positive things have happened already?

Have a routine

Make a visual routine to remind children what they need to do each morning before going to school. What do they need to wear? What do they need to take with them?

Ask questions

Encourage your children to ask staff any questions they have about the changes at school. Remind them who could help them if they are unsure of something or have any worries during the day.

Friendships

Support your children to make new friends and understand that bubbles have been removed so there may now be younger or older children they can talk to at break times and lunch times. What games could they play?

Being together

Reassure your children that everyone at school is getting used to the changes together. The adults need to remember what to do as well and that everyone works as a team to make sure everyone is happy and safe.

Talking

When your children come home talk to them about their day. What has been the best part of the day? What have you learned today? What are you looking forward to tomorrow?

Useful Numbers

Academy number: 01522 869 590

Child Line: 0800 1111

Young Carers Helpline: 01522 553 275

Samaritans: 01522 528 282

Family Services: 0800 195 1635

Women's Aid: 0808 2000 247

Remember to look at the Witham St Hughs Academy Facebook page for Ms Ford's mindfulness talks and sessions recorded over the last lock down.

These sessions are replicated at school when required by Ms Ford on an individual or small group basis.

Ms Ford and the pastoral team will be working hard to support those children who may need additional support in returning to school.

Who to contact?

Remember that we are always here to support you. Michelle Dexter, our Distinct Groups Leader, contacts many parents regularly to make sure everything is going well.

Her email address is michelle.dexter@withamsthughs.org

If you think that you need further support then do not hesitate to contact school on: 01522 869590 or enquiries@withamsthughs.org



Stay Safe