

## Headteacher Comments

Welcome to Witham News everyone and I am sure by now you are all back into the swing of the new school routines!

I would like to start by saying how impressed we all are with the children. The manner in which they all approach their learning continues to be excellent and as the term has progressed their thirst for new knowledge remains!

The new EYFS children have done so well and now seem really settled in school and are much more used to the school routines and expectations. Thank you to everyone who has helped support their children here as it is such an important step and the school is now the largest it has ever been!

Already this term it has been wonderful to be able to invite parents back into school through our various events. Whether it has been a parent meeting or attending the Friday Achiever's Assembly it really has been lovely to see everyone and let's hope that this continues.

Class teachers are all looking forward to meeting parents next week during the Parents' Evening on Tuesday and Thursday and if you have not yet booked a slot please do so.

At the beginning of term we launched our Enrichment Programme after school and we have been thrilled with the participation and the opportunities this is providing our children with. Over the course of a week we have over 50% of our children who are taking part in some enrichment! This is truly exceptional and thank you for all of your support.

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 last few weeks of term!

Kind regards,

Richard Stock



## Office Opening Hours

**Monday — Thursday**

8.15am—4.15pm

**Friday**

8.15am—4.00pm

## Clothing

With the cold weather returning here are a few reminders:

- Please name cold weather clothes like hats/scarves/gloves
- After half term, teachers will not be letting children outside to play unless they have a coat

Thank you



## **Health and Safety**

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

### **Public Health Information**

The way schools continue to manage children or members of staff who test positive is the same as it was in 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.

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](mailto: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

### **Self-isolation and remote learning**

If a child is required to self-isolate then the class teacher will upload some learning on either Seesaw or Tapestry. However, please remember that class teachers are committed throughout the daytime so they will not be able to respond to any queries during this time.

## **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

## **Lincoln Book Festival**

Lincoln Book Festival runs from 11th -17th October. There are two creative writing and storytelling sessions for children on Saturday 16th October at The Collection with the authors Lydia Sanders and Sophie Cleverly. Both sessions are free but tickets must be booked in advance. Please use this link to reserve your tickets:

<https://www.lincolnbookfestival.org/festival-programme/kids-corner-with-lydia-sanders-and-sophie-cleverly/>

## **SATS Week for Y6**

This will take place the week beginning **9th May and will run until 12th May 2021.**

It is vitally important that every child in Y6 attends during this week as the children will have worked so hard to impress everyone with their knowledge!



## MacMillan Coffee Event



Huge thanks to everyone who supported the MacMillan coffee event and we are delighted to inform you that we raised a staggering **£331.63**.

This is a sensational total and really shows the strength and support of our school community.

Thank you to everyone!

## 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:

### Education for Lifelong Learning

At Witham St Hughs Academy we value:

- Respect 
- Unity 
- Enjoyment 
- Ambition 
- Resilience 

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 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.

## Fidget toys

Recently, we have found that there are many children who are bringing fidget toys into school and 'trading' them with others.

Children **should not** be bringing toys into school so please remind your children that they should be left at home. Kids Club have the same policy and have said that they do not allow fidget toys either.

## Mobile classrooms

Recently, there have been a number of children who are running up the ramps near the mobile classrooms and swinging on the railings.

Please can you make sure that children do not do this in the mornings on drop off or at the end of the day because we are concerned that an accident might happen.

Thank you



## **Diary dates**

### **October 2021**

Week beginning 11th Oct      ***Parents' Evening week***

Thursday 21st Oct      ***Term one ends***

Friday 22nd Oct      ***Staff training***

### **November 2021**

Monday 1st Nov      ***Term two starts***

Friday 12th Nov      ***Children in Need***

Tuesday 16th Nov      ***EYFS Open Morning***

Thursday 25th Nov      ***EYFS Open Morning***

### **December 2021**

Wednesday 8th Dec      ***KS1 Christmas Play***

Friday 10th Dec      ***Christmas Jumper Day***

Friday 17th Dec      ***Term two ends at 2.00pm***



Welcome to the Witham Well-Being update. The children have settled incredibly well at school and have adapted to the new routines in such a positive way. As we move towards the end of the first term we want to ensure all children are feeling happy about being back at school and are comfortable within a new 'normal'.

## Supporting Anxiety in Children

- Write it down!

Remind the child that we all have worries from time to time and that is ok. Encourage the child to write these worries down and pop them in a jar or box to look at at a later time. What worries might they have at the moment?

- Draw it!

Encourage the child to draw a picture of their body and recognise when they are feeling worried or anxious. How does this make their body feel? Do they sweat, shake or blush?

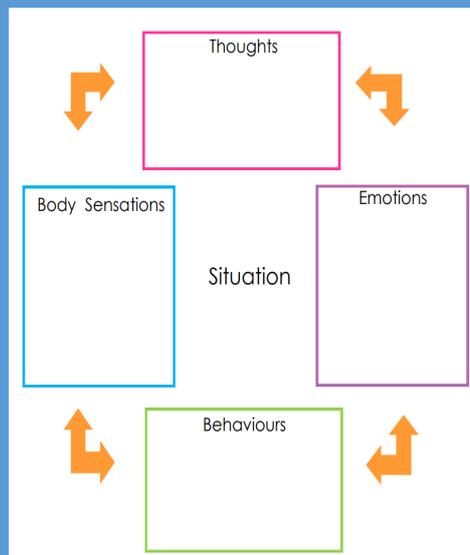
- Thoughts and feelings

Ask the child what they think when they are worried. Do they see things in a negative way? Say things like 'I can't do this'? What feelings do they have? Encourage the child to talk about these thoughts and feelings.

Use the flow chart to help them to order all the things that they have talked about above.

Worrying can affect how you think, how you feel, how you behave and the sensations you feel in your body.

Can you complete the areas on the chart for a scenario your child may have?



## 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

## Pastoral Support

Ms Ford and the pastoral team will continue to work hard to support those children who may need additional support.

Ms Ford has dedicated time at the start and end of each day to talk to children about how they are feeling.

These sessions will take place in the new nurture room at school and are led by Ms Ford on an individual or small group basis.

Please do let us know if your child needs support.

## Who to contact?

Remember that we are always here to support you and 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](mailto: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](mailto:enquiries@withamsthughs.org)



# Stay Safe