



### Headteacher Comments

Welcome to Witham News everyone and I hope that everyone had a great half term and that last week managed to celebrate Bonfire Night.

Once again, the children have returned from their half term break with so much enthusiasm and motivation and continue to impress all of our staff with their amazing thirst for new knowledge.

Last term really felt like school was much more ‘normal’ and it has been super to be able to meet parents face to face and be able to feel more of a sense of school community. We continue to review our Covid restrictions and risk assessments but hope to be able to allow the usual school events to continue to take place.

Many school visits have already taken place this term and these are so important for our curriculum offer. Already our Y5 children have visited The Collection and our Y3/4 children have been to Woodside Wildlife Park. We have also had various virtual workshops in school including an Anglian Water workshop for our Y6 children. Our EYFS also celebrated Diwali last week and our Y1 children have had their ‘Toys’ curriculum experience day—they looked amazing in their wonderful toy costumes! Our Y2 children visited the seaside last term as well.

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.

Kind regards,

Richard Stock

*Headteacher, Witham St Hughs Academy*



### 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
- This 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 remains the same as it was at the beginning of 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)

Other measures to consider include:

- If your child has COVID symptoms (a new cough, a temperature or loss of taste/smell) please keep them at home and arrange a PCR test
- If your child has a positive PCR test, please keep your child at home and follow the advice you are given
- If your child is identified as a contact (either by Test and Trace or through school), please arrange a PCR test- there is no need to isolate if they do not have symptoms, but you are advised to avoid people who are vulnerable
- However, if someone in your household has COVID we ask that you keep your child/children at home until they have had a PCR test result
- Please do not take your child to out of school activities during the time you are waiting for your PCR result
- Continued promotion of handwashing

## School Uniform

- Please remember to bring your coats into school now the weather is much colder.
- 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

## Parents' Evening

Just to say a massive thank you to everyone for attending our face to face Parents' Evening.

It was lovely to see you all in school once again and I hope that you found it useful.

If you do have any further questions and need to speak to the class teacher then please contact school.

Thank you as well to everyone who completed the parent questionnaire. Some highlights are below:

***My child is happy at this school – 100% agree or strongly agree***

***My child makes good progress at this school - 100% agree or strongly agree***

***My child is taught well at this school - 100% agree or strongly agree***

***I would recommend this school to another parent - 100% agree or strongly agree***

## SATS Week for Y6

This will take place the week beginning **9th May** and will run until **12th May 2022**.



## Children In Need



This takes place on Friday 19th November and is such a wonderful charity event. As always, our school will be supporting this event with a range of activities taking place.

Let's all work together to try and raise as much money as possible to support the young people and their families!

## 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 and you may have seen them around school.

Children consider these every day and we will continue promoting these throughout the academic year.

## One way system

Please be reminded that this is now working as usual following the felling of the tree to the rear of the school.

Please use the Warren Lane entrance like previously used unless you are dropping off a scooter and can then use the Market Lounge access. The intention is for a majority of people to still enter from Warren Road.

Please ensure that children walk sensibly around the rear of the school and they should not be playing and disappearing around the sheds and storage units.

Thank you

## Remembrance Day

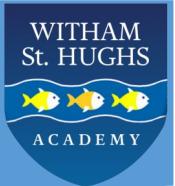
As you may have noticed on the field, the children and staff have been busy creating our Remembrance Day setting. It looks absolutely incredible and on Thursday the whole school paid their respects by having a short service outside, recognising the outstanding achievements of our servicemen and women.

Over 10% of our children and families are Forces children and it is so important that we show our understanding and support.

Thank you to everyone involved as the poppies and silhouette soldiers look stunning. Thank you as well to everyone who made a contribution towards the Royal British Legion.



# Witham Dates



## Diary dates

### **October 2021**

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

### **November 2021**

Monday 1st Nov	<b><i>Term Two starts</i></b>
<i>Week beginning 15th Nov</i>	<b><i>Anti-Bullying Week</i></b>
Tuesday 16th Nov	<b><i>EYFS Open Morning</i></b>
<i>Thursday 18th Nov</i>	<b><i>Forces Family Breakfast</i></b>
Friday 19th Nov	<b><i>Children in Need</i></b>
<i>Thursday 25th Nov</i>	<b><i>EYFS Open Morning</i></b>
<i>Tuesday 30th Nov</i>	<b><i>EYFS Christmas Singalong</i></b>

### **December 2021**

Thursday 2nd Dec	<b><i>EYFS Christmas Singalong</i></b>
<i>Tues 7th/Wed 8th Dec</i>	<b><i>The Big Little Nativity</i></b>
<i>Thurs 9th/Fri 10th Dec</i>	<b><i>The Big Little Nativity</i></b>
Friday 10th Dec	<b><i>Christmas Jumper Day</i></b>
Friday 17th Dec	<b><i>Term two ends at 2.00pm</i></b>



# Witham Well-Being



Welcome to the Witham Well-Being update. This month the children will find out more about Anti-Bullying week at school. The children will be having assemblies and lessons based around this and will learn different ways to express themselves and celebrate all the reasons why they are individual and special.

## Being me!

**Talk to your child about all the amazing features they have that make them special. This can include;**

- eye and hair colour
- skin colour
- their interests and hobbies
- their family
- things they find easy AND tricky to do

**Tell your child that nobody is the same as them and that is what makes them amazing! Ask them what they think they are amazing at!**



**Set your child a challenge to think of all the brilliant things that makes their family or friends unique. How could they tell these people? Write them a letter to tell them or give them a phone call to share something that is amazing about them.**

## 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)

## 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

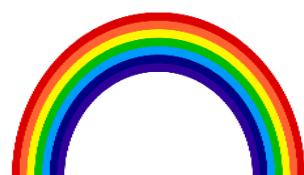
## Pastoral Support

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.



**Stay Safe**