



Witham St Hughs Academy  
A L.E.A.D. Academy

# Witham News

*Edition Five*  
7th January 2022



## Headteacher Comments

Happy New Year to everyone and I sincerely hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas with your friends and family.

I cannot believe we have finished the first week back already but you should all be so proud of your children because they have all started term so positively and with such big smiles on their faces! Yes, they might be tired but their amazing attitude to learning is really shining through.

Despite the new restrictions in schools due to Omicron, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you all for being so supportive and committed. We will continue to do everything that we can to ensure that your children still thrive and have access to an exciting curriculum. Fortunately our staffing levels remain strong and we really want to try and ensure everything remains as normal as possible. As always, if there are any changes necessary we will let you all know. Currently though, we anticipate all planned visits to go ahead and after school clubs will continue in their current format. All of these are so important as part of our curriculum offer and we will ensure they are achieved safely and will reduce risk as much as we can.

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. Look forward to seeing you all during the Spring term.

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
- Remind your children that they should be wearing coats even if they feel hot when running around

Thank you





## **Health and Safety**

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

### **Public Health Information**

The way we are currently managing the children and staff remains the same as it was at the end of last term.

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 please keep them at home and arrange a PCR test
- If your child has a positive LFT test, please keep your child at home and follow the advice you are given
- You may want to consider giving your children a LFT during the week as a way of ensuring your child is not asymptomatic and to help reduce the spread
- From 14 December 2021, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result. Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are: fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine, all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- If someone in your household has tested positive then your child can still come to school if the LFT is negative.
- The isolation period is now 7 days but this is based on having a negative LFT on day 6 and day 7. If this is the case then your child can return to school on day 8.
- Please do not take your child to out of school activities during the time you are waiting for your PCR result if they have symptoms
- Please can we ask that you provide evidence of your PCR test result as we need to log this with the DfE
- Continued promotion of handwashing
- Please ensure that your child has a jumper or cardigan to wear in school as the rooms are required to be regularly ventilated and may be colder than normal.



## Staffing

As we begin the Spring term, may we take the opportunity to update you with some staffing changes.

We are delighted that Mrs Fender will be moving into a cover teacher role from her previous role as a Year 2 teaching assistant. This role will be covering Mrs Vilkotis as she begins her maternity leave. Miss Crooks will be joining the Year 2 team as the new teaching assistant and will be working alongside Mrs Wallace.

Miss Edey will sadly be leaving the Academy at Easter and we all know that she will be missed. She is moving on to new pastures and I would like to take this opportunity to wish her the best of luck and thank her for such amazing commitment to our Academy.

We will keep you updated with regards to a new appointment once this has been made later this term.

## 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

## One way system

Please be reminded that this is still being used within 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 is to still enter from Warren Road.

Please also 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.

## Academy Values

Later this term, please look out for our special stickers for our KS1 children. These are being used to promote and celebrate our school values.

Children will be given a sticker to show the value that they have shown us and when they come home perhaps you could ask them what they have done to earn the sticker. I am sure they will love telling you!





## **Diary dates**

### ***January 2022***

Tuesday 4th January	<b><i>Term Three starts</i></b>
Thursday 27th January	<b><i>Y5 visit</i></b>
Friday 28th January	<b><i>Forces visit to Active Nation</i></b>

### ***February 2022***

Monday 7th to Wednesday 9th February	<b><i>Y2 at Rand Farm</i></b>
Friday 11th February	<b><i>Term Three ends</i></b>
Monday 21st February	<b><i>Term Four starts</i></b>

### ***March 2022***

Friday 18th March	<b><i>Red Nose Day</i></b>
Tuesday 22nd March	<b><i>Parents' Evening from 4.00pm—7.00pm</i></b>
Thursday 24th March	<b><i>Parents' Evening from 4.00pm—7.00pm</i></b>
Thursday 31st March	<b><i>Term Four ends at 2.00pm</i></b>



Welcome to the Witham Well-Being update. Happy New Year! As we start a new year it is a good time to think about ourselves and our own well-being. As adults, and children, it is important that we recognise time for ourselves is often needed and a time to reflect and focus on our own wants and needs.

## 5 steps to Well-Being

**There are many different ways to support your own well-being.**

**Below are just some ideas to support yourself and your children.**

- **CONNECT** - spend time with those around you. Plan days out and nights in to have quality conversations and experiences.
- **BE ACTIVE** - find an activity that the whole family can enjoy and make it part of your life.
- **KEEP LEARNING** - learn a new skill or take up a new hobby. Share what you have done with others and enjoy sharing your achievements.
- **GIVE TO OTHERS** - give a smile, a thank you or a kind word. Even small acts count and every interaction is an intervention.
- **BE MINDFUL** - practice mindfulness and relaxation techniques. These could be as simple as breathing exercises or some yoga.

Here is a useful website that the children use at school;

<https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga/videos>

## 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