



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

# Witham News

*Edition Four*  
9th December 2022



## **Headteacher Comments**

Welcome to our December newsletter and I am sure by now everyone is getting into the spirit of Christmas which is rapidly approaching!

As always, the children have been absolutely amazing this term and have all worked so hard. The quality of learning, especially their writing has been inspiring and it has been lovely to see the children take so much pride in their achievements. Already, we have many children in KS2 who have achieved their bronze citizenship badge for being brilliant and our KS1 children have been collecting lots of stickers.

As always, our teaching team have worked so hard to ensure that the curriculum is exciting and makes children want to learn and this has been supported by our range of visits, workshops and wow days.

A massive well done to our EYFS and KS1 children for their amazing nativity performances and we are delighted that this was shared with our parents. It has certainly been a busy term for everyone but most importantly it has been good to see so many parents come into school and support all of our events—thank you to everyone.

I would like to end by saying have a great Christmas everyone and enjoy your break and all good wishes for the New Year.

Enjoy the final week of term everyone!

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



## Lost Property

Just to say that on the final Friday of this term we will be putting all of the lost property out on the table near the entrance doors to school.

Please check this table if anything has been lost.

Can you also ensure that school clothing items are named because it makes it a lot easier to find out who it belongs to.

Thank you.

## Junk Modelling

In the New Year we are introducing a new range of lunchtime activities to provide the children with a range of activities to do during this time.

Within this, we are also introducing Play Leaders from Y6 who will be supporting a range of games outside, supported by Mr Medley.

One of the new areas and ideas is to have a junk modelling area so the children can explore this element of play. To help us with this though, we need your support!

Please could we ask you to collect clean, dry boxes and junk model materials over the Christmas holiday for the junk model lunchtime zone. If you can help then pop them in a black bin bag and bring this to the shed on the playground in the first three days back.

Your help is really appreciated, thank you!

## PTFA news



WITHAM ST HUGHS  
ACADEMY PTFA

## Christmas PJ Party

Just to say a massive thank you to our PTFA for organising the Christmas PJ Party this week. All of our children seemed to really enjoy the event and all came in a brilliant range of PJ's!

The PTFA have worked incredibly hard this term to introduce new events and thank you to everyone who has supported them this term.

## Community Council Christmas Quiz

Just a reminder that on Monday 12th December, our Community Council have organised a Christmas Quiz for everyone.

This takes place between 6.00pm—7.00pm and I am sure it will get everyone into the spirit of Christmas!

If you have booked tickets, we look forward to seeing you all.





## School Values

Just a reminder of our school values. These form the heart of our school ethos and we promote them each day.

Our KS1 children will be bringing stickers home if they show our values and our KS2 children earn citizenship points for showing them. So many children have managed to achieve so many values already, and truly deserved.

## Christmas Plays

The last two weeks have been absolutely amazing as we have been privileged to be able to watch the EYFS children perform their amazing Big Little Nativity and the KS1 children perform The Boogie Woogie Nativity.

We are all so proud of our children as they showed what great performers they are, celebrating Christmas with some brilliant singing and dancing and such clear speaking. The effort and commitment all of the children and the staff team showed has been truly exceptional.

Thank you to our parents as well for providing such wonderful costumes and for helping your children learnt their lines and songs. This really is appreciated and once again it was lovely that this would be shared with you all.

Thank you to everyone for attending and creating such a supportive atmosphere!

## Reminders

Please can you make sure that when children collect their bikes/scooters from the bike sheds they walk them out of school. As there are so many people leaving at the same time, it is important that this happens please.



## Y3 watches

As part of our continuous promotion of life skills within our Academy, we have now introduced analogue watches for our Y3 children.

This week, the children were presented with their new watch which have been engraved on the back with our school name as well.

Telling the time is such an important life skill and the watches have been introduced to help promote this even more.

The children were so excited and it has been great to see the children wearing them with pride this week.



## Christmas swap shop

As part of our swap shop initiative, please donate any unwanted Christmas nativity outfits ready for next year.

There will be a donation box on the playground near lost property so if you can donate any items this would be hugely appreciated.



## **Diary dates**

### ***December 2022***

*Monday 12th December*

***Christmas Lunch Day  
Christmas Party Week begins***

*Friday 16th December*

***Christmas Carols for KS2 from 1.15pm—1.45pm***

***Term two ends at 2.00pm***

### ***January 2023***

*Wednesday 4th January*

***Term three starts***

*Friday 10th February*

***Term three ends***

### ***February 2023***

*Monday 20th January*

***Term four starts***

*Friday 31st March*

***Term four ends***



Welcome to the Witham Well-Being update. As we approach a busy and exciting time of the year it is important to take some time to relax and enjoy the festivities ahead. At times it can become overwhelming when there are lots of busy places and changes to routine. Take time to relax, reflect and enjoy.

## Tips to help children manage their emotions, keep calm and relax.



## Progressive Muscle Relaxation

The idea of this technique is to intentionally tense each muscle, and then to release the tension. Practice with your feet first.

- \* Tense the muscles in your toes by curling them into your foot. Notice how it feels when your foot is tense. Hold the tension for 5 seconds.
- \* Release the tension from your toes. Let them relax. Notice how your fingers feel differently after you release the tension.
- \*Tense the muscles all throughout your calf. Hold it for 5 seconds. Notice how the feeling of tension in your leg feels.
- \*Release the tension from your calf, and notice how the feeling of relaxation differs. Follow this pattern of tensing and releasing tension all throughout your body.

## 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 continues to support those children who may need additional support. She has dedicated time during the school day to talk to children about their feelings.

These sessions take place in the nurture room on an individual or small group basis.

There are a range of groups which Ms Ford regularly leads including :

- \* Young Carers
- \* Bereavement
- \* Separated families
- \* Emotions and Feelings

Please do let us know if you would like more information about these groups or feel your child needs support.

