



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

Witham News

Edition Five
20th January 2023



Headteacher Comments

Welcome to our January newsletter and I hope that 2023 has started positively for everyone despite the cold weather more recently!

I have been so proud of our children and the manner in which they have all started this term as they have all been absolutely amazing and settled back into the routines so well. As always, the quality of their learning has been brilliant and especially the standard of their handwriting and presentation. Well done to everyone!

I would also like to welcome Mr Welham and Miss James to our teaching team who have joined Year 4 and Year 2 respectively. Everyone has made them feel very welcome already, so thank you!

This week, it has been super to be able to share our library space with our children and parents and celebrate the love of reading. Thank you to everyone who has been able to join us so far and we all look forward to this continuing next week. Reading is such an important skill and unlocks so many doors for all of our children.

As always, if you do have any questions then please come and speak to your class teacher or alternatively contact the school office.

All good wishes for the year ahead everyone and look forward to seeing you all soon.

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





School drop off and pick up

Starting after half term on Monday 20th February 2023, we will be closing the gates at 9.00am in the morning to ensure that lessons start promptly and we have maximum teaching time. Most children arrive at school by 8.55am and if possible please ensure that you arrive at this time.

If your child arrives after 9.10am they will be classed as being late as the registers will have been taken in the classroom by this time.

Please can you also ensure in the mornings and afternoons that unless you have a child in an EYFS class you **should not** be entering and leaving school via the EYFS gates. Instead, you should be using the main gates onto the playground. We have been finding that some of our children have become more overwhelmed by the number of people around them.

Thank you

Strike Action

We are aware that most people will be wondering how the vote to take strike action by one of the Teacher Unions is likely to affect our academy.

Teachers are currently receiving further information from their unions and schools are receiving guidance about the response.

At this point, we **do not** anticipate that we will need to change any provision in school significantly and **we will remain open**. The current expectation is that schools should do what they can to remain open and we are confident at this stage that we will not need to close for any year groups.

If you do have any questions about this then please do let us know.

End of the school day

Please ensure that when your child leaves the school site they remain with yourselves if you do pick them up.

They **should not be** running off and **should not** be running around the back of the containers near the rear hall doors.

As always, your support with ensuring children leave school sensibly is greatly appreciated.

Mobile Phones

We are in the process of reviewing our mobile phone expectations in school for our children but in the meantime here are some reminders.

- Only Y5/6 children should be bringing mobile phones to school
- Only bring a mobile phone to school if you are walking to and from school
- All mobile phones should be given to the teacher at the beginning of the day
- When entering and leaving the school premises mobile phones should be kept in your school bag
- If you have an after school club, mobile phones should be collected from your teacher before the club and then kept in your bag at all times

Absence

The procedure for reporting pupil absence is as follows:

- Contact the school office via email or phone call
- No pupil absence should be reported via Seesaw or Tapestry



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.

Uniform

Please be reminded that children should only be wearing sensible head wear and accessories for school. Correct colour choices include blue, black, cream or white.

Children should also only be wearing black school shoes. Trainers are not part of school uniform. Smart watches are also not part of school uniform.

However, as always, if you do have questions about this then please let us know.

Term time holidays

Please be reminded that currently our attendance policy states that if holidays are taken during school time then potentially parents will receive a Fixed Penalty Notice via the Local Authority.

The exact figure for this is if the school attendance over a period of six weeks falls below 85%. This equates to taking at least 5 continuous school days or more on holiday.

However, if you feel that there are exceptional reasons why holidays should be taken in school time then please do come into school and have a conversation about this. This should be before you are due to take the holiday.



Y3 watches

As part of our continuous promotion of life skills within our Academy, our Y3 children all have watches.

As this is part of school uniform, can you please ensure that your child wears this to school at all times. The children look so smart when they wear them and they are used in lessons during the day.

Telling the time is such an important life skill and the watches have been introduced to help promote this even more. Already the children have responded so well to wearing them—thank you everyone!



Fidget toys

Recently, we have seen an increase in some fidget toys being used in school by the children.

Please be reminded that children who require fidget toys to support with accessing the school curriculum will be given fidget toys by ourselves. Of course, you are welcome to have conversations with the class teacher about this if you feel that it is appropriate.

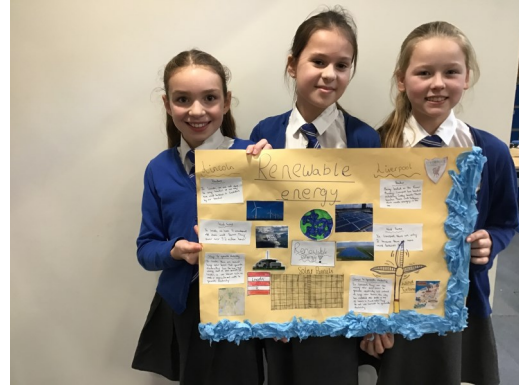


Geography Day

We would like to update you on the recent Geography Day that took place in our school. The theme of the day was a comparison of two cities: Lincoln and Liverpool.

The children had a great time learning about the history, culture and landmarks of both cities, as well as their differences and similarities. Each year group had their own focus, ranging from comparing populations, economic activities, and renewable energy systems. Students engaged in various activities such as map reading, research and group discussions to enhance their understanding.

Geography Day was a great success and we are very proud of the children's hard work and engagement, they produced some outstanding pieces of work to capture their learning.





Diary dates

February 2023

Monday 6th February	Y6 Experience Day Mental Health Week Maths in Action Week
Wednesday 8th February	Y6 PGL meeting at 5.15pm
Friday 10th February	Term three ends
Monday 20th February	Term four starts
Thursday 23rd February	Y5 swimming lessons begin

March 2023

Thursday 2nd March	World Book Day
Monday 6th March - Friday 10th March	Y6 PGL
Tuesday 21st March Thursday 23rd March	Parents' Evening between 4.00pm—7.00pm
Friday 31st March	Term four ends at 2:00pm

April 2023

Tuesday 18th April	Term five starts
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May 2023

Monday 1st May	Bank Holiday
Monday 8th May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 9th May - Friday 12th May	Y6 SATS week
Friday 26th May	Term five ends



Welcome to the Witham Well-Being update. As we start a new year many of us make new year resolutions and think of things we would like to change, improve or try. At school one of our values is RESILIENCE. The children are amazing at trying new things and practising new skills and could maybe try something new at home.



Whilst trying something new there are many different ways to support our 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 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.

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

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

