



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

Witham News

Edition Six
10th February 2023



Headteacher Comments

Welcome to our February newsletter and I hope that you are all keeping well.

All of our children have certainly had an action packed term and have all been working incredibly hard. The progress our children have made in Maths especially has been amazing and the Year 1 children have astounded us all with their knowledge of shapes!

The Y6 children have been immersed in their Victorian topic and had a brilliant day dressed as Victorians this week. Many children across school have also been developing their dance skills with Mr Medley.

As a school, we continue to develop both music and sport. We now have fifty children singing in the fantastic school choir and over 60 children took part in the recent cross-country trials. Our netball team recently played their first match against The Meadows and were amazing! Our commitment to these subjects continues to grow and we are excited about the impact this is having. Next term, we are also have some children playing in bands at lunchtime—so watch this space for the next break through artist!

Thank you as well to everyone who has attended the Maths in Action sessions—they have been so well attended and your engagement is really appreciated.

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

Have a great half term everyone and look forward to seeing you all in term 4!

Kind regards,

Richard Stock

Headteacher, Witham St Hughs Academy

Office Opening Hours

Monday — Thursday

8.15am—4.15pm

Friday

8.15am—4.00pm

Y3/4 Production Dates

Monday 27th March at 2.00pm
Y3 parents invited

Monday 27th March at 6.00pm
Y3/4 parents invited

Tuesday 28th March at 2.00pm
Y4 parents invited

More details regarding tickets and costumes will follow after half term.

Thank you.





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.

After school, the collection window is also reducing very slightly and the children should be collected between 3.25pm—3.35pm.

If you have any questions about this then please do contact the school office.

Thank you.

School gates

Starting after half term on Monday 20th February 2023, you will all be entering the playground via the main large playground gates.

The EYFS gates will not be open from this point as we have been finding that some of our children have become more overwhelmed by the number of people around them.

We also hope that this will make it easier for the EYFS teaching team and children in the mornings and afternoons.

Thank you.

Healthy Snacks

All children in reception and KS1 receive a piece of fruit each day.

All children are welcome to bring a healthy snack of their own to eat at playtime. We have noticed a variety of snacks being brought in and not all of these meet our Healthy Schools policy.

To support the messaging at school around healthy eating, snacks being brought in should be healthy for example:

- A piece of fruit or vegetable such as: box of raisins, apple, orange, cucumber sticks, carrot sticks, pear, banana, grapes (these must be cut lengthwise), pear
- Yoghurt (Frube)
- Cereal bar (not containing chocolate)
- Fruit rolls
- Mini malt loaf or fruit bake bar
- Fruit flakes
 - Veggie Straws
 - Bread sticks
- Fruit smoothie

This list is not exhaustive however should be used as a guide when choosing break time snacks. Staff will monitor snacks being taken out to break time to ensure they follow our Healthy Schools policy.

Please also note:

- Due to allergies in school, please do not bring anything **containing nuts**
- **No** chocolate or energy drinks
- Only water in drinks bottles (**no** squash)



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.

Your School Uniform

Due to rising costs, there will be a slight increase to some items of school uniform via yourschooluniform.com.

Orders placed after 15th February will reflect the increases. Thank you.

Y5 music assembly

As part of our music offer, we would like to update you on the recent music assembly that children from Miss James' class took part in, and also thank the parents who came to see the children perform.



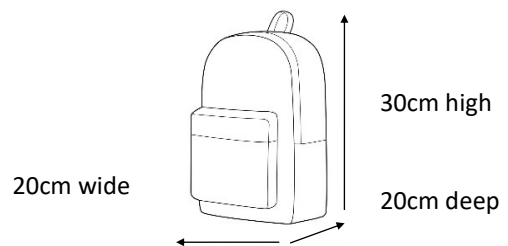
The children have been practising P-bones and trumpets in preparation for their performance since September, and it has been amazing to see the progress they have made with performing.

The assembly was a great success and we are so proud of the children for the hard-work and dedication they have put into practising their musical instruments. They played songs which included 'We Will Rock You' and 'Cheesy Feet'!



Bag Sizes

Please be reminded that when children bring their small backpack into school it is no larger than the dimensions below.



We are still trying to make sure that school lockers are not getting damaged and children are safe when using them. Thank you.





Diary dates

February 2023

<i>Monday 20th February</i>	<i>Term four starts</i>
<i>Thursday 23rd February</i>	<i>Y5 swimming begins</i>
<i>Friday 24th February</i>	<i>Forces STEM workshop</i>

March 2023

<i>Wednesday 1st March</i>	<i>Hobgoblin Theatre group visiting KS1 and KS2</i>
<i>Thursday 2nd March</i>	<i>World Book Day</i>
<i>Friday 3rd March</i>	<i>Y3 Stone Age Workshop</i>
<i>Monday 6th March</i>	<i>Y6 PGL week</i>
<i>Thursday 16th March</i>	<i>Y1 Castle Visit</i>
<i>Friday 17th March</i>	<i>Red Nose Day</i>
<i>Tuesday 21st March</i> <i>Thursday 23rd March</i>	<i>Parents' Evening between 4.00pm—7.00pm</i>
<i>Monday 27th March</i> <i>Tuesday 28th March</i>	<i>Y3/4 Production</i>
<i>Friday 31st March</i>	<i>Term four ends at 2.00pm</i>

April 2023

<i>Tuesday 18th April</i>	<i>Term five starts</i>
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May 2023

<i>Monday 1st May</i>	<i>Bank Holiday</i>
<i>Monday 8th May</i>	<i>Bank Holiday</i>
<i>Tuesday 9th May -</i> <i>Friday 12th May</i>	<i>Y6 SATS week begins</i>
<i>Monday 16th May</i>	<i>Y2 SATS week begins</i>
<i>Friday 26th May</i>	<i>Term five ends</i>



Welcome to the Witham Well-Being update. This week the children have completed a range of activities as part of Mental Health Week. During the week the children spent time discussing ways to be positive, learning relaxation techniques and taking part in a range of mindfulness sessions, including time in the sensory room with Ms Ford.

POSITIVITY

Here are some of the positivity activities the children completed that could be completed as a family.

Word Cloud



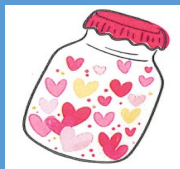
As a family say as many positive words as possible about each family member. Make a family word cloud using word art. This could be put on the fridge as a reminder.

Coat of Arms



As a family make a Coat of Arms about all the strengths and positive qualities they have. Add words, pictures and symbols to personalise the shield for the family. Hang the Coat of Arms for all visitors to see.

Positivity Jar



Decorate a jar to represent your family. Ask every family member to write supportive, positive words or phrases. Fold these pieces of paper and pop them in the jar. Pull out a phrase each day or when needed.

Compliment letters



Give each family member an envelope and some paper. Write their name on the front. Pass the envelopes around the table/room and write a positive word about each person and put in the envelope. Open the envelope and read the words at the end.

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.

Attendance

Part of Mrs Dexter's role is continuing to monitor attendance at the Academy. She will regularly contact families where children's attendance has dropped below 90% with a welfare check and to offer support if required.



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

