



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

Witham News

Edition Ten
30th June 2023



Headteacher Comments

Welcome to our June newsletter and I am sure that you have all been enjoying the great weather recently!

Well, it has certainly been a busy term so far, full of some wonderful experiences for all of our children. As always, across the school the quality of the work continues to be impressive and it has been brilliant this term to see children's understanding of writing really come together. We certainly have some future authors in our building!

Already this term our curriculum opportunities have included: some musicians playing with The Halle Orchestra in Nottingham, the exciting EuroWitham singing competition, continued exploration of the wildlife area, French tasting experiences, celebration of World Music Day which included a musical concert and djembe drumming workshops, as well as visits to Lincoln Castle and Hill Holt Wood. Our Y5 children have also taken part in Bikeability and Y3 have attended a mini-Olympics. Our Y5/6 children have also been busy practicing for their end of year production of 'SuperStan'!

All of our curriculum activities are often shared on our Facebook page so if you have not done so already, please do take a look and see the range of opportunities that have taken place in school this term.

As always, thank you for your support this term and we look forward to seeing you attending some of our events later this term.

If you do have any questions then please come and speak to your class teacher or alternatively 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

Parking outside

It has been brought to our attention that we have parents parking on the double yellow lines outside school in the car-park.

Whilst we appreciate there are limited spaces outside, it is vitally important that we still do everything that we can to ensure children can cross the various points safely. This is made more difficult when cars are parked outside of the spaces.

We would appreciate your support with this.

Thank you.



Staffing Updates



We are delighted to inform you of some further staffing changes that will be taking place from September 2023.

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to our amazing 1:1 in Y6, Miss Lydia Coney. She is continuing her studies and we wish her all of the best.

We also welcome Mrs Nicola Hall to the team and she will be working in Y2 as a teaching assistant from September 2023.

Miss Lucy Naphine is also getting married in the summer and when she returns she will be called Mrs Lucy Tyrrell. We all hope that she has an amazing wedding in the summer!

Mrs Hannah Alder and Mrs Sophie Dixon are also returning from their maternity leave and will be working with the Y1 team.

WhatsApp



In Y5 and Y6, we have noticed that staff are spending an increasing amount of time being made aware of some conversations that are taking place on group chats, including WhatsApp.

Whilst we appreciate that many children do use groups chats to communicate, please can you remind your children of what is appropriate and not appropriate. Within school, we actively promote the importance of being safe on-line as part of our curriculum so messaging from home will only support this further.

Our website provides further details about being safe on-line. Follow the link below and head to the bottom of the page.

<https://withamsthughssacademy.co.uk/safeguarding/>

Transition

As we approach the end of this academic year, we recognise the importance of making sure that our transition arrangements support our children with the various changes.

Transition is such an important process and this term we have already started this for some children. If you do have any concerns about this then please do contact us as soon as possible.

Our 'Stay and Play' sessions started this week for our new Reception children who were brilliant! Over the next few weeks our secondary school children are visiting their new secondary schools.

Important Dates for 2023/2024

Y6 SATS week:

Week beginning 13th May 2024

Y2 SATS week:

Week beginning 6th May 2024

Y4 multiplication check:

Week beginning 10th June 2024

Y1 phonics screening week:

Week beginning 10th June 2024

Please avoid booking any holidays during the above times to ensure that your child is able to access the relevant assessments at this time.



School Values

Just a reminder of our school values.

These form the heart of our school ethos and we promote them each day.



It has been brilliant this term to see so many children start to receive their gold citizenship badges and I know they all wear their badges with pride. Well done everyone!

PTFA updates



The PTFA would like to thank everyone who supported the disco's on the 19th June. Lots of fun was had by all of the children.

We would like to invite you all to join us for a **family picnic** on the school field from **3.30pm on Friday 7th July**. Please bring your own blankets and picnic and celebrate your children's reports with them. The PTFA will be selling cold drinks and there will be an ice cream van too. We hope to see you there.

Ice pops will be on sale for 20p each on Fridays after school until the end of term (except on Friday 7th July).

We are always looking for new PTFA members and will be holding an open evening in September for anyone who would like more information.

The date will be confirmed after the summer holidays.

Email - wshptfa@gmail.com

Facebook

As you are all aware, we use our Facebook pages as a great way of sharing the excellent things which take place in school every week.

It has been brought to our attention that parents also use Facebook to communicate and share their views. Whilst this is absolutely reasonable, what we do not expect to see or hear about are comments being posted which potentially cause harm and may damage the reputation of our Academy or staff.

If you do have any concerns or comments please do come and speak to us.

Parent Conduct

Please be reminded of the importance of ensuring that the correct conduct is followed and shown when entering the school premises and when speaking to staff directly or via email.

Our teaching team all work relentlessly in the interests of supporting all of our children and they expect to be spoken to in a civilised way.

Whilst we appreciate there may be occasions when you need to share how you are feeling, it is still important to show good conduct and if appropriate arrange a meeting to speak to staff members.

The well-being of our staff is so important in the interests of your children and their education. All staff will happily discuss any of the concerns that you may have.

Thank you



Diary dates

July 2023

<i>Monday 3rd July</i>	<i>Y5/6 Sports Day</i>
<i>Tuesday 4th July</i>	<i>EYFS/Y1/Y2 Sports Day</i>
<i>Wednesday 5th July</i>	<i>Y3/4 Sports Day</i>
<i>Wednesday 12th July</i>	<i>Transition afternoon</i>
<i>Friday 14th July</i>	<i>Y1 seaside trip</i>
<i>Monday 17th July</i>	<i>Y5/6 production at 2.00pm and 6.30pm</i>
<i>Tuesday 18th July</i>	<i>Y5/6 production at 2.00pm and 6.30pm</i>
<i>Friday 21st July</i>	<i>Y6 Leavers' Service at 1.15pm</i> <i>Term six ends at 2.00pm</i>

September 2023

<i>Monday 4th September</i>	<i>Staff training days</i>
<i>Tuesday 5th September</i>	
<i>Wednesday 6th September</i>	<i>Term one starts</i>



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Witham Well-Being



Welcome to the Witham Well-Being update. As we start to approach the final weeks of the summer term we are all starting to thinking about transition and the importance of this for children and their families.



HEALTHY MINDS TRANSITION DROP IN SESSION

Healthy Minds Lincolnshire are running another drop-in session for parents and carers on **Wednesday 12th July from 2.00pm** in the school library. Members of the Healthy Minds team will be available to talk to, alongside Mrs Dexter and the school team, and will bring a range of resources and information to share regarding transition and ways to support your child.

The session will provide strategies and tools that parents and carers can use within the home to support their child to develop positive emotional wellbeing and to answer any questions that you may have about transition and the feelings linked to this. It is also an opportunity to talk together as parents and carers.

Refreshments will be available. We look forward to seeing you.

Please visit the Healthy Minds website for further support and advice.

<https://www.lpft.nhs.uk/young-people/lincolnshire/parents-and-carers>

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.

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

Useful Numbers

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

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.