



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

Witham News

Edition Eleven

20th July 2023



Headteacher Comments

Welcome to our final newsletter of the year and I hope that you are all looking forward to the summer.

As the summer break rapidly approaches, I feel that we should all look back, take a breath and realise what an amazing year of learning has taken place. Once again all of our children have really strived to be the best version of themselves and have always done their very best to succeed and overcome any challenges that they faced.

This does not happen in isolation and as part of their journey your involvement along the way has been key. Your support, guidance and encouragement is so important and thank you all so much for ensuring all of our partnerships remain strong.

Then we have our staffing team. What can I say? They are quite simply the best team and an incredible group of people who work relentlessly every single day to ensure that all of our children thrive and achieve their potential. I really cannot thank them enough and everyone always goes above and beyond what is expected. They care so much about our school and your children.

As always, thank you for your support this year and we look forward to seeing you all in the Autumn term.

Enjoy the summer break everyone!

Kind regards,

Richard Stock

Headteacher, Witham St Hughs Academy

Autumn term 2023

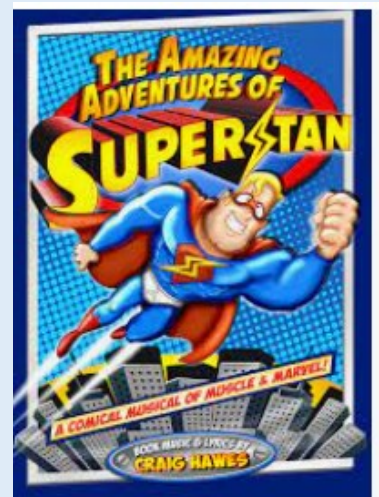
Just a reminder that the children return back to school on **Wednesday 6th September 2023**.

The gates will open as usual at 8.50am and will close by 9.00am.

Cancer Research UK

Thank you to everyone who supported our brilliant performance of SUPERSTAN and I am delighted to say that we managed to raise over **£200** for the Cancer Research charity.

Thank you so much for supporting this great cause as well as for supporting our Y5/6 performance.





Staffing Updates

We are delighted to inform you that Mrs Younger is expecting her first child at the end of the Autumn term 2023.



As you can imagine, she is extremely excited and we expect that she will be in school until December 2023.

We would like to wish Mrs Younger and her family all the best and will of course keep you updated with any further updates.

Sadly, we also say goodbye to the amazing Mrs Matson who has been working in Y2. She has been absolutely brilliant and will be missed. She is starting a new adventure so we wish her all of the best.

Sporting Updates

We are delighted to share that we have been awarded the Gold Mark for Schools Games this year.

During the year, we have really worked hard on developing sport across the Academy and we are therefore extremely pleased that this has been recognised.



The impact Mr Medley and his team have had has been amazing this year and we look forward to more sporting success next year!

Transition Support

As we approach the end of the year and following the Healthy Minds workshop for parents last week, we will be sending out some further transition information.

In your emails, please look out for some extremely useful Healthy Minds information on transition which will be with you before the end of term.

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.

Pupil outcomes for 2023

Just to say a massive well done to all of our children for working so hard throughout the year and for achieving some excellent results in their end of year assessments.

We would also like to thank all of our parents for supporting and offering amazing guidance and encouragement along the way.

Thank you so much everyone!



Y6

On Friday we say an extremely fond farewell to our Y6 children—the class of 2022/2023. Throughout the year they have been a real credit to themselves and we are so proud of each and every one of them.



The final performance of SUPERSTAN really showed what an amazing group of children they are and we have no doubt that they will be extremely successful in their next chapter of their education journey.

We wish all of them good luck!

PTFA updates

The PTFA would like to thank everyone who supported the family picnic on Friday 7th July. Lots of fun was had by all of the children and parents.



We are always looking for new 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

First News

We are pleased to inform you that we have 2 months free online access to First News over the summer.



The instructions on how to access these will be sent out in a separate email.

Thank you.

Facebook

We regularly use our Academy Facebook page to provide families with a snapshot of the wonderful things that happen each and every day across our Academy.

As you will understand, teacher's main priority is teaching high quality lessons for your children, and taking photographs where appropriate is an added extra.

We will not guarantee every pupil is always photographed during lessons, events or trips and the photographs that are shared on Facebook are just a small selection of those taken.

There are many reasons why not all photographs taken are shared, including the fact that not all of our pupils have permission to have their photograph shared on this platform. We ask that parent/carer comments on Facebook posts remain positive and respectful.

Please take a look at our Facebook pages to look back on the year as there really have been some great achievements!

Wildlife Area

As part of continuing to develop the wildlife area, over the holidays the outdoors team would like to create some raised beds.

If anyone has any spare **pallet collars** that they could donate to us this would be really appreciated.

Please let the office know if you can.

Thank you



Diary dates

July 2023

Friday 21st July ***Y6 Leavers' Service at 1.15pm***
Term six ends at 2.00pm

September 2023

Monday 4th September ***Staff training day***

Tuesday 5th September ***Staff training day***

Wednesday 6th September ***Term one starts***

October 2023

Friday 20th October ***Term one ends***

October 2023

Monday 30th October ***Term two starts***

December 2023

Tuesday 19th December ***Term two ends***

We are now approaching the final week of our academic year and the children will be experiencing a busy time with transition arrangements. They will be getting ready to meet new staff and work in new environments with a new group of peers. We understand this can be daunting so please continue to talk to your children about a positive start to September.

Change

Changes are inevitable, but that doesn't make them any easier for children (or adults) to manage. Structure and stability feel safe for children. As we face changes, we develop the skills of resilience.

Here are some key points to support children during transition;

* Listen

While you'll want to focus on the positives associated with change, also take time to address your child's questions and concerns. Help them work through the emotions that they're feeling. Often, children simply want empathy and understanding. Acknowledge and validate their feelings without being too quick to distract them or shield them from their emotions.

* Talk About Other Changes

Discuss or even sketch your child's life path so far. What changes have already happened? What did your child learn from each experience? How did they get through it, and what coping skills have they learned? Discuss the idea that every time your child experiences a change, they're stronger and more prepared for the next one. By now, these changes are probably a normal part of life that no longer feels scary or overwhelming. Discussing the changes that are now in the past can help put the current situation in perspective.

* Looking forward

Write a list of all the exciting things that your child is looking forward to. What are the new challenges and how might they work on these?

With the summer holidays coming the website below have put together a list of great apps for children of all ages to get them motivated to go outside and enjoy the weather!

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide/apps-to-help-kids-get-active/>

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

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

Academy number: 01522 869 590

Child Line: 0800 1111

Young Carers Helpline: 01522 553 275

Samaritans: 01522 528 282

Family Services: 0800 195 1635

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 95% with a welfare check and to offer support if required.