



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

Witham News

Edition One

15th September 2023



Headteacher Comments

Welcome to the Autumn term everyone and I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer break and managed to have some quality family time.

Your children have made us all so proud since the beginning of term because they have returned to school so well, showing amazing attitudes and brilliant positivity. Thank you to everyone for supporting them at the start of term! A special mention as well to our new children who have joined us this year including our new EYFS children—you have all been absolutely fantastic and we are delighted that you have joined our Academy!

The term ahead certainly looks exciting and we cannot wait until next week when our enrichment activities begin. There is such a great variety of opportunities here and we are delighted with how many children are taking part. This year, we will continue to develop all aspects of our curriculum and once again we will be providing some great experiences for our children. This term our Y6 children will be taking part in the PGL residential and as part of their Rainforest topic, the Y3 children will be visiting Woodside Wildlife Park. Many other activities are planned as well.

We will also be continuing to build our sporting offer and this term we will be entering various leagues for football and netball. Please follow our Facebook pages to see what other exciting things are happening in our Academy!

As always, thank you for your continued support and if you do have any questions or queries then please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Enjoy the next few weeks 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

Enrichment offer

Please be reminded that our enrichment offer starts on Monday 18th September.

We have worked so hard on ensuring that we have a variety of clubs on offer and this year we have more clubs than ever before.

Thank you to everyone who is supporting this offer.





Welcome meetings

In order for teaching staff to share some key messages at the beginning of the year, we have held some parent meetings this week.

A massive thank you to everyone who attended and we hope that you found them useful. The information shared will also be sent out to all parents.

Care Plans

Keeping your child safe and well whilst in school is our utmost priority.

To ensure that your child is safe, and that we fully understand the nature of any medical needs they may have, we implement 'care plans' for some children. These may be in place for a range of reasons including medical diagnosis that impact on school life, allergies or where medication is required to be taken within the school day. This is not an exhaustive list, and care plans may be needed for many other circumstances.

If you feel your child may need a care plan, please contact the school office by either popping in, calling on 01522 869590 or emailing enquiries@withamsthughs.org

We will then ensure that the paperwork is provided to create a bespoke care plan for your child.

Use of technology

Please look out for some further information on the use of technology for children. This will be sent out shortly and if you have any questions about this then let us know.



Staffing news

We are delighted to inform you that Mrs Broadley is expecting her first child during the Spring term.

As you can imagine, she is extremely excited and we expect that she will be in school until February 2024. We would like to wish Mrs Broadley and her family all the best and will of course keep you updated with any further information.

School Uniform

- Please make sure that all items of school uniform are clearly labelled in case belongings are misplaced.
- Children should not be wearing nail varnish
- Children should not have their hair dyed
- Children should be wearing black school shoes
- Bags must be able to fit into the school lockers.
- All uniform should be clearly labelled in case it is mislaid or goes missing

Remember that we also have our uniform rail inside the main entrance to school so if you do need any uniform feel free to come and have a look.

Y3 & Y4 watches

We are excited to share that once again, the Academy will be providing all Year 3 pupils with their own analogue watch to wear as part of their school uniform each day. Knowing how to tell the time on an analogue clock is a vital life-skill, and something increasingly lost in a digital world.

Witham St Hughs Academy have worked in partnership with Tickers, who have helped part-fund these watches for pupils. Parents are not being asked for any contribution towards the purchase of this.

Like our Y6 ties, these watches are an expected part of the Year 3 school uniform and should be worn each day.

Our current Year 4 pupils were provided with their watches last year, and again, are expected to wear these as part of their school uniform each day.



MacMillan Coffee Event



Come and help us raise money for such an important charity after school on Friday 29th September 2023 between 3.30pm—4.15pm.

A letter will be going out soon but if anyone would like to donate on line, the link for our just giving page is:

<https://macmillan-email.org.uk/O9G-87SQ7-CKSZIO-56F17P-1/c.aspx>

Beginning and end of the school day

The arrangements for the beginning and end of the day remain the same as were in place in the summer term.

The gates will open at 8.50am in the morning and at 3.25pm in the afternoon. The one-way system is still in place so where possible it would be appreciated if this could still be used

In the mornings, please ensure that all children up to Year 4 are accompanied to the classroom doors and not encouraged to run ahead or away from parents.

In the afternoon, the expectation is the same as the morning. Children should not be allowed to run off.

Thank you.

Nut free school

This is a reminder to everyone that we are a nut free school.

This means that our children cannot bring any items which contain nuts into school.

Class teacher conversations

We are very aware that having the opportunity to meet the new class teacher is not always easy.

If you would like to arrange to speak to the class teacher then please arrange an appointment via the school office.

You are welcome to have brief conversations on drop off or pick up but if you require a good length of time then please follow the process above.

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 KS1 children earn citizenship points for showing them.



PTFA

The PTFA will continue to sell ice pops, sweets and drinks after school on Fridays.



At the end of the Summer Term The PTFA donated money to the Academy to buy leavers gifts for the Year 6 children and book bags and water bottles for the new reception children.

We will shortly be sending out a new letter details of how to register on PTA events, this is the website you will use to book places on our future events. We will also be holding a drop in session for all those who would like to know more about us, details will be in the newsletter.



Diary dates

September 2023

Monday 4th September	<i>Staff training</i>
Tuesday 5th September	<i>Staff training</i>
Wednesday 6th September	<i>Term one commences</i>
Thursday 21st September	<i>School photographs</i>
Monday 25th September/ Tuesday 26th September	<i>Y3 visit to Woodside Wildlife Park</i>
Thursday 28th Sept	<i>Y6 Snipedales visit</i>
Friday 29th September	<i>MacMillan coffee afternoon</i>

October 2023

Wednesday 11th October - Friday 13th October	<i>Y6 visit to PGL</i>
Monday 16th October	<i>Challenge Week</i>
Tuesday 17th October	<i>Parents' evening</i>
Thursday 19th October	<i>Parents' evening</i>
Friday 20th October	<i>Term one ends at 3.25pm</i>

November 2023

Monday 30th October	<i>Term two starts</i>
Friday 10th November	<i>Remembrance service</i>
Monday 13th November	<i>Anti-bullying week</i>
Friday 17th November	<i>Children in Need</i>

Welcome back! It is lovely to see all the children back smiling and feeling positive. As they start a new academic year there are many changes they will encounter and differences to the routines they were used to before. To support the children in school we are talking about the new routines they will follow every day and ways to help them to remember.

At the start of any new school year the children can feel a little uncertain. They have a new teacher, new friends and a new classroom. Here are some key points to support children on their return to school;

Be positive

Talk about all the things that the children do at school each day. Who will they see? What will they do?

Have a routine

Make a visual routine to remind children what they need to do each morning before going to school. What do they need to wear? What do they need to take with them?

Ask questions

Encourage your children to ask staff any questions they have about the changes at school. Remind them who could help them if they are unsure of something or have any worries during the day.

Friendships

Support your children to make new friends in their classroom and at break times and lunch times. What games could they play?

Being together

Reassure your children that everyone at school is getting used to the new school year. The adults need to remember what to do as well and that everyone works as a team to make sure everyone is happy and safe.

Talking

When your children come home talk to them about their day. What has been the best part of the day? What have you learned today? What are you looking forward to tomorrow?

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 if you feel your child needs support.

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

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

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.