

Head teacher Comments



Welcome to our December newsletter and I am sure that everyone is getting excited as we countdown to Christmas!

As always, the children have been quite simply brilliant this term and should all look back and be proud of everything that they have achieved. The quality of learning has been exceptional and it has been lovely to see the children take so much pride in their achievements.

I have had the privilege of seeing so many children this term with fantastic learning that I have nearly run out of gold Head teacher stickers—hopefully I will get some more for Christmas!

Our curriculum has been full of action this term and with such a variety of workshops, author visits, school trips and wow days, the children have really had some great opportunities and new experiences.

In school, Christmas is such a magical time of year. **A massive well done to our EYFS and KS1 children and staff teams** for their amazing Christmas performances and thank you to all of our parents for showing such great support. Watching children so young perform in front of so many people at Christmas really is a wonderful part of my job and they were truly amazing and so talented—real ‘superstars!’

I would like to end by saying thank you for showing such excellent support this term. Have a great Christmas everyone, enjoy and cherish your family time and all good wishes for the New Year.

Enjoy the final few days of term and see you all in 2024!

Kind regards,

Richard Stock

Headteacher, Witham St Hughs Academy



Office Opening Hours

Monday — Thursday

8.15am—4.15pm

Friday

8.15am—4.00pm

Facebook

As always, please remember to follow all of our brilliant and varied curriculum activities and find out what your children have been doing on our Facebook page.

It really has been an action packed term so look back and see some of the highlights!



www.withamsthughscademy.co.uk

EYFS Open Morning



Tuesday
9th January 2024
at 9.30am

If your child is due to start school in September 2024 then please do come and visit us!



Helper and job roles for EYFS

Next term, our EYFS children are finding out about 'People who Help Us' as part of their curriculum.

If anyone is able to come to speak to the children about their job roles and how you might help this would be amazing.

There is no specific date and time yet but if this is something where you feel able to support us then please do let the office know and we can give you some more information.

Attendance

As part of our ambition to ensure that all of our children know the importance of attending school we have been looking at our attendance protocols and systems across our Academy.

We will be continuing to ask parents for evidence of appointments that are during school time. The evidence can be in the form of a letter, text message, screenshot for example, and then emailed to our enquiries email address:

enquiries@withamsthughs.org

Thank you for your support with this.

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.

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.

Enrichment Clubs



As you are aware, we have a fantastic offer of enrichment which take place after school.

Please can we remind parents that when children are being collected from the outside doors that this should not be an opportunity to come into classrooms and look for lost shoes and books bags etc, especially as the staff running the clubs are not necessarily the staff who manage the classrooms.

If you do need to come into school to collect items. then you can come around to the front entrance and we can help in this way.

Thank you for your support with this.





Lost Property

This term, we have had a significant amount of lost property once again and this has been overflowing from the lost property box as you may have noticed.

Starting in January 2024, we will be emptying the box every two weeks to ensure that this is managed better and will hopefully mean that everyone has a greater chance of finding any lost property.

Please do help us by ensuring that any item of clothing is labelled clearly.

Thank you!

Before and after school

In the past few weeks, it has been brought to our attention that some of our Y5 and Y6 children are arriving outside of school very early and have been playing games outside. Playing outside by the car park is not very safe, especially when so many people arrive at school in the mornings.

The school gates do not open until 8.50am and children should not be arriving onto the premises on their own until this time as they are not supervised.

Please could you remind your children that they still represent Witham St Hughs Academy before and after school whilst they are wearing our school uniform and need to ensure that they are keeping themselves and others safe.

Next term, we will continue to monitor this and will be contacting parents as appropriate.

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.

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.

We are so proud of all of our children this term and you may have noticed that many of our KS2 children have already earned their bronze badges!



The PTFA would like to thank everyone who supported the Christmas fair either by donating items, holding a stall or attending the event.

On Monday 29th January from 5.00pm until 7.30pm the PTFA will be holding a **family bingo** event. Please look out for posters around school and check out our Facebook page for further information. Booking will be via PTA events.

Could you support our event by donating a raffle prize? If you are a small local business and would be willing to donate a prize we would love to promote your business at our event.

Please contact us on - wshtfa@gmail.com



Diary dates

December 2023

Tuesday 19th December ***KS2 Christmas Carols at 1.15pm***
Term two ends at 2.00pm

January 2024

Wednesday 3rd January ***Term two starts***

Friday 5th January ***Y3 Stone Age experience day***

Monday 8th January ***Spring Term Enhanced Provision begins***

Tuesday 9th January ***EYFS Open Morning for children starting in September 2024***

Tuesday 16th January ***Y3 Animation Workshop***

Thursday 18th January ***EYFS visit to Play Arena***

Tuesday 23rd January ***Y1 Phonics Meeting***

February 2024

Monday 5th February ***Children's Mental Health Week***

Friday 9th February ***Term two ends***

Monday 19th February ***Term four starts***
Young Voices in Sheffield—Choir Performance

March 2024

Tuesday 5th March ***Y5 Space Centre visit***

Wednesday 6th March ***Hobgoblin Theatre Company***

Thursday 7th March ***World Book Day***

Friday 8th March ***Y3 Cresswell Craggs visit***

Thursday 28th March ***Term four ends at 2.00pm***

Welcome to the Witham Well-Being update. We are aware that at times children can find managing their emotions difficult and this can often result in anger being displayed.



HEALTHY MINDS MANAGING ANGER

Anger

We all feel angry sometimes. It is a normal feeling in our body when something doesn't feel right. Anger is a normal emotion, just like happy and sad are normal emotions too. Sometimes we feel angry when we think people are not listening to us, not playing by the rules or when something is unfair; like an adult taking away your iPad when you have been on it for too long.



Healthy Minds Lincolnshire visited our school this week to talk to our Y4 children and also ran an extremely successful workshop for parents. Thank you to everyone who attended and the link below gives you more information about the workshop content.

<https://www.lpft.nhs.uk/young-people/online-workshops#anger>

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