



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

Witham News

Edition Five
2nd February 2024



Headteacher Comments

Welcome to our February newsletter and I hope that you all had a great January! Personally, I cannot believe how quickly this term has gone and that we finish for half term next week.

Since Christmas, the children have been incredible and really impressed all of us with their hard work and concentration. The quality of their learning has been amazing and I have been particularly impressed with the quality of writing and maths in every year group. We have some budding authors, writers and journalists in school that is certain!

Mrs Broadley, Mr Ross and myself have spent a lot of time visiting classrooms since Christmas and we have been so impressed with how well the children at Witham learn. They are full of engagement and enthusiasm and this is supported by yourselves.

Next term, we are really excited about our sport offer as we start to take part in many sporting competitions and workshops with other schools. Mr Medley and his team have been working extremely hard on this and I know we have high hopes of many successes!

Enjoy the rest of term everyone and I hope that you all have a restful half term when it arrives.

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.





School pick up

Please be reminded that if there is a change in arrangements for school pick up, we need to know about this before **3.00pm** on the day to enable any messages to be passed across to the staff who are dismissing the children.

If this happens after this time, we cannot guarantee that the messages will be passed across in time.

Staffing News

As you are aware, Mrs Broadley goes on her maternity leave at half term and since Christmas, Mr Ross has already started as our new Deputy Headteacher. Staff, parents and children have made him very welcome, so thank you. We wish Mrs Broadley and her family all the very best and she will be greatly missed during this time.

In other news, we are delighted to inform you that Mrs McCann will be starting as our new Y3 teacher to replace Miss Miller who leaves at half term. You will be able to meet her next week as she will be in class all week getting to know the children, staff and parents.

We are sad to say that Mrs Lill will also be leaving us at the end of term 4 (Easter) as she has secured a Deputy Headteacher position at Manor Farm Academy. I am sure you will all wish her the very best and congratulate her on her exciting news. We are now starting the recruitment process for this position and we will keep you all updated.

We are also delighted to inform you that Mrs Tyrell is expecting her first child! She will be going on maternity leave during term 6. I am sure you will wish her and her family all of the very best during the coming months.

If you do have any questions about any of our staffing news then please do let us know.

Thank you!

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.
- Please remember socks for PE

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 and Sport

All of our fantastic clubs have been a real success this term. Next term, we start our many sporting events as part of our promotion of school sport. Please ensure that you look out for any communication regarding this.

Thank you for all of your support with our club offer and we really do appreciate the high uptake of all of our clubs.

Parking outside school

Please can we remind parent/carers that you should not be parking on the double yellow lines outside our staff car park gates.

It is causing difficulties and danger for people trying to cross the road safely as well as problems for staff and visitors who may be trying to leave or enter school at this time.

If the Market Lounge car park is full, you can use always use the village hall car park.

Thank you for your support with this.



Lost Property

Since we changed the frequency of changing this, it is so much better, so thank you to all of you!

Please do help us by continuing to ensure that any item of clothing is labelled clearly and please also do regular checks to ensure that your child has not lost anything!

Thank you!

Malcolm—our celebrity tortoise

Anyone who has been into school will know that we have our very own resident tortoise who is situated outside Mrs Hartley's classroom.

Malcolm provides our children with so much entertainment as she (yes Malcolm is actually a girl!) does her circuits around her enclosure.

Unfortunately, Malcolm is out growing her enclosure and we are looking to have this replaced. Our plea and shout out to parents is to see if anyone can help in any way or even see if anyone could help us build a new enclosure for our wonderful tortoise friend!

Come and let the school office know if you can help in any way at all.

Thank you!



The PTFA would like to thank everyone who supported the amazing 'Family Bingo' evening this week. They would also like to thank everyone who bought raffle tickets and donating the brilliant range of prizes.

The evening was a real success and enjoyed by all. **A total of over £1,000 was raised** which is absolutely incredible! Well done to everyone involved!

Next up for the PTA is the 'Witham St Hughs Cake Off'. Further news to follow.

Finally, the PTFA are looking for volunteers or anyone interested in helping out during events. This involves no regular commitment, just additional help once the events are all planned.

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 bring home stickers home if they show our values and our KS2 children earn citizenship points for showing them.





Diary dates

February 2024

Monday 5th February

Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 6th February

Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 7th February

Y6 Parents' Evening from 4.00pm—7.00pm

Thursday 8th February

Friday 9th February

Term three ends

Monday 19th February

Term four starts

Young Voices in Sheffield—Choir Performance

Monday 19th February

Y5 swimming starts

Thursday 29th February

Music Showcase Assembly

March 2024

Friday 1st March

Secondary School offer day for Y6 pupils

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

Monday 11th March

British Science Week

Wednesday 13th March

Y1 Lincoln Castle visit

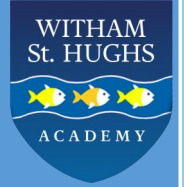
Thursday 28th March

Term four ends at 2.00pm

April 2024

Tuesday 16th April

Term five starts



Welcome to the Witham Well-Being update. Next week the children will look at ways to support their mental health and well-being. They will explore different breathing techniques and ways to support themselves with a range of emotions.



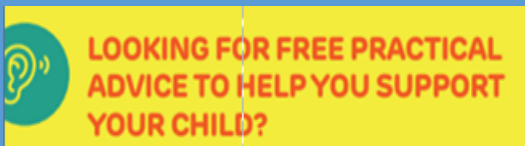
TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Are you a parent or carer who wants to talk to your child about mental health?



Mental health and emotional wellbeing is about being happy, confident, having good relationships and being able to cope with everyday events. Healthy Minds have a range of apps which can be downloaded to support children and young people.

<https://www.lpft.nhs.uk/young-people/lincolnshire/about-us/whats-new/young-people-apps>



Parenting Smart is Place2Be's website for parents and carers and is full of expert advice and tips on supporting primary aged children, and managing their behaviour.

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

Unfortunately, children and young people don't come with a manual and it is often hard to know what course of action is best when your child's behaviour changes and you start to worry about them.

Healthy Minds have a range of workshops and resources you can access from home.

<https://www.lpft.nhs.uk/young-people/lincolnshire/parents-and-carers/how-can-i-help-my-child>

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.

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

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 90% with a welfare check and to offer support if required.