



Witham St Hughs Academy

'Education For Lifelong Learning'

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December 2014 Newsletter

Last Newsletter of 2014

It only seems like 2 minutes ago that we were welcoming in 2014, and yet here we are fast approaching its end! We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their support again this year. A special 'thank-you' also goes out to those who have volunteered in school this year – your help has been very much appreciated by the staff team, and also the children who have been helped as a result.

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair was held earlier this week. It was lovely to see so many people supporting the event either by running stalls, helping to organise the event or by attending. In total, just over £400 was raised. All in all, the contributions made by everyone helped make this a very successful and enjoyable event, and we would like to pass on our thanks to all involved.

Remembrance Day

Thank you to all who supported Remembrance Day through donations for poppies. To mark this event, Reverend Andy Jackson-Parr visited all classrooms and spoke to the children about the significance of remembrance. Our thanks go to Reverend Andy for his help and support throughout the year.

Reception 2015 Intake

The 15th January is the application closing date for entry to Reception in September 2015. Please make sure all applications are in by this date. Thank you.

Bring Your Family to School Sessions

Following on from our last newsletter, Bring Your Family to School sessions will now take place in January, with further details being sent out at the start of the new year.

Christmas Arrangements

Production: This year's December production, 'Bethlehem's Buzzin'!', will be performed by our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children. The performances will be held on the evenings of Monday 8th and Wednesday 10th December starting at 6.30pm. There will also be an

afternoon performance on Tuesday 9th December starting at 2.15pm.

As in previous years, due to not having permission from all parents, we do not allow recording / photographs of productions. However, we are very grateful to Mr Wheeler (parent and professional photographer) who has kindly offered to take photographs of the dress rehearsal. All of these photographs will then be made available to parents free of charge. Thank you for your understanding with this matter.

Christmas Cards: The Christmas Card post box is now in operation! Children are invited to post their cards which will then be delivered by Santa's little helpers (Y4 pupils!). To help with delivery, please state the recipient's and the class-teacher's names when writing the envelope. Thank you!

Christmas Party Days: Dates are:

YR	:	Morning of Wed 17 th Dec
Y1/2	:	Afternoon of Wed 17 th Dec
Y3/4	:	Morning of Tues 16 th Dec
Y5/6	:	Morning of Thurs 18 th Dec

Children are invited to come to school wearing their party clothes for their party day.

Christmas Lunch:

Hot Christmas Lunch day will be on Monday 15th December. Orders for lunches must be placed by **12pm on Monday 8th December**, and cost £2.30 for those paying for meals. For those not wanting hot meals on this day, we are inviting children to come to school with a 'festive pack-up'!

Christmas Carol Concert:

On Thursday 18th December, we will be ending the term with our Key Stage 2 Carol Concert. This will take place from at 1.15pm and will be held in the school hall. Everyone welcome!

End of Term:

The last day of term is Thursday 18th December. **Please note that the children leave at 2pm.**



Children in Need

Many thanks to all who supported this year's Children in Need appeal. In total £244.60 was raised for the charity.

Academy Car Park

We explained in the last newsletter that the Governing Body has taken the decision to install controlled access to the staff car park using security barriers in an attempt to improve safety for all who access the academy site. Work starts on this project on 9th December with the work hopefully completed for the start of the new term.

Parents' Forum

As a result of the introduction of the new national curriculum in England, we asked for views in relation to the following question:

What are the important features of 'modern' and 'traditional' Britain that you feel the children need to be aware of?

On this topic, no responses were received.

Autism Support Group - Reminder

Due to Application of Learning sessions, the December meeting will be held on 11th December at 2.30pm.

Reminders

Winter Weather

Please ensure your child has a warm, waterproof coat in school each day for them to use as necessary. This is particularly important for Reception children who spend an increased amount of time outdoors. Thank you.

Healthy Snack

Children are welcome to bring a healthy snack for mid-morning break. Suitable items are fruit, vegetables and dry cereal / cereal bars. Our Healthy Tuck Shop sells items each day at 20p.

Drinks in School

Children are welcome to bring bottle of water to school to drink throughout the school day. A separate drink is required for lunchtime. Drinking water is available at break times during the school day for all pupils.

Yours sincerely

Neil Spencelayh,
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

December

8th YR-Y2 Evening Production
9th YR-Y2 Afternoon Production
10th YR-Y2 Evening Production
15th Christmas Dinner!
16th Y3,4 Christmas Party
17th Reception Christmas Party
17th Y1,2 Christmas Party
18th Y5,6 Christmas Party
18th Y3-6 Carols, 1-2pm
18th End of Term: Children Leave at 2pm

January

6th Children Return to School