



Witham St Hughs Academy

'Education For Lifelong Learning'

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February 2014 Newsletter

The New Term

Learning is continuing at a positive pace here in school. The children have started 2014 with the same strong focus on their learning that they had as 2013 drew to a close – always good to see!

Staffing Update

At the end of this week we say a sad farewell to Mrs Whitelaw who has worked as a Midday Supervisor for the last 5 years! We wish her every future success.

We also wish to pass on our best wishes to Mrs Emery and Miss Burr, both of whom leave at the end of this week as Miss Easey and Mrs Warriner return from their respective maternity leaves. Miss Easey will return as a Reception class teacher on a part-time job-share basis, working with Mrs Helena Sharman, a new addition to the Witham St Hughs team. Mrs Warriner will re-join Mrs Sirdifield in Year 2.

PTFA Valentine Disco

We would like to pass on our thanks to all involved in organising and running the Valentine's Disco on Monday evening. It was a very enjoyable event and a really nice way to be ending this term.

Investors In People

We are delighted to report that Witham St Hughs Academy was successfully reassessed against the Investors In People Standard recently. The Investors In People Standard is an assessment of an organisation's effectiveness at meeting its objectives through the effective development of its employees. At Witham St Hughs Academy, we always work hard to deliver the best standard of service we are capable of, and are really pleased that this has been acknowledged through this assessment – our third accreditation against this standard. We hope you're as proud of this achievement as we are!

Sport Relief

In our last newsletter we gave advanced notice of The Witham Runners who will be hosting 'The Witham Mile' on Sunday 23rd March in aid of Sport Relief. Michelle Mortimor from the Witham Runners came into our school assembly today to explain a little more to the children. She

was also joined by Jamie Carter, a Lincolnshire Paralympian who participated in the London 2012 Olympics. His story was an inspiration to many in school, and we were delighted he was able to share his story with us.

Sport Relief in Witham St Hughs will take place on Sunday 23rd March. As well as the 1, 3 or 6 mile runs that we explained in our last newsletter, there will also be a range of other activities taking place in the village. These include hockey, tennis, cricket, cheerleading, racketball and several other exciting activities. The activities will take place from 11am – 4pm.

Bring Your Family to School Sessions

It was great to see so many of you at our recent 'Bring Your Family to School Sessions'. These sessions are a great opportunity to see a real session in action, and we really appreciate the interest shown by parents with regard to these sessions. Thank you.

Due to the popularity of these events, it was not possible to accommodate all parents on this occasion. In light of feedback received, we have kept a list of those who did not receive a place on this occasion, and they will be given priority the next time these sessions are offered.

Arts Week

Our 'Arts Week' is in full swing, with children experiencing a whole host of activities, from visiting drama specialists to visiting artists and a nutritionist to name but a few! We also need to say a special 'thank you' to several volunteers (parents and governors) who have been working with Year 2 pupils to help them develop their sewing skills! The extra input has been invaluable.

Class Updates

Each of the year groups has composed a short section to update you on some of the things they have been involved with so far this term!

YR

In Mrs Rocks' Reception Class we are pleased to welcome Miss Sophie Kay on her teaching placement. She is enjoying working as part of our team and will be with us for seven weeks. The children continue to amaze us with their



enthusiasm for learning through our topic “Famous People”. We have looked particularly scary this week as we designed and applied “war paint” in a symmetrical pattern as part of our learning about Pocahontas.

Y1

This term we have been learning about different types of jobs. We have explored jobs of the past and reflected upon the changes. We especially liked learning about the Victorian era and were surprised by some of the jobs that children had to do. In Geography, we investigated Witham and the surrounding areas: we discussed local businesses and people who support our community. Keep up the hard work Year One!

Y2

This term, Year Two have been learning all about the different jobs that people do. We began by thinking about what we would like to do when we are older. We used our ideas to create some amazing pieces of artwork that will be on sale during Arts Week. We have also learnt about the types of jobs people did in the past. We researched jobs done by the Romans, the Victorians and people in World War Two. In Science, we have been learning about different forces and have conducted lots of experiments relating to this. Our Arts Week challenge is to make ten high quality cushions which can be used in school. We have some fabulous design ideas and can't wait to get started!

Y3

In Year 3 we have started our exciting new topic – Ancient Egyptians! We have already had our detective hats on trying to work out what selections of artefacts from Ancient Egypt are and who some mystery suitcases belong to. In literacy we have been looking at quest myths and are excited to begin writing our own.

This term we have started learning all about hockey and how to play safely. We are really enjoying these lessons and our skills are improving already! We have been learning all about forces in science and conducting lots of experiments to investigate this. We also really enjoyed producing our pieces of art for the school exhibition – we hope you like them too!

Y4

This term in Year 4 we have been learning all about the Egyptians! We have enjoyed researching about Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb as well as learning all about the layout of the ancient pyramids. We have developed our historical enquiry skills by looking at Egyptian artefacts. In art we have been making

a 3D model of a pyramid for our classroom! We have also had lots of fun in Science, learning about friction, air resistance and gravity. We have really enjoyed developing our knowledge through various investigations!

Y5

Year 5, in Literacy, have done work based around the narrative poems ‘The Highwayman’ and ‘The Lady of Shalott’. This involved turning the poems into stories, creating posters, hot seating, and learning about the different features of narrative poetry. The whole class loved both of these poems. We have now moved on to writing biographies about famous Victorian inventors. In Numeracy, we have continued to develop our understanding of number. We have investigated factors, prime numbers, square numbers and also cube numbers. During our topic lessons we have learnt about famous Victorians, especially Queen Victoria, as well as developing our understanding of what life was like during the Victorian era. We have also started to create our own tile designs based on the works of William Morris, a famous Victorian artist. During ICT sessions we have been using Scratch and Lego WeDo to learn how to programme more effectively as part of our ICT unit ‘We Are Programmers’.

Y6

The start of 2014 has been very busy in Year 6. Our main topic for this term is 'The Victorian Age' and we have already researched Queen Victoria, The Great Exhibition and transport. We have been playing different musical instruments to accompany a Victorian song. In science we have completed various investigations involving circuits and electricity. We have also enjoyed a visit from the local PCSOs who brought the CCTV van for us to look at.

PTFA Update

PTFA Second-Hand Uniform Shop – Spring

The next uniform shop date will be **Monday 10th March!**

Parents' Forum

Last month we asked for views regarding:

Would short video resources be useful in helping you to understand more about school life and learning? If so, which areas would be most beneficial?

No responses were received. Our next focus area will be communicated in the next newsletter

End of Term Reminder

The children break up at the normal time on Thursday 13th February and return to school on Monday 24th February.

Children's Centre

There will be a Dad's Group at the Children's Centre on Saturday 22nd February – all welcome.

There is a new group starting on Wednesday 25th February, Music Monkeys, which runs from 1 – 1.45pm. there will be a £1 charge for this session.

Please find the February timetable attached.

Yours sincerely

Neil Spencelayh,
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

February

13th End of Term – 3.30pm
24th Children Back to School
25th Swimming Starts for Y4/5

March

6th Y3/4 Visit to The Collection
13th Y5/6 Visit to Southwell Workhouse
18th Parent Consultation Evening 4 – 7pm
19th Parent Consultation Evening 4 – 7pm
21st Sport Relief Day
24th Y5/6 Experience Day
25th Application of Learning (Details to Follow)
26th Application of Learning (Details to Follow)
27th Dads, Lads & Lasses, 5 – 6.30pm
27th Y5 Bikeability
28th Y5 Bikeability
28th Y1/2 Visit to Hull transport Museum

April

4th End of Term. Children Leave at 2pm
22nd Children Return to School