



Witham St Hughs Academy

'Education For Lifelong Learning'

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April / May 2014 Newsletter

Welcome Back!

We hope you all had an enjoyable Easter break. The children have settled back into the new term and are already into their new topics. We will be sending out curriculum newsletters at the end of next week with further information in regarding the new topics.

Easter Egg Wrappers

For those lucky enough to receive Easter eggs this year, Mrs Hall would really appreciate any coloured foil from Easter eggs once the chocolate has been consumed! The foil is to be used within some of her lessons this term – any contributions greatly appreciated!

Mini Easter Fair

Thank you to those who supported our mini Easter fair at the end of last term. This raised £50 which will be donated to Oxfam. A special 'thank you' to the Y6 pupils involved in organising this.

Home-Learning Projects (YR – Y5)

The hand in date for all projects is Wednesday 30th April and we kindly ask that projects are brought to school on this date. Project feedback will be sent home on Friday 2nd May. As in previous years, parents are welcome to view the projects just after 9am, once we have them arranged in the hall!

Parent Consultation Evening

Many thanks to all who attended the Parent Consultation Evenings last term. There were many positive stories to share and it was really good to have opportunity to share some of the children's successes with parents. We would also like to thank you for the responses given to our questionnaire – the results are attached to this letter. The information we gain from questionnaires is used to inform our improvement priorities here in the academy, and the feedback is very much appreciated.

Legacy Challenge

Our Key Stage 2 children brought home a 'Legacy Challenge' booklet before the Easter holiday. The booklet is part of the Government's Olympic legacy, which is aiming to increase

public participation in physical activity. We are pleased to say that our

first pupil has achieved the bronze and silver awards! We hope to see many others achieving theirs!

Sport Relief

Thank you to all who supported our recent Sport Relief day. In total, £378 was raised for this good cause.

September Classes

Details of who is teaching which class in September will be communicated by letter during June. We do not try to provide this information any earlier as we cannot be sure of which class teachers will be with us in September until after the May 31st resignation deadline date. Once this date has passed, we are then able to confirm arrangements for September.

Free School Meals for Infant Children

The Government recently announced that hot meals would be made free to all pupils who will be in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 from September 1st 2014. We are currently finalising arrangements as to how this will work here in Witham. We will send out another letter around the end of May / start of June with the specific details. Should you require more information prior to this, please do not hesitate to contact school. Thank you.

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

Reception had a fantastic end to the Spring term learning all about different famous people before the holidays, and this term we are very excited for our new topic of 'make it!'. We will be finding out about many different things, starting with how to make gingerbread men!

The children in Reception have enjoyed taking part in the "Robin Hood" Experience Day. They and the staff dressed up in costumes relevant to the time and took part in archery, den building and team raiding activities. It was lots of fun and



the children had the opportunity to learn in a fun and exciting manner.

We are also beginning communications with our link school in Cyprus this term, where the children will write to other Reception children and find out about the life of children in a different place.

Y1

In Year 1 our topic has been transport. We have really enjoyed learning about the history of transport including what the first bikes looked like and the first carriages that people used to ride on. Our school trip to the Transport Museum in Hull brought to life our learning as we could see and touch all of the different modes of transport we had learnt about! Within art sessions we have been exploring the art of block printing and enjoyed sharing this new skill with the parents at our Application of Learning session. We are already looking forward to our next topic, I'm Alive!

Y2

Over the last half term, Year Two have continued to learn all about different modes of transport. We have had a visit from a pilot and a visit from a bus driver. We have also been to Hull Transport Museum to see lots of examples of old fashioned vehicles. We met a lady called Betty who showed us around and taught us lots of facts on the way.

Y3

In Year 3 we are very excited to begin our new topic, learning all about World War Two. We will be learning about the people and places involved in the war, evacuation, rationing, the home front and lots more! We will be using our developing knowledge about WW2 to help us with our literacy topic this term – Information texts. We will be reading lots of great examples and then producing our own information texts on subjects we find interesting. Year 3 have begun learning a new sport in PE this term, tennis! We really enjoyed our first lesson and learnt all about hand-eye coordination. We needed our hands and our eyes to work together which was sometimes trickier than we thought!

Y4

In Year 4 we are extremely excited to be learning about World War II this term. We will be learning all about how the war began, famous people who were involved, the rationing system, evacuation, the home front and much more! We are looking forward to use this topic as a stimulus for great writing in Literacy too! We would also like to say a special thank you to Mr. Nicholson

for building us a fantastic 3D tank for our themed table- it has really brought our classroom to life!

Y5

It has been a busy end to the term for Year 5. We had a fantastic trip to Southwell Workhouse where the pupils experienced what it was like to be a poor Victorian child. It was a fantastic experience which will not be forgotten for a long time! In class we have learnt about persuasive writing, creating leaflets, posters and writing letters. In Numeracy we have focused on solving word problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We finished our Victorian topic by roleplaying the lives of different Victorians and in ICT we completed the games that we created using the Kodu software. Finally, we had another great experience out on the roads of Witham St Hughs learning to ride our bicycles safely. The instructors all commented on our excellent listening skills and manners.

Y6

The last few weeks have been very busy for Y6. As well as preparing for our SATs tests, we have enjoyed our trip to Southwell Workhouse. The highlights of our trip included dressing up in workhouse uniforms; experiencing a Victorian school lesson with a very strict school master; and playing with a selection of Victorian toys. For one of our PCSO Challenges, we have prepared and presented a whole school assembly on Crime Prevention. We have been working on our performance skills in music and we have filmed our contribution to Lincolnshire's 'Virtual Choir' project.

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.

Reception Class Outdoor Area

We kindly ask that parents do not allow their children / younger siblings to use equipment from the Reception outdoor area at the start or end of the day as this area is often prepared prior to the start of the day ready for lessons. Thank you.

PTFA Update

The PTFA will be collecting any unwanted uniform during the week 28th April – 2nd May. Please pass any unwanted items to #####. The PTFA uniform shop will be open after school on:

- Monday 12th May
- Monday 9th June

Yours sincerely

Parents' Forum

Last month we asked for your views in relation to the following question:

To what extent do you think children should be made aware of stranger-danger?

Many thanks to those who responded. A summary of the outcomes is attached overleaf.

QR Codes / Web-links

Year 5/6 Victorian Visit to Southwell Workhouse



<https://vimeo.com/89847248>

The password will be sent by text later today to those who have signed to receive them. **Please note: passwords are case sensitive.** You can view the link by entering the web address into the internet, or by scanning the code above using the scanner option on your phone / tablet computer. In both cases, you will need to enter the password. We hope you enjoy the clip!

Volunteers

As always, should any parents wish to be more involved in school, we are always eager to hear from you. Anyone willing and able to help with regard to hearing children read, help organise classroom displays, or with gardening, please let us know.

For further information, please contact the main office. Thank you.

Warm Weather

As the weather gets warmer the children are beginning to take off jumpers and cardigans a little more. Please make sure all clothing is named, as it makes it much easier to return to the correct person! Thank you

Children's Centre

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Neil Spencelayh,
Headteacher

<u>Dates for the Diary</u>	
<u>April</u> 22 nd	Children Return to School
<u>May</u>	
<u>June</u>	
<u>July</u>	
<u>September</u>	