



# Witham St Hughs Academy

'Education For Lifelong Learning'

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## October 2014 Newsletter

### Welcome!

As the term continues, the children are becoming increasingly settled into the new academic year.

### PGL

As always, our Y6 pupils enjoyed a great residential trip to the PGL Centre at Caythorpe. Their determination and general 'have-a-go' attitude were very rewarding to see, and made us all very proud. Although still recovering from the week, Mrs Jolly and Miss Patmore are already planning the trip for next year!

### Staffing Update

Mrs Edwards recently left the academy to pursue her cake-making business which has gone from strength to strength over recent months. Also seeking a new venture is Mrs Gelsthorpe, who will be leaving the academy at the October break after 6 years to set up her own child-care business!

We would like to thank Mrs Edwards and Mrs Gelsthorpe for their work at the academy, and wish them both all the very best of luck with their new ventures!

Joining the cleaning team is Mrs Teresa Doherty, who replaces Mrs Rejane Redmond-Hunter. Mrs Redmond-Hunter will continue in her Midday Supervisor role.

We also warmly welcome Mrs Claire Chan and Mrs Alison Pitman who join the academy as Midday Supervisors, and also Mrs Rachel Dale who will be working as a Teaching Assistant within the Y1/2 team.

### Challenge Week

The week beginning 20th October will be our annual 'Challenge Week'. Some of the activities booked this year include the climbing wall, puzzle workshops, dance and drama sessions and K'nex. More details to follow.

### Open Morning for 2015 Reception Intake

Although this academic year has only just begun, we are hosting two open mornings between 9 and 11am on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November** for parents of children due to start Reception in September 2015. All welcome!

### Building Work

Following on from our last newsletter, the extension to the academy is due to start on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October, with a planned completion date at the start of June 2015. The area of the academy mainly affected is the area near the Y4,5 and 6 classrooms. As such, the first job of the contractors is to ensure a secure access to and from the main building is in place for Y5/6 pupils, and to also ensure the building 'compound' is secure so that pupils cannot inadvertently access it. This will take place prior to any actual work being undertaken. We will provide updates as information becomes available.

### Access to ICT

Increasingly, we rely on technology to conduct our day to day business. In the academy, we send letters by email to the majority of parents, and over 95% of parents order school meals and pay for trips etc via a computer / tablet. For those unable to access technology for whatever reason, there is a public use computer available in the Children's Centre. For more information, please contact the main office.

### Autism Parent Support Group

This will take place on the first Thursday of every month at 2.30pm. The next meeting will therefore be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30pm. All welcome.

### Parents' Evenings

Thank you to all who attended our recent Parent Consultation Evenings – it was good to see such a strong turn-out. For us, the Parents' Evenings are our main way of keeping you informed about the progress your child is making, and of the next steps they need to take as part of their personal, social and academic development. We hope you found your meeting to be of value. If you have questions related to your child's development between each Parents' Evening, please do not hesitate to see your child's class teacher for an update. Hopefully, by using this approach you will be able to keep fully informed about the progress your child is making.

We would also like to thank you for the feedback you provided via the questionnaires. The



information we receive is useful in helping us improve the academy further.

### Car Parking

We have been approached by several concerned parents regarding parking arrangements at the start and end of the school day. Specifically, concerns have been expressed in relation to cars parked in places which make it difficult / unsafe for pedestrians moving in and around the academy site entrances. In the interests of safety, we respectfully ask for your consideration when parking. 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: Miss Easey

Reception have been very busy settling into school, and are now becoming more familiar with the rules, routines and expectations of Witham St Hughs Academy. We have made lots of new friends and are developing our sharing and turn taking skills.

The children all have reading books and sight words to practise at home, and we are impressed by the children's effort with these. A big thank you to parents for your support with this.

We will be continuing to learn about ourselves this term, and coming up are the exciting topics of 'The Senses', 'People Who Help Us', and 'Celebrations'. For the topic of people who help us we will be having an experience day where we can dress up as someone else! More details of this will follow.

#### YR: Mrs Rocks

The children in Mrs. Rocks' Reception class have been enjoying learning about how they grow and change as they get older. They had lots of fun recently when Mrs. Shaw brought Baby Jack into school to meet the class. The children thought of some questions to ask Mrs. Shaw about Jack, and Jack appeared to quite like our classroom!

#### Y1: Miss Sellers

We have been very busy in Year 1 learning about our Circus topic. We have been building our own circus tents from junk modelling materials. We had to look closely at joining methods so that we could choose the best tools for the job! We really enjoyed circus day. The clown show was very funny and we learnt lots about how to juggle, tightrope walk, hula hoop, walk on balls, mime and even spin plates! Miss Sellers loved hula hooping and turning, whilst Miss Riddell enjoyed juggling.

#### Y1/2: Mrs Sirdifield

This term, we have been learning all about the circus! We have researched the history of the circus and found out about famous circus acts. We had a fabulous experience day last week, during which we met a clown and had a go at walking on a tightrope! We have also learnt how to juggle! We look forward to learning more about the circus over the coming weeks.

#### Y1/2: Miss McDonald

Year One and Two have settled into the routines of school life and have been busy learning about the Circus. We were excited to invite Lincoln Party Workshops into school and watched a circus performance and then developed our own circus skills. We learnt about the history of the circus and the people who developed modern day circuses. In Geography, we found out about travelling circuses around the world. Keep up the good work!

#### Y3

We have had a busy start to Year 3, beginning our topic learning all about Chocolate! We have had great fun learning about where chocolate comes from and all about how the Aztecs used cocoa beans. We have also really enjoyed tasting some chocolate for ourselves! Year 3 are also learning all about football this term, developing our skills with Mrs Shaw. We are working hard on our passing, dribbling and shooting skills. In computing this term, we are being programmers, designing and programming our very own game using the Scratch software.

#### Y4

Year 4 have had a super start to the year! They have developed excellent geography skills by using atlases to plot cocoa producers and manufacturers. The children have also learnt about the conditions for the workers on cocoa farms. They were shocked to find out that children their age work on the cocoa farms! Year 4 have developed good drawing and painting skills in art by producing some beautiful artwork of a cocoa tree. They were so proud of their artwork that it is displayed in our classroom! The children are now learning about teeth and healthy eating- very appropriate for the chocolate topic!!

#### Y5

In Year 5 we are all working really hard to make sure we are excellent role models for younger pupils. In our learning we have been focussing on the Tudors. We made Tudor Pottage (a vegetable soup that would have been eaten by poor families during this era), Tudor outfits and we have

carried out lots of research to find out answers to our most interesting questions.

In Literacy we have been learning how to follow and write instructions and most recently, we have been studying stories from other cultures. We have enjoyed learning about how other people live and writing exciting stories of our own.

### Y6

It has been a very busy start to the term in Year 6. We had a fantastic week at PGL, trying all sorts of activities such as kayaking, quad biking, abseiling, etc. Since then we have visited Robert Pattinson Academy for a maths day and also Lincolnshire Showground for a construction and enterprise event. Our topic this term is The Tudors and we are enjoying learning about this fascinating period of history.

### Reminders

#### Autumn 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.

### Children's Centre

October Timetable attached.

Yours sincerely

Neil Spencelayh,  
Headteacher

### Dates for the Diary

#### October

21<sup>st</sup> Harvest Festival – details to follow  
23<sup>rd</sup> Children Break Up – normal time

#### November

3<sup>rd</sup> Children Return to School  
5<sup>th</sup> Y3 Chocolate Factory Visit  
7<sup>th</sup> Y4 Chocolate Factory Visit  
11<sup>th</sup> Open Morning for Prospective 2014 Reception Parents  
13<sup>th</sup> Open Morning for Prospective 2014 Reception Parents  
13<sup>th</sup> Y5/6 Visit to Wollaton Hall

#### December

4<sup>th</sup> Application of Learning Session, 2.30pm  
5<sup>th</sup> Application of Learning Session, 2.30pm  
8<sup>th</sup> YR-Y2 Evening Production  
9<sup>th</sup> YR-Y2 Afternoon Production  
10<sup>th</sup> YR-Y2 Evening Production  
15<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner!  
16<sup>th</sup> Y3,4 Christmas Party  
17<sup>th</sup> Reception Christmas Party  
17<sup>th</sup> Y1,2 Christmas Party  
18<sup>th</sup> Y5,6 Christmas Party  
18<sup>th</sup> Y3-6 Carols, 1-2pm  
18<sup>th</sup> End of Term: Children Leave at 2pm

#### January

6<sup>th</sup> Children Return to School