



Witham St Hughs Academy

'Education For Lifelong Learning'

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September 2014 Newsletter

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to the start of a new and exciting academic year. We hope you all had a great summer.

It is great to see the children back in school. They look refreshed after the break, and all look very smart in their new uniforms.

We would like to offer a very warm welcome to our new Reception families who are joining Witham St Hughs Academy this September, and we look forward to getting to know you all throughout the year ahead.

Last term ended in dramatic fashion, with our KS2 production of 'Aladdin Trouble'. As in previous years, our cast and crew did us proud, and the productions raised £257 for 'Action for Young Carers' at the same time! Well done to all involved.

The 2014/15 academic year has started very positively, with the children settling back into their new classes in a calm way, and enjoying the challenges and learning being presented to them – always a pleasure to see. Years 3 and 4 seemed particularly interested in their learning. This may have something to do with the sampling of different types of chocolate as part of their new topic!

This week also sees our Year 6 pupils embarking on their residential trip to Caythorpe PGL Centre. I'm sure they will return with many exciting stories of their adventures and of the new challenges they have faced!

Staffing Update

We officially welcome Miss Lauren Todd to the team here at Witham. She is teaching Year 5 following Mr Middleton's move to a Deputy Headship at Leslie Manser School in Lincoln.

Home-Learning & Curriculum Newsletters

Home-learning will be sent home starting the week beginning Monday 15th September. We will also be sending home curriculum newsletters next week which will contain an overview of the areas being studied by your child during the autumn term.

SATs Results

During the summer term of last academic year, children in years 2 and 6 were assessed using nationally prescribed procedures and, in the case of year 6, tests. Our pupils performed exceptionally well again this year, with the results as follows:

Year 2 (Cohort Size: 30)

<u>Subject</u>	<u>% Meeting or Exceeding Nationally Expected Levels (Levels 2C, 2B, 2A, 3)</u>	<u>% Exceeding Nationally Expected Levels (Level 2A or 3)</u>
Reading	97%	30%
Writing	97%	17%
Mathematics	97%	27%

Year 6 (Cohort Size: 30)

<u>Subject</u>	<u>% Meeting or Exceeding Nationally Expected Levels (Levels 4, 5 & 6)</u>	<u>% Exceeding Nationally Expected Levels (Levels 5 and 6)</u>
Reading	100%	60%
Writing	93%	47%
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	100%	90%
Mathematics	93%	63%

School Uniform

The children look wonderful in their new uniforms. By ensuring your child always attends school wearing the correct uniform, you are helping them to understand the importance of being part of Witham St Hughs Academy and their community in general. Thank you for your support with this aspect.

To help minimise uniform losses, please ensure uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name. Thank you.

We also kindly ask that pupils adhere to our jewellery policy which is as follows:

Children are permitted to wear a watch and one charity wrist-band. They may also wear stud earrings providing they are able to remove them for PE sessions.

Thank you!



Home-Learning Boards

Over the past couple of years, we have updated the class pages on our website in Years 4, 5 and 6, with information regarding the learning that has taken place in each class each week. Last year we used a computer based application called 'Showbie'. Each child in Y4,5,6 will be given/reissued with a username and password, which will allow you and your child to access some of their school work, along with a summary of the learning which has taken place during the week.

River Monster Art Competition

Congratulations to Year 4, who have won the 'Rivers of the World - River Creature Competition' organised by the British Council! This competition was open only to schools situated near a river in the UK. The children were asked to create a piece of artwork and an accompanying piece of creative writing based on a real or imaginary creature from an overseas country or river ecosystem. Year 4 worked extremely hard to research and design a river monster, which they named 'Magnatron'. They created an 'Art-Attack' style piece, which covered the entire playground (picture at the end of this newsletter)! The judges were very impressed by the children's artistic style, creativity and imagination.

The prize was a trip to London for 5 pupils (names out of a hat), with children able to experience the London Eye, have lunch at the Rainforest Café, and take a boat-trip along the Thames! A big 'well done' to all involved!

Building Work

As many of you know, we consulted last year on a proposed permanent expansion of the academy to ensure there were sufficient pupil places to meet the requirements of the local community.

We are now at the stage where planning permission has been granted for an extension to the academy, and we envisage work commencing around the middle of this term, with a view to the build being completed around the end of June 2015. Once further details are known regarding start dates for the works, we will let you know.

Physical Education

Our children will again be working with several sports coaches as part of their weekly PE sessions this year. To ensure we are able to make best use of this additional expertise, could we please ask that children have a track-suit and light waterproof, such as a cagoule, as part of their PE kit so that they can still participate comfortably in colder conditions. Thank you.

The children still need black shorts and a white t-shirt for their main PE kit, and this needs to be kept in school all week. Thank you.

Nuts in School - Reminder

You may remember from earlier newsletters, we have children in school with severe nut allergies. Due to the potential impact of one of these children coming into contact with nuts, we kindly ask that children do not bring any products which may contain nuts into school – eg, nutella spread in sandwiches, birthday sweets for their friends which may contain nut extracts etc. Many thanks for your understanding and support with this matter.

Parent Volunteers

As in previous year, we would welcome any time any parents may be able to give to volunteering in school. To find out more, please see Miss Brett or Mrs Markham at the main office. Thank you.

School Photographs

School photographs will be taken on the morning of Wednesday 1st October, starting at 9am. If you would like younger siblings to be included, please come to the school office at 9am. Thank you.

Reminders

Autumn Weather

Please ensure your child has a warm, waterproof coat in school each day for them to use as necessary. Thank you.

Lost Property

Our lost property box is in the playground near the centre doors to the school. Please feel free to check the box if your child loses any items of clothing. Even items with names in can still end up in lost property.

Children's Centre

September Timetable attached.

Yours sincerely

Neil Spencelayh,
Headteacher

Diary Dates

Please find an overview of our dates for this term for your information.

For those of you organised enough to be planning holidays for next academic year, we have included the term dates for 2015/16 as well as the dates for this coming year.

Y4 Art: 'Magnatron'!



Dates for the Diary

September

8th – 12th Y6 Children to PGL Residential

15th After School Clubs Start

30th Year 6 out: Lincs Showground

October

1st School Photographs

2nd Y1,2 Experience Day

6th Parents' Evening 4-7pm

7th Parents' Evening 4-7pm

21st Harvest Festival – details to follow

23rd Children Break Up

November

4th Children Return to School

11th Open Morning for Prospective 2014 Reception Parents

13th Open Morning for Prospective 2014 Reception Parents

December

4th Application of Learning Session, 2.30pm

5th Application of Learning Session, 2.30pm

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

Term Dates 2014 / 15

Term 1 (Autumn 2014)

Thursday 4th Sep – Thursday 23rd October
(Staff Training Days: Wednesday 3rd September & Friday 24th October)

Term 2 (Autumn 2014)

Monday 3rd November – Thursday 18th December

Term 3 (Spring 2015)

Tuesday 6th January – Friday 13th February
(Staff Training Day: Monday 5th January)

Term 4 (Spring 2015)

Monday 23rd February – Friday 27th March

Term 5 (Summer 2015)

Tuesday 14th April – Friday 22nd May
(Staff Training Day: Monday 13th April)
(May Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May)

Term 6 (Summer 2015)

Monday 1st June – Wednesday 22nd July
(Staff Training Day: Thursday 23rd July)

Term Dates 2015 / 16

Term 1 (Autumn 2015)

Thursday 3rd Sep – Thursday 22nd October
(Staff Training Days: Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd September)

Term 2 (Autumn 2015)

Monday 2nd November – Thursday 17th December
(Staff Training Day: Friday 18th December)

Term 3 (Spring 2016)

Tuesday 5th January – Friday 12th February

Term 4 (Spring 2016)

Monday 22nd February – Thursday 24th March
(Good Friday 25th March, Easter Monday 28th March)

Term 5 (Summer 2016)

Tuesday 12th April – Friday 27th May
(Staff Training Day: Monday 11th April)
(May Bank Holiday: Monday 2nd May)

Term 6 (Summer 2016)

Monday 6th June – Thursday 21st July
(Staff Training Day: Friday 22nd July)