



# Witham St Hughs Academy

*'Education For Lifelong Learning'*

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## January 2015 Newsletter

### Happy New Year!

Welcome back and may we take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the year ahead.

The first week of the New Year has been a good one here in school, with the children returning in a very settled way and ready to learn.

### End of Last Term

Thanks to all who took part in our end of term YR – Y2 productions, and Y3-Y6 Christmas Songs Event either as performers or spectators. As usual, our children did us proud, producing fantastic performances.

We would also like to thank you for your generosity at the performances. Altogether, we raised a total of £371.55, all of which will be donated to Witham LIVES.

### Reception 2015 Intake

**Thursday January 15<sup>th</sup>** 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

We explained in the last newsletter that we would be offering parents the chance to come and observe a lesson 'in action'. The purpose of this is to enable you to see an example of the way in which your child is taught, and to give you opportunity to ask any questions you may have regarding the structure and delivery of lessons. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and are limited to manageable amounts per classroom. Letters with the dates and times will be sent home on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January**.

### School Uniform

Please see attached information.

### Training Event

People First Education will be leading an information session for parents on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January from 1.30 – 3.30pm**. The session will be held here in the academy, and will focus upon the use of social stories and visual intervention as strategies to support children with additional needs. All welcome!

### Curriculum Newsletters

As our new term starts, the children commence their new topics! We will be sending Curriculum Newsletters home at the end of next week which will provide parents with a summary of the areas being studied.

### 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, outdoor PE shoes, and a light waterproof, such as a cagoule, as part of their PE kit so that they can still participate comfortably in colder conditions. Thank you.

### Building Work

The building work continues to progress well. The majority of the groundworks have now been completed. The next phase of the build starts in approximately 2 weeks time, with the frame of the building starting to be erected!

### Healthy Schools

As part of our Healthy Schools programme, we are encouraging children to cook! Each month there will be a recipe idea for your child to try at home should they wish to do so.

We would like to invite children to bring photographs of themselves cooking. These will be displayed on our Healthy Schools notice board. This month our cookery focus is pizza! There is a recipe on the Healthy Schools section of our website, or feel free to demonstrate your own!

### Adverse Weather Reminder

During adverse weather, details of any closures should they need to be made, will be communicated directly using our text messaging service and where possible, we will leave a message on the school website. In addition, closures will also be broadcast on LINCS FM and BBC Radio Lincolnshire as well as on the Lincolnshire County Council snowline webpage. Please let the office know if any of your mobile phone numbers have recently changed. Thank you.



### Parent Volunteers

As in previous years, 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.

### Autism Support Group

Due to Application of Learning sessions, the December meeting will be held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm.

### 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

Children in our Reception classes are very excited about their new topic, "Exploration". They have started to learn about Pirates, and are looking forward to an Experience Day on Friday where they will come to school in pirate themed costumes to engage in some lively and exciting pirate related learning!

### Y1: Miss Sellers

In Year 1 we have started the new term learning about health and our bodies. We have been learning about how food can affect our health and the importance of eating a balanced diet. In preparation for our trip to the Co-op Farm, we have been discussing which plants supply food and how vegetables and fruits are grown. We have also enjoyed our first hockey session with the Hurricane sports coaches. We will be looking forward to learning about taking photographs of food in computing.

### Y1/2: Mrs Sirdifield

This term, in Year 1 / 2 HS we are starting a new and exciting topic called 'We Are What We Eat'! In science, we will be learning about different plants, how plants grow and why we eat plants. Our geography sessions will link closely with this, as we will be learning about different food sources and why it is important to eat a balanced diet. We will also visit a farm that grows crops. We will take a look at the crops and also make pizza using them!

### Y1/2: Miss McDonald

This term, in Year 1 / 2 CM we are starting a new and exciting topic called 'We Are What We Eat'! In history, we will be learning about the types of food eaten during the Roman era and then looking at how people's diet changed during World War Two. In design and technology, we will be designing food packages and making our

own healthy salad. I am certain that the children will continue to impress Mrs Marshall, Mrs Dale and myself and apply their own experiences and knowledge of food and plants to this topic.

### Y3

In Year 3 we have returned to school with an excellent attitude and are focussed on our learning. We are excited to start our new topic 'Active Planet' and learn all about natural disasters such as volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. In PE lessons this term we will be developing our skills in hockey and learning how to play safely. In literacy we have begun learning all about adventure stories and cannot wait to begin writing our own. During our computing lessons, we will be learning all about different kinds of communication. We are hoping to make an email or Skype link to our International link school in Kenya.

### Y4

This term in Year 4 we will be learning all about the 'Active Planet'. Year 4 were extremely excited to begin the topic with a disaster relief centre challenge! They had to plan and organise what they would do if there was an Earthquake in Witham St Hughs! All children worked extremely hard! The children have also enjoyed learning about different types of poetry in literacy- especially reading the volcano poem! We're all looking forward to seeing what is next in store for us during the 'Active Planet' topic!

### Y5

This term in Year 5 our topic is 'Space Explorers'. In Science we are learning about the earth, the moon and the sun. In literacy we are learning how to write a non-chronological report and in maths we are learning about area and perimeter of shapes.

### Y6

We were very busy at the end of last term, making model Tudor houses and performing some Tudor music. Since the start of this term, we have been working on our new topic 'Space Explorers'. We have thought of lots of things we would like to research about space. In literacy we have begun reading and writing science fiction stories. Already this term we have learnt how to create online surveys in ICT and despite the cold, we have enjoyed our first hockey session.

**Children's Centre**

January Timetable attached.

Yours sincerely

Neil Spencelayh,  
Headteacher

**Dates for the Diary**

**January**

- 16<sup>th</sup> Y4 Class Assembly  
16<sup>th</sup> Mrs Rocks' Application of Learning Session:  
2.30pm  
16<sup>th</sup> Reception Classes Experience Day – Pirate  
themed!  
23<sup>rd</sup> Y5 Class Assembly

**February**

- 5<sup>th</sup> YR Classes Visit to The Deep  
5<sup>th</sup> Mrs Sirdifield's Class Visit to the Co-op Farm  
6<sup>th</sup> Y3 Class Assembly  
9<sup>th</sup> Miss McDonald's Class Visit to the Co-op Farm  
9<sup>th</sup> PTFA Valentine Disco (details to follow)  
11<sup>th</sup> Miss Sellers' Class Visit to the Co-op Farm  
13<sup>th</sup> End of Term  
23<sup>rd</sup> Children Return to School

**March**

- 11<sup>th</sup> Parent Consultation Evening: 4 – 7pm  
12<sup>th</sup> Parent Consultation Evening: 4 – 7pm  
23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Application of Learning Sessions (details to  
follow)  
25<sup>th</sup> Y5 Bikeability  
26<sup>th</sup> Y5 Bikeability  
27<sup>th</sup> Children Break Up – 2pm Finish

**April**

- 14<sup>th</sup> Children Return to School