



# Winchelsea News

*All Individuals Matter*

## April Newsletter

I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter with friends and family and didn't eat too much chocolate!! Staff and children have returned to school looking forward to the Summer Term as we have lots to look forward to and hopefully some great weather so that we can get out and enjoy the fresh air.

### Easter

Many thanks to all the parents, grandparents, family relatives and friends who came along to support our Easter celebrations in school during the last week of term. The children always enjoy sharing whatever they have been learning and the standard of work they showed was fantastic. As well as each class, great performances were also given by our choir and dance group. Thank you also to F.O.W.S who organised a very tasty Easter egg raffle and were very grateful for all the donations that were received. The sale of tickets raised a fabulous £292.50. All money raised by F.O.W.S is put to great use to buy resources or provide extra opportunities for all of the children in school. The children also loved the Easter egg hunting on the last day around the school grounds resulting in a crème egg treat!

### Sport Relief

Sport Relief took place last term and we had great fun in school wearing sports kit and being active in our morning lessons. Teachers found some innovative and unusual ways to get their classes moving in literacy and numeracy – if you follow us on Twitter you may have seen Mrs Tranter and Peridot making physical reflective symmetry shapes in numeracy on the playground and Mr Keetch and Emerald doing active marking at the end of his spelling tests! In the afternoon every class took part in house team competitions. There was a vast range of sports taking place – hockey, tag rugby, netball and table tennis to name a few. When the scores were all added up the blue team were the overall winners. We raised just over £100 for this very worthwhile cause simply by paying 50p to come into school on our sporty clothing.



### Message from our governing body about use of social media

It has come to the attention of the Governing Body that some parents / carers have turned to social media in order to voice their opinions of the school and/or teaching staff, rather than to approach the school with any concerns in the first instance. Please can we just remind everyone of the very public nature of some social media sites. In cases where defamatory comments are posted about the school and/or teaching staff, by anyone with a connection to the school they will now be issued with a warning letter asking for the comments to be removed. In more serious cases then the school may consider legal action against individuals who make defamatory comments on social media about Winchelsea School. We are a very open school, with approachable staff and would like to think that

parents can speak to us about anything rather than airing their views in public on social media.

Matt Evans – Chair of Governors

### Crossing patrol

Mrs Lewis resigned from her post last term and therefore the school is currently without a crossing patrol as this job falls under the jurisdiction of the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership group who are responsible for advertising and recruiting for this position. However, if you or anyone you know is interested in taking up this job please feel free to contact the school office for further details. Unfortunately, this means that the crossing at Rectory road is currently unsupervised and therefore I would ask that parents think about how this may affect your decisions regarding how children come to school and who might accompany them in order to ensure their safety.



### No smoking site



Can I remind all visitors to Winchelsea that our site is a non-smoking site. This means that not only are buildings smoke free but also our grounds and the surrounding paths and roadways. To comply with government directives, I must ensure that children are not exposed to passive smoking anywhere on our site and this includes smoking within cars as parents and carers collect children at the end of the day. Please refrain from smoking anywhere within our perimeters until you reach the external boundaries along Sleaford Road, Rectory Road and Elmtree Road. Some parents have mentioned that there are sometimes large groups of smoking parents congregating at the school exit gate which is exposing their children to smoke and whilst this conforms with our non-smoking site perimeters I would ask that parents show consideration for others in their choices.

### **Breakfast club**

Mrs Hilton runs our breakfast club from 7.45am onwards. If you know you would like to use this facility on a given day please contact the school office on the day before by noon so that Mrs Hilton can be informed. Similarly **please let her know if you do not require a place that you previously booked.** If parents simply want childcare the cost will be £2.50 for the hour but breakfast can be provided for an extra 50p and this would include a choice of cereal/toast with juice, milk or other drinks.

### **Suitable clothing**

As the weather at this time of year starts to get warmer children need to still come to school suitably dressed. There can be a temptation in the sunnier weather for children not to bring coats which are still needed for playtimes and lunchtime breaks when children can become cold outside for longer periods of time. Sweatshirts and hoodies that are not part of school uniform should not be worn as a substitute for a coat. Footwear also needs to be suitable for the weather conditions and children should wear proper school shoes or suitable sandals – not summer sandals in pretty colours or flip flops that are more appropriate for the beach. Similarly, trainers are not acceptable. A suitable PE kit for both indoor and outdoor sessions should be in school at all times. Children can wear grey or black shorts, white or blue shirts or polo t-shirts or blue gingham summer dresses in line with our school uniform policy. Please make sure that all items of clothing are clearly named as we seem to have an ever-growing pile of lost property!

### **After school provision**

We appreciate how difficult it can be for working parents to co-ordinate their working hours with school hours. Whilst we offer a good range of after school clubs these generally finish by 4.30pm and parents need childcare beyond this time. We work with a number of excellent child minders who collect pupils from school that can be contacted individually. We also link with First Steps who will collect from our playground and walk children to facilities at their clubhouse in Ruskington where parents can then collect them from up to 6pm in the evening. As this is a facility provided by First Steps they are the point of contact for parents to make arrangements.

### **Fundraising opportunities**

The school has many ways of supporting our school funds which help us to provide new equipment or extra learning experiences to develop the children's learning opportunities. As well as special events organised by F.O.W.S there are other ways that you can help to support us throughout the year. May I remind you about the recycling collection bank on the school field for textiles and shoes. Every collection makes the school approximately £100 for which we are very grateful. If you shop at Co-op and have a dividend card you can also register to support Winchelsea as your Community Champion. This will not affect your own personal dividend but will give the school extra money. Please ask in store or see their website for how to register and support us.

### **Dates this term**

April 18<sup>th</sup>: Free Taekwondo day in school

April 23<sup>rd</sup>: Opal/Sapphire Farm Visit to Woodhall Spa

May 7<sup>th</sup>: May Day Bank Holiday (no school!)

May 12<sup>th</sup>: Sleaford 'Live' event (choir and dance club performing) Time to be confirmed

May 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>: Year 6 SATS Week

#### **May 28<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>: Half Term week**

June 8<sup>th</sup>: 'Stand up' Day

June 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>: Year 1 Phonics screening week

June 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>: Assessment Week

June 25<sup>th</sup>: Armed Forces Flag Raising Ceremony

June 29<sup>th</sup>: Year 6 transfer day to secondary schools

July 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lincoln Children's Schools Festival (choir and dance club performing)

July 3<sup>rd</sup>: Year 5 taster morning at St.George's Academy (Ruskington site)

July 12<sup>th</sup>: London Theatre Trip ('Aladdin')

July 13<sup>th</sup>: Reports issued

July 16<sup>th</sup>: Y6 Leavers' Play 1.30pm

July 17<sup>th</sup>: Y6 Leavers' Play 6pm

July 18<sup>th</sup>: Class swap morning

July 19<sup>th</sup>: Sports Day

July 20<sup>th</sup>: Leavers Assembly and ACE/School Awards

Term ends

### **School website and Twitter**

Our school website is designed not only to promote the school in the wider community and give information to parents who are selecting a school for their children, but also to provide information for you. All newsletters sent out from school are published on our website as well as many other subsidiary letters – great if you find that your child's school bag is not always reliable! You will also find details of school documentation and policies. You can find us at: **[www.winchelsea.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.winchelsea.lincs.sch.uk)** If you love seeing what the school is up to on a daily basis you should follow me and other staff on Twitter. I can be followed at **@Winchelsea1**.

