



# Winchelsea News

*All Individuals Matter*

February Newsletter.

## **Special activities in school so far**

The first half term of 2018 has been an exciting one and we have had some interesting events take place in school already. We organised a European week in school which started with a French breakfast on the Monday and ended with German coffee and cake on the Friday afternoon. This was kindly provided by the Sleaford Twinning Association who also helped the children to practice their Modern Foreign language speaking and listening skills as well as learn some simple songs. Throughout the week children learnt about a range of different countries and produced some interesting work. The whole school can now sing 'Frere Jacques' in two parts, Amethyst class can count to ten in four different languages, Opal know all about the Tour de France and Emerald class have tasted Italian food!



We have also had a visiting theatre company called Rhubarb Theatre company entertain the children with their latest play called 'Sidney's Shed'. The play was great fun and the children used the ideas to inspire work in their classrooms subsequently.

Both of these activities were kindly subsidised by FOWS thanks to the money that you have helped them to raise and illustrates how our fundraising enables your children to benefit from special visitors without any costs to parents. The combined costs of both events were just over £600.

## **New building developments**



There has been a lot of exciting building work done on our school grounds since Christmas that the children are very excited about. Diamond class has had an extra outdoor learning area created which extends on to the field-side of the classroom. It has a new canopy so that the children can enjoy the fresh air as much as possible and is enclosed within a safely fenced area. We are just waiting for the company to fit a connecting door from the classroom before this can be fully functional. Miss Stewart and her team will be buying new resources to encourage learning through physical play and this will create fantastic new opportunities for the youngest children in our school.

Additionally, on the area of grass nearest to St. George's site we are developing an outdoor music area with large versions of musical instruments for the children to enjoy both within their curriculum lessons but also during playtimes and Golden Time.

## **School closures**

So far, we have been lucky with the weather conditions and despite the cold weather we have not been greatly affected. However, occasionally heavy overnight snow or other conditions may prevent staff or children from reaching school. In these circumstances a closure message will be broadcast on Lincs FM 102.2 and displayed on their website, provided that telephone communication is possible. Sometimes there is so much demand that lines are blocked and the website crashes! In addition a notice will be placed on the school gates advising parents that the school is closed. Closure is also sometimes necessary if boilers malfunction or burst pipes occur and then the school is required to close on health and safety grounds. Please be aware that school closure is only taken in exceptional circumstances and wherever possible we will maintain working circumstances for staff, children and parents.

## **Miss Davis**

As you will be aware Miss Davis is planning to start her maternity leave at the end of this half term. I can now confirm the arrangements for the cover of Opal class for the remainder of this academic year. We are pleased to have been able to appoint two excellent teachers who will be sharing the responsibility for the teaching of the class. Mr Daniel Grivil will work with the class from Monday to Wednesday whilst Mrs Sue Costello will work with them on Thursday and Friday. Both teachers are highly experienced teachers with many years of teaching across a range of ages in a variety of different establishments and both will bring expertise and skills to our school which we look forward to taking advantage of!

We wish Miss Davis all the best and look forward to seeing her soon with her new baby.



### **Road safety**

There is currently a campaign running by the Road Safety Partnership which they have asked schools to promote called 'See and be seen' and they make the following recommendations:

- Increase your chance of being seen by others when walking, scooting or cycling by choosing lit areas.
- Always wear something bright, light-coloured or fluorescent during the winter such as clothing, a bag or an accessory. Reflective clothing or gear worn after dark will help drivers to see you.
- Remove hoods or large hats when crossing the road, as they can block your vision.
- Find a suitable place to cross the road where you can view the traffic, and drivers can see you too. If a pedestrian crossing is not available, find a safe place, away from parked cars or bends and where possible cross under a streetlight when it's dark.
- Always STOP, LOOK, LISTEN and THINK when crossing the road.

### **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.

### **Suitable clothing**

As the weather at this time of year can be unpredictable, children need to come to school suitably dressed. There are lots of children who do not have warm coats which are needed for playtimes and lunchtime breaks when children can become cold. Gloves, scarves and hats can also be worn. However, 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 whilst boots or wellies may be appropriate for walking to school they should not be worn in school all day so children will need to bring a change of footwear for the classroom. Similarly, trainers are not acceptable. A suitable PE kit for both indoor and outdoor sessions should be in school at all times. 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 and Breakfast club**

We work with a number of excellent child minders who collect pupils from school who can be contacted individually. We also link with First Steps who will collect from our playground and walk children to their facilities 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. Mrs Hilton continues to run 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 school 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.

### **Fundraising opportunities**

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**

February 5<sup>th</sup>: Parents' evening 5-7pm  
February 6<sup>th</sup>: Parents' evening 4-6pm  
February 8<sup>th</sup>: Inspire assembly and workshops (visiting Olympian)  
February 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>: Half term  
March 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>: Assessment Week  
March 23<sup>rd</sup>: Sport Relief Day  
March 23<sup>rd</sup>: Reports issued  
March 26<sup>th</sup>: Writes photographs – classes and clubs/teams  
March 26<sup>th</sup>: Easter celebration 1.30pm  
March 28<sup>th</sup>: Easter celebration 1.30pm      Term ends

### **Future term dates**

April 16<sup>th</sup>: Term starts  
May 28<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>: Half term  
July 20<sup>th</sup>: 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 can find us at: [www.winchelsea.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.winchelsea.lincs.sch.uk) I am also regularly tweeting! I can be followed at @Winchelsea1. Once again, I hope the information in this newsletter has been helpful. Miss Helen Duckett Head Teacher