



Winchelsea News

All Individuals Matter

January Newsletter

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas with friends and family and that 2018 has started well. Staff and children have returned to school looking forward to continuing the great work as always at Winchelsea.

Success for Winchelsea

Just before Christmas the annual performance tables were released by the Department of Education. These comprise of statistical data using the results that our Year 6 children achieve before they leave in reading, writing, maths and spelling, grammar and punctuation. There are 319 primary schools in Lincolnshire listed. Winchelsea has once again been placed in the top twenty of these schools for the fourth consecutive year for the progress that our children make. This year we are in 13th place. This is a fantastic achievement and shows the great work of all the staff and children in school. It is the teamwork that makes Winchelsea such a great school. Well done everyone!



Christmas

Many thanks to all parents, grandparents, family relatives and friends who came along to support our many Christmas events. Our choir went out all over the village singing to lots of social groups and at church and they received praise wherever they went. They had three performances that took place at weekends and I am grateful to parents for giving up their time to make sure that the children could take part. I thought the plays this time were fantastic. I am always amazed at the high standards of performance the children produce –amazing singing and dancing and great acting, remembering all the words and making sure the audience can hear everyone! We hope you enjoyed being entertained by the children and were as proud of them as I was. Our raffle was well supported, with prizes donated from a range of sources. I must thank F.O.W.S. (Friends of Winchelsea School) who gave up their time to support this fundraising, selling raffle tickets at performances and organising the prizes and display. All money raised from Christmas sales and discos will be put to great use to buy resources or provide extra opportunities for all of the children in school.

Wintry weather

So far, we have been lucky with the weather conditions and despite the cold weather over the Christmas break 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.

One way road

Last term there was a lot of disruption caused by the roadworks taking place around the school. As a result, some drivers were tempted to drive the wrong way down the road outside of school to bypass the problems. This is a one-way road and we occasionally have to make visitors aware of this, especially delivery drivers who are unfamiliar with the premises. However, we have been monitoring this closely and there have been a few parents' cars spotted entering the gates from the wrong direction as a quick short cut to the parking outside of school, perhaps to drop off or pick up children. Not only does this break the road laws but also places people on our site at risk. Please follow the one-way system at all times to keep everyone safe.



Message from our eco council



The eco club and school council are on a mission to reduce the number of children that come to school by car – a whopping 49%. Not only is it physically healthier to not use the car, it is good for the environment and it relieves congestion around school. We are hoping to run a walking bus service from a car park in the village; this will need to be signed up for but will be a free service. Let's make it our New Year's resolution and get those feet walking, scooting or cycling! We even have a new scooter pod near the bike shelters for scooter storage. Watch this space for more news about the walking bus but in the meantime please try to do your bit and leave the car at home or park and stride instead.

No smoking site

I would like to 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

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.

Breakfast club

Mrs Hilton will continue to run our breakfast club from the mobile classroom 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.

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 FOWS such as the Christmas raffle 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

January 22nd-26th: European Week
January 29th: Rhubarb Theatre in school performing 'Sidney's Shed'
February 5th: Parents' evening 5-7pm
February 6th: Parents' evening 4-6pm
February 8th: Inspire assembly and workshops (visiting Olympian)
February 12th – 16th: Half term
March 12th - 16th: Assessment Week
March 23rd: Sport Relief Day
March 23rd: Reports issued
March 26th: Writes photographs – classes and clubs/teams
March 26th: Easter celebration 1.30pm
March 28th: Easter celebration 1.30pm Term ends

Future term dates

April 16th: Term starts
May 28th – June 1st: Half term
July 20th: 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 photographs and information about what has been happening in your child's class, details of school documentation and policies and other news from clubs or events. You can find us at: www.winchelsea.lincs.sch.uk I am also occasionally tweeting! I can be followed at [@Winchelsea1](https://twitter.com/Winchelsea1). My following is growing slowly and steadily and I now have 264 followers. Help me become even more popular!

Once again, I hope the information in this newsletter has been helpful.

Miss Helen Duckett
Head Teacher