



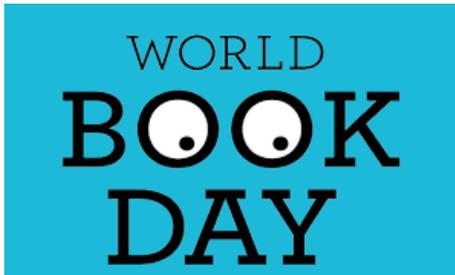
# Winchelsea News

*All Individuals Matter*

## March Newsletter.

### Special activities in school

If you thought the first half term of 2018 was an exciting one wait till this one gets under way! This term Peridot class have already had a superb visit from ZooLab who brought all kinds of creatures linked to their topic on the Amazon Rainforest. The class met Steve the Scorpion who I am pleased to say remained in his box although the children had the chance to handle many other creatures and thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience.



Amethyst are planning to spend a day at 'Conkers' taking part in a Roman workshop to consolidate and expand their learning of their topic this term. I look forward to hearing about their day and seeing the photographs which will, no doubt, be posted on Twitter.

World Book Day was on March 1st but sadly the weather forced us to be closed. **This has been rescheduled to take place on Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup>.** Don't forget to use their book token voucher that entitles them to £1 off any book that they might like to buy from any shop participating in the scheme.

### Sporting successes and further events



We continue to show off our sporting skills. Our netball team, under the leadership of Mrs Morley, came through local heats to reach the finals where they lost out on the quarter finals. This was a fantastic achievement for their first year and I am proud of how well this new team is developing. Many children have taken part in a range of events such as pop lacrosse, volleyball and goalball and this term we have tri-golf, quicksticks and table tennis to look forward to. We recently took part in a dance competition and the children and Miss Reid did a brilliant job, only narrowly missing out on a top three place. You will get a chance to see their fantastic routine if you come along to our Easter celebration at the end of term. Children from Winchelsea have also taken part in lots of fun sporting activities with more planned to come.

March 23rd is Sport Relief Day and we will be planning a day of fun and energetic activities. A letter from FOWS will come out to parents with further details shortly.

### Easter Celebrations

At the end of this term we are planning to hold our annual Easter celebrations. This involves all of the children in school who will take turns a class at a time to share some of the work they have been doing this term. There will be singing (including the traditional audience participation!) and the choir and dance group will perform. We hope you will join us but we are extremely limited on space, even more so than at Christmas, as all children are taking part so we ask that you understand and appreciate the restrictions we have on hall space and only ask for a maximum of **two tickets for one performance**. Where children have separated parents we are happy to offer two tickets to each parent. There will be no additional seats offered. Please return the slip at the end of this letter so that we can keep a track of numbers. Once we have reached our restriction limit there will be no more seats available and therefore seats will be allocated on a first return basis.

**No tickets will be issued and no seating plan created.**

### Walk to school challenge

I am pleased to tell you that our walk to school challenge is going really well. Mrs Tranter is monitoring this and has reported many more children coming to school on bikes and scooters or walking. This is also helping to ease the congestion outside school caused by cars at pick up and drop off time. I am aware that St George's are asking Winchelsea parents not to park near their school as they also have limited parking spaces and therefore it would really benefit everyone (not to mention the health benefits from being more active) if more parents could think about leaving the car at home or parking outside of the school grounds such as the Co-op and walking the short remaining distance. When we have some statistics we will share these with you as we will be continuing this challenge until the end of the year.

### Hot school dinners

Farm Kitchen at Ewerby provide our excellent hot dinners every day, offering a choice of two main meals (one vegetarian option) and delicious desserts or fruit. The standard of meal that they provide is superb and they ensure that the children at Winchelsea receive a healthy, nutritious meal. Portion sizes are ample (and second servings are available from time to time!). They also frequently organise special menus and events to match calendar events such as World Book Day, Christmas dinner, Easter festivals etc which sometimes include prizes. If your child is not currently taking hot meals you might be interested in investigating this option. You may be eligible for free school meals. If not, hot school dinners cost £2.45 per day. If you would like to know more about this please contact Mrs Neasham or Mrs Rowlands in the school office.

**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**

- March 12th - 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 26th: 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 1st: 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 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](http://www.winchelsea.lincs.sch.uk)** I am also regularly tweeting! I can be followed at **@Winchelsea1**. My following is growing steadily, and I now have 180 followers. **Parents have found Twitter particularly useful during announcements for snow closures.**

Once again, I hope the information in this newsletter has been helpful.      Miss Helen Duckett      Head Teacher

I would like ..... seats to attend the Easter celebration at school on Monday March 26<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm

**OR**

I would like ..... seats to attend the Easter celebration at school on Wednesday March 28th at 1.30pm

Please remember that we can only offer **two seats per family on ONE afternoon only** due to the restricted numbers we can provide in our school hall.

Child/ren’s names.....

Parental signature.....