



All Individuals Matter

Winchelsea News

October Newsletter

So the new academic year is now in full swing and everyone has settled into their new classes well.

Harvest festivals

Once again, we are planning to hold our Harvest festivals at South Lincs Church. As Winchelsea cannot all fit in we have two festivals planned – Wednesday 18th starting at 1.30pm for Diamond, Peridot, Sapphire and Amethyst classes and Thursday October 19th starting at 9.30am for Quartz, Emerald and Opal classes. The school choir will be attending both sessions. It is always lovely to see family and friends at these occasions so we hope you will be able to join us. Thank you to everyone who has so far kindly donated produce for our harvest boxes. We hope to be able to send out a number of boxes to members of the local community nominated by parents so there is still time to send in any further items.



Children in Need



On Friday November 18th it is Children in Need Day. As is the tradition at Winchelsea, the staff and children will be invited to wear their pyjamas for the day and have breakfast together and to take part we ask for a donation of £1. There will also be a chance for children to pay to have their face painted on the day. Our Friends of Winchelsea (F.O.W.S) will be organising the event. There will be a raffle for Pudsey merchandise by the school council and tickets will be on sale in school in the days leading up to the event. If you have any spare copper coins or change we will be attempting to cover our large Pudsey boards throughout the day too.

Poppies for Remembrance

As usual, Winchelsea will be holding a special assembly in November to commemorate Remembrance Day and poppies will be available in school for children to wear. Children simply need to bring in a donation for the collection which goes directly to the Royal British Legion to support soldiers and their families. Poppies will be sold in school by Year 6 pupils every day in the days leading up to November 11th.



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 and cake stalls 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.



Pound coins

We will not be able to accept any of the old-style pound coins for any payments after October 15th. The bank has asked us to inform parents that they can exchange their old coins with them but they will no longer be accepted for purchases etc.

Breakfast club

Mrs Hilton continues to run our breakfast club from 7.45am onwards. The club only operates on days when the school has received prior notice. 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. Similarly, **please let us 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.

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

REMINDER!!!! Punctuality/attendance

Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time before registers close at 9am and that children attend school every day unless illness prevents them. Please inform school promptly in the morning if your child will be absent.

Children DO NOT lose Golden Time minutes for their punctuality unless they are late more than once in any given week as we understand that sometimes circumstances can be unavoidable. However, persistent and continual lateness is not acceptable and will result in loss of Golden Time minutes.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind parents that our school gates do not open until 8.40am and therefore the children are not supervised until they are in school. It has come to our attention that a number of children are arriving far too early; often well before 8.30am, without their parents or an adult to look after them. This places them at risk and I would ask parents to ensure children do not leave home too early.

Sickness reminder

May I remind parents of the sickness/absence that the school operates under, which is statutory and advised by county. In order to minimise the spread of infections to keep staff and children healthy it is advised that children who have suffered from sickness or diarrhoea should remain off school for a minimum of 48 hours, even if they appear to be feeling a lot better. Schools, by their very nature, involve close contact and we strive to stop the spread of illnesses as quickly as possible. I am sure parents would appreciate that following this policy is in the interests of everyone who has contact with school and will support us in this matter. Could I also remind parents that school needs to be informed of absence every morning that your child will not be attending, even if they are suffering from the same ailment. Please call the office rather than waiting for Mrs Neasham to contact you as this takes up a lot of her valuable time which can be saved if you leave a simple message on the answerphone system. This is part of the schools' strong safeguarding systems which ensure that we can account for every child's whereabouts if they are not in school.

Dates to the end of this term

October 4th: Wrates Photographer in school – individuals and family groups

October 8th: Methodist Church Harvest Service 3pm

October 16th: Parents' evening 5-7pm : 11+ results received by school

October 17th: Parents' evening 4-6pm

October 18th: Harvest Festival 1.30pm South Lincs Church

October 19th: Harvest Festival 9.30am South Lincs Church

October 23rd – 27th: Half term

October 31st: Children return to school **(Please note this is a Tuesday)**

November 17th: Children in Need Day

November 18th: Rotary swimathon

November 27th – December 1st : Assessment Week

December 7th: Rugby Trip to Twickenham

December 11th: KS2 Xmas play 1.30pm

December 12th: KS1 Xmas play 1.30pm : KS2 Xmas play 6pm

December 13th: Diamond Xmas play 9.30am : KS1 Xmas play 1.30pm

December 14th: Newark Panto trip

December 15th: Diamond Xmas play 9.30am : KS2 Xmas play 6pm: Reports issued

December 19th: Term ends **(Please note this is a Tuesday)**

Future term dates

January 3rd: Term starts **(Please note this is a Wednesday)**

February 12th – 16th: Half term

March 28th: Term ends **(Please note this is a Wednesday)**

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 also am a tweeter! I can be followed at @Winchelsea1.

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

Miss Helen Duckett Head Teacher