



Winchelsea News

All Individuals Matter

September Newsletter

Welcome back!! I hope you and your families had a lovely summer break. We have all returned to school refreshed and raring to go and are looking forward to another great year here at Winchelsea. Last year was a fantastic year for Winchelsea which culminated in our brilliant OFSTED report which will shortly be published and is attached with this newsletter.

Welcome!

We welcome lots of new children and their parents to our school community. Naturally the majority of new children in school are in Diamond class in Nursery and Reception but there are also new children in other year groups throughout school starting this September. We welcome you all and hope you settle in quickly to our friendly school. If there is anything we can help you with please do not hesitate to come in and see us – your child’s class teacher will be sending out a newsletter with useful information and the school office staff are always very helpful. They are happy for you to pop in and see them or give them a quick phone call if that is more convenient.

School developments

Despite the summer holidays, work has not stopped at Winchelsea. We are really excited to have our newly-renovated playgrounds at the front of school. A new tarmac surface has been put down which is much safer and the School Council designed the playground markings in consultation with their class mates. I am sure you will agree that it looks great and should really add to the pupils’ enjoyment at playtimes. We have also had some fantastic work done at the back of school near the mobile classroom to develop an outdoor classroom complete with polytunnel, raised flower beds, composters and learning stations. We just need it to stop raining now!

Staffing news.

We are very pleased for Miss Davis who is expecting her first child in February. I will be talking with her and the governing body about her intentions for maternity leave and will let parents in Year 1 know of arrangements when plans are in place.

Clubs this term

The school provides an excellent variety of extra-curricular provision for the children lead by staff at the school as well as outside agencies. Some clubs remain on offer to the children throughout the year such as choir but with the change of season different sporting activities become more appropriate. Staff also like to vary the range of activities being offered to broaden children’s opportunities.

We plan to start the majority of clubs during the week beginning September 11th.

	Lunchtime	After school
Monday	ICT advanced programming (by invitation) Mr Towndrow (fortnightly)	Art and Craft (R-Y6) Mrs Morley/ Mrs Harris/ Mrs Lewis Multi skills (Y3 -4) Mr Smith (Carre’s) Magic Maths (letter to follow)
Tuesday	Recorder group (Y5/6 by invitation) Miss Reid/Miss Duckett Tag Rugby (Y3-4) Mr Keetch	Gymnastics (Y1/2) Miss Stewart Tag Rugby (Y5-6) Mr Keetch
Wednesday	ECO club (Y3- 6) Mrs Tranter	Choir (YR-Y6) Miss Duckett/Mrs Jones
Thursday		Football (School Team training) Miss Couling Cookery (Y3/4) Mrs Cox
Friday		Dance (Y4-6) Miss Reid Mini-Kickers (Y1/2) Miss Davis

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.

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

September 15th: 11+ Test Paper A

September 22nd: 11+ Test Paper B

September 25th-29th: Kingswood Activity week

October 4th: Writes 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 23rd – 27th: Half term

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

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

December 15th: 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