



# Winchelsea Primary School

*'All individuals matter'*

January 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope you've all had a wonderful Christmas. We are excited to be back and looking forward to a new term filled with fantastic opportunities and rich learning experiences for your children.

## Staffing

As a school community, we would like to say a heartfelt farewell to Mrs Rowlands, who has retired after many years of dedicated service as our School Business Manager. Throughout her time with us, she brought a wealth of experience and knowledge that supported our school in countless ways, including the development of the grounds and provision for our children to learn and enjoy. We are incredibly grateful for her commitment and the positive impact she has made. We wish her the very best in her well-deserved retirement.

We are pleased to share that Miss Hanson will be stepping into the role of School Business Manager, working closely with our admin team and leadership team. We look forward to the expertise and energy she will bring to the position.

We have also some additional members of staff supporting in Early Years and Key Stage 1.

- In Year 1, Mrs Watkins will be supporting as a 1:1.
- In Reception, Ms Markham will also be supporting as a 1:1.

## Water safety (Important Safety Notice from Lincolnshire Police and Local Authority)

Please keep children off frozen ponds, lakes, and all bodies of water. Even when the surface looks solid, many of these areas are deep and extremely dangerous.

This week, school children have been seen playing on Lollycocks Pond in Sleaford, pulling each other across the ice using life rings. This is highly dangerous. As temperatures rise and fall, ice can weaken without warning. There is no way to judge its strength, and it can give way suddenly. Falling into cold water can be life-threatening. We will be discussing water safety and cold weather in our wellbeing assembly next week. We are that you reinforce these rules at home.

## Reminders for the cold weather

Please ensure that your child brings the following into school:

- A waterproof, warm coat
- Their PE kit (now that the weather is colder, please bring a P.E hoodie and jogging bottoms)
- Warm clothes (including a scarf, hat, gloves)

## School Closures

In the unlikely event that we need to close school, we will notify parents and carers as soon as possible. This information will be communicated via text and email. In case of bad weather, please check the following for updates:

- School website: <https://www.winchelsea.lincs.sch.uk/>
- Lincolnshire County Council website: School updates: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-attendance/school-closures>
- Our school Facebook page

The decision to close will only be made as a last resort, taking into account the health and safety of children, families and staff, as well as advice from Lincolnshire County Council. Partial closures may be necessary if staffing levels are limited.

## Forest School

Each Friday Diamond, Opal and Sapphire Classes will have Forest School with Danny. Please ensure that your child brings a change of socks and wellies. It is also important that your child brings a warm, waterproof coat and a change of bottoms or waterproofs. Key Stage 2 children will also take part in Forest school on a weekly rotation basis during the afternoons. The dates can be found in the diary date section. Key Stage 2 children will also need to bring wellies, a spare pair of socks and waterproof bottoms.

## Nut allergies

We have a number of children in school with nut allergies, and we aim to keep our school nut-free. Please do not send your child to school with any items containing nuts, such as peanut butter, biscuits, or snacks with nuts. Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe.

## Dates for your diary

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>  
January  
Emerald Class  
Forest School

Monday 26<sup>th</sup>  
January Open  
the book  
assembly

Friday 30<sup>th</sup>  
January  
Peridot Class  
Forest School

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>  
February  
Diamond Class  
parental  
engagement  
2.00pm /  
Amethyst  
Class parental  
engagement  
2.30pm

Friday 6<sup>th</sup>  
February  
Quartz Class  
Forest School

w/c 9<sup>th</sup>  
February  
Children's  
Mental health  
week

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>  
February  
Emerald Class  
parental  
engagement  
2.30pm

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>  
February  
Valentine's  
disco

Friday 13<sup>th</sup>  
February  
Quartz Class  
parental  
engagement  
2.45pm / last  
day of term

## Communication

We would like to apologise for the recent lack of communication. Our new email provider has not been running as smoothly as expected. We have been made aware that some parents have not received emails, with some messages being delivered to junk or spam folders.

The issue has been reported, and we hope it has now been resolved. If you have not received any emails from us since the beginning of term, please contact the school office so we can ensure you are kept up to date.

All newsletters and class information — including PE days, homework, and other updates — can be found on the Class Pages section of our school website: [Winchelsea Primary School - Class Pages](#) This is the best place to check for the most up-to-date details throughout the term.

## Department for Education information

Please find a link below to a guide for parents. We have been asked by the Department for Education to share this with you with regards to the use of devices and the risks that they present: ['What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives | Children's Commissioner for England](#)

## Clubs

The clubs on offer this term are on the school website on the About Us page. Everyone has been contacted who has been offered a place. Please contact the school office if you would like to see if there is still availability if your child is interested. Year 5 parents have been emailed and given a letter via their child with information about an after school 11+ club starting after February half term.

## School Development

We continue to focus on developing high-quality teaching and learning across the school, with particular attention on phonics, handwriting, and writing. We appreciate that some of these core subjects may feel repetitive at times, but this approach ensures that children have regular opportunities to embed key skills and make strong progress.

Alongside this, we are working to enhance our children's wider learning experiences by providing enriching opportunities in history, geography, and RE through hands-on activities and workshops. Recently, St George's visited our school and led a workshop with Year 4 on the Roman invasion. They will also be working with Year 6 later in the year.



## Behaviour and safety

This term, we have been reinforcing behaviour expectations across the school to ensure that everyone is demonstrating our school values. This helps pupils feel safe and supports a calm, purposeful learning environment.

Where pupils are finding it difficult to follow the behaviour policy, our behaviour specialist is providing support in class, along with additional adults or tailored provision. This ensures that children receive the guidance they need to make the right choices.

## Pupil progress

Teachers have taken part in pupil progress meetings following the assessment data and testing weeks last term. If your child is receiving additional support with their learning, you will receive a letter next week explaining the provision in place.

Please follow our Facebook page to see more photos and activities in school.

Kind regards  
Mrs T Boulter

## Save the dates

– more  
information to  
follow:

Parent's  
evenings

Monday 30<sup>th</sup>  
March &  
Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup>  
March

## Attendance

Our  
attendance is  
**96.2%**

We are not  
allowed to  
authorise any  
holidays  
during term  
time due to  
the new  
National  
agenda to  
improve  
school  
attendance.

If you wish to  
request  
leave, you  
must contact  
the office for  
an  
exceptional  
leave form.

The  
Government  
are expecting  
us to fine  
parents if we  
suspect you  
have been on  
holiday.



FOWS news (Friends of Winchelsea School)

We would like to say a huge thank you to our amazing FOWs who raised over £700.00 from the Christmas events after funding presents and experiences for the children.



Events – save the date!



Valentine's disco Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
 3.20pm – 4.45pm Diamond Class, Opal Class and Sapphire Class.  
 5.00pm – 6.15pm Amethyst Class (Y3), Emerald Class (Y4), Peridot Class (Y5) and Quartz Class (Y6)  
 Tickets will be on sale from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026.  
 FOWs meeting: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 5.45pm

If you can help to support any of these events, selling tickets or would like to join our meetings, we would hugely appreciate your help. Please contact us if you would like to help: [FOWs@winchelsea.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:FOWs@winchelsea.lincs.sch.uk)