



Winchelsea News

All Individuals Matter

September Newsletter

Welcome back!! I hope our pupils and families had a lovely summer break despite the current circumstances. We have all returned to school refreshed and raring to go and are looking forward to another great year here at Winchelsea.

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 contact us – your child's class teacher will have sent out a newsletter with useful information and the school office staff are always very helpful. You join us in strange times but we look forward to getting to know you all.

Drop off and collection of pupils from school

Thank you very much for your support with the new arrangements for staggered timings for pupils in different year groups. There was some confusion in the first few days but this has run much more smoothly as children have become more familiar with their classroom entrances and the new routines. Please could I ask that parents arrive promptly at the designated times and also leave promptly to avoid congestions and to minimise the numbers waiting in close proximity. I know that some families are arriving early and are happy to wait for their designated entrance time but this can cause some confusion for children and staff and I hope that as this new routine becomes embedded that there can be the minimum time needed for groups to be waiting at the gate. Miss Stewart and I will open gates promptly with the hope that dispersal from the school grounds can be as quick as possible. Please be understanding that the gate will then close and if you are late you may have to wait and access the next opening time. As the weather deteriorates I am sure we will all want to be at the gates for as little time as possible! These timings are in place to minimise contact and keep everyone as safe as possible.

The information below is taken from the full risk assessment which was emailed to all parents last month. Please make yourself familiar with all aspects of the information that is provided in that document.

Allocated gates for parents and children to arrive and leave from:

- Year 5 and 6 arrive at 8.45am and leave at 3.30pm (Year 5 through main gate Year 6 through field gates to enter/leave school by classroom fire doors)
- Year 3 and 4 at 9am and leave at 3.15pm (Year 3 through main gate Year 4 through field gates to enter/leave school by classroom fire doors)
- Year 1 and 2 at 9.15am and leave at 3pm (Year 2 through main gate Year 1 through field gates to enter/leave school by classroom fire doors)
- Reception and Nursery arrive at 9.30am through field gates and leave at 2.45pm through the front access of Diamond classroom)

Parking and cars on the school site.

Parking has always been difficult around our school site, especially with the potential volume of cars that might access the through-road at any one given time. I would request that parents try to avoid bringing cars onto the school site. Winchelsea has always promoted walking, scooting or cycling to school by children where this can be done safely. St George's have asked me to request that parents do not park on their site or on the access road near their school as they also have concerns about congestion with buses and taxis and need to ensure the safety of their pupils too. If you must use your car, please think about parking beyond the school boundaries such as the Co-op which is only a short walk away. By doing this and also complying as closely as possible with the timings this should ensure our site remains as safe as possible.



Exciting developments in our reading provision

Over the last months in school we have done a full overhaul of our reading resources and are in the process of investing in new books and introducing a new reading system. You will shortly get more information from Miss Reid about this. Not only will this benefit the children greatly in school to ensure that they progress well and access a range of literature to develop a love of reading but parents will also be able to access an online library for free (paid for by school) so that your children can continue reading at home. In these current times when libraries are not yet re-opened and school reading books have to be quarantined before they can be shared again we are pleased to be able to offer this, so please watch out for further news coming soon!

Communication

As our risk assessment does not allow parents on site we know that this makes communication very difficult. If you have any concerns or questions please contact the office by telephone or via email. Please keep an eye on our website for information and follow me on Twitter @Winchelsea1 as these are the best methods of seeing the most up-to-date information. We are trying hard to keep you informed by direct email too but are aware that not all the email addresses we have are correct so please make sure the office have your correct contact details. If school attaches a read receipt or asks for a reply it is vital that you help us by responding so that we know you have received the information. As you can appreciate, trying to keep in touch with over 200 of you is not an easy task!

Sickness reminder

During this pandemic, it is more important than ever that we keep as healthy as we possibly can. The school operates under guidance regarding pupil sickness absence, which is statutory and advised by county. In order to minimise the spread of infections of any kind it is advised that children who have suffered from sickness/ diarrhoea should remain off school for a minimum of 48 hours, even if they appear to be feeling a lot better. 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 McCann 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 school's strong safeguarding systems which ensure that we can account for every child's whereabouts if they are not in school.

Clubs this term

The school usually provides an excellent variety of extra-curricular provision for the children lead by staff at the school as well as outside agencies. It is extremely saddening for us that we are unable to offer any clubs currently due to the restrictions but should this change in future we will be keen to resume our wonderful range of activities as soon as possible.

Dates to the end of this term

September 18th: 11+ Paper A Verbal reasoning

September 25th: 11+ Paper B Non-verbal reasoning

October 14th: Writes Photographer in school – individuals and family groups (subject to Covid restrictions)

November 13th: Children in Need Day

November 23rd – 27th: Assessment Week

December 17th: Term ends **(Please note this is a Thursday)**

Term dates for 2020/21

Term 1: Thursday 3rd September 2020– Thursday 22nd October 2020

Term 2: Monday 2nd November 2020– Thursday 17th December 2020

Term 3: Monday 4th January 2021– Friday 12th February 2021

Term 4: Monday 22nd February 2021 – Wednesday 31st March 2021

Term 5: Monday 19th April 2021– Friday 28th May 2021

Term 6: Monday 7th June 2021 – Wednesday 21st July 2021

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. Lots of you have signed up to Twitter and enjoy seeing the photographs and news about what is going on in school. This is updated almost daily by staff. Get yourself on there and have a look!!! It is also an excellent way of keeping up-to-date on school news which in these current times can change rapidly. We put links to important documents and letters on Twitter that you can access easily. You can find us at: **www.winchelsea.lincs.sch.uk** and on Twitter at **Helen Duckett @Winchelsea1**. Once you follow me you will access the Twitter details for all other staff too.

Despite this difficult situation nationally we are keeping spirits up and still smiling! Who knows what the future may hold and there is an awful lot of uncertainty for everyone but one thing I am sure of is that Winchelsea school will rise to whatever challenges we need to face and will always endeavour to do our best for everyone we work with.

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

Miss Helen Duckett
Head Teacher