



Winchelsea News

All Individuals Matter

October Newsletter

The new academic year is now in full swing and everyone has settled into their new classes well. Despite the changes in place I am pleased to see happy children who are learning well, working hard and enjoying being back in the school environment with their teachers and friends.

Thank you

Thank you for your continued support with the new arrangements that school has put in place to try to manage the risks associated with Covid-19. The staggered drop-off and pick up timings are working well and the organisation of the day in school and the hygiene routines are becoming embedded. The children have been great and are following the directives very well and so far we are pleased that school is managing so well.

Please could I ask that parents continue to try to arrive promptly at the designated times and also leave promptly to avoid congestion and to minimise the numbers waiting in close proximity. Miss Stewart and I 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 wearing of masks is also appreciated at this time to help reduce the possibility of virus transmission.

Dog concerns



I have been contacted by a small number of parents who have raised concerns about dogs near the school site. I would like to remind parents that dogs are not allowed within the perimeter of the school site and whilst they are never on our school playground I must point out that our perimeter includes the connecting path from Rectory Road to our zebra crossing. I appreciate that parents who own dogs may have walked to school with them to drop off or collect their children at school and in most cases have them safely on a lead. However, there are some parents and children who feel uneasy especially when dogs are excitable or unpredictable. I ask that parents with dogs are mindful of this and that dogs

remain clear of the school gates to the site at busy times.

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.



Harvest collections

It is a great shame that we cannot hold our usual Harvest festivals this year. However, we would love to continue to be able to help others in our community in some way and therefore I have talked to Ruskington Methodist Church about their Harvest work and have offered to support their collections. This year they are supporting Sleaford New Life Community Larder and have two church members whose addresses are being used as collection points and they would be more than happy to receive your donations. The two addresses, both in Ruskington, are as follows:

24 Springfield Road (items to be left under the car port) and 45 Leasingham Lane (items to be left in the box)

Below is a list of items the food larder suggest:

Tinned vegetables and potatoes

Tins or jars of sauces

Snack rice and noodles

Tins of spaghetti, ravioli, baked beans

UHT Milk

Tinned milk puddings such as custard, rice pudding

Boxes of cereal

Tinned meat, casseroles, curries and stews

Packet soups

Tinned hot dog sausages or meatballs

Bags of pasta or rice

Tinned fruit

Packet desserts such as jelly, whipped desserts

Jars of jam or sandwich paste

All items must be 'in date' as produce past its sell by date cannot be used.

They have asked for parents to drop off any time from 5th to 11th October as a lead up to their Harvest service on 11th.

Sports awards



We are continuing to be as active as possible at Winchelsea as we all know the great benefits of this on our health as well as our mental wellbeing. Teachers continue to plan lots of PE lessons as well as active learning opportunities within other subjects and we are taking part in competitive sports events, even though this is through virtual methods at the moment. Many of you have supported the Active Challenge recently and completed the form throughout September to record the active minutes for your children outside of school. At the time of writing this letter I am still awaiting the results but know that we have been in the



top five throughout so fingers crossed! In recognition of our work prior to lockdown we received the School Games award for 2019/20 and the certificate is framed and displayed in our school entrance. Alongside it is a second certificate that shows recognition for our active work during lockdown when we still took part in virtual events with great success. We hope you will continue to support any future initiatives in the same enthusiastic way!

Exciting developments in our reading provision

Over the lockdown period we did 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 have received more information from Miss Reid about this earlier in the week. We have ordered lots of new books which we are looking forward to sharing with the children. 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 excited about the prospect of accessing online reading literature.

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 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.

Dates to the end of this term

October 14th: Wrates Photographer in school – individuals only (subject to Covid restrictions)

November 23rd – 27th: Assessment Week

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

Term dates for 2020/21

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

Monday 22nd February 2021 – Wednesday 31st March 2021

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

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