



Winchelsea News

All Individuals Matter

December Newsletter

Not a normal Christmas

It is a shame that in these current times we cannot do our normal Winchelsea plays and all the other activities that we usually love. Let's hope that next year we can return to all of our usual celebrations but whilst we are all working hard to stay safe we must make adaptations to our festivities. Please be reassured that the children will still be filled with the Christmas spirit in their own class bubbles and teachers will be doing lots of fun activities for the season. We are still planning to have Xmas dinner at the end of term but there will be no pantomime trip, discos or raffle fundraiser. The children usually love sending Christmas cards to each other but this year this will only be possible within their own classes – there will be no postbox deliveries as we must maintain our risk assessment. Children will need to hand their cards in to the teacher on a Monday so they can be 'quarantined' before distribution at the end of the week. Children should not hand cards directly to each other.

If you would like to take part in a bit of Christmas fun to raise money for local charities you might be interested in the quiz sheet that I have attached to this newsletter. We do a lot of great work with the Rotary club of Sleaford and if you would like the chance of winning some money whilst finding out about some interesting Christmas facts then you might like to have a go! Details of how to enter are included on the quiz sheets with everything being done directly with the Rotary club members and not school. Just mention me on your entry! Good luck!

Information about what would happen should we get a positive case in our school

So far, Winchelsea has remained Covid- free, despite some children in our setting coming into contact with positive cases or living in a household where members have needed to isolate. However, despite all of our best efforts, we have to be prepared for the eventuality that we may be faced with the need to close a class bubble if a pupil or staff member becomes ill. I thought it might be helpful to know what will happen and the plans we have in place to inform parents as quickly as possible. A test result for a pupil can be received by parents via email or text at any time of day or night. As soon as school becomes aware of this result, Miss Stewart, Mrs Rowlands and myself will make phone calls directly to parents of children in the class bubble of the affected child. This will need to be a brief phone call which will let you know that your child will either need collecting from school if this happens during the school day or inform you that your child should not attend school the next school day if this happens in the evening. As soon as is possible after that phone call you will receive a letter which outlines what will happen next and give you details of the length of period of necessary isolation as a result, the exact date when your child can return and how you can access home learning for your child whilst they are absent from school. Your child's class teacher will be in touch within 48 hours of bubble closure with further information. This will be dependent on the staff member's own health. If you have children in more than one class there is no need for all children to remain at home, only the one in the closed class bubble. This only changes if anyone in your household becomes symptomatic and seeks a test, in which case all family members should remain home in isolation until a test result is received. I appreciate that this will cause heightened anxiety and worry for parents and children. Likewise this will be a stressful and worrying time for the staff at Winchelsea. Please be reassured that we will be doing everything we can to support you and your child but there is a great deal of work that will need to go on within school at very short notice including reporting to relevant agencies and following the guidance and protocols that they will dictate. I hope parents will be mindful of this pressure and only contact school if vitally necessary as phone lines will need to be kept as free as possible to deal with managing the immediate issues.

Remembrance Day

It was very disappointing this year not to be able to hold our usual Remembrance assembly in school and support the British Legion with the selling of poppies and other merchandise. However, we value the importance and significance of this day and we continued to ensure that the children did lots of work around this subject in their class bubbles and we all observed the two minutes silence together at 11am. There are lots of lovely pictures on Twitter and I have included one here of Miss Stewart with two of our pupils as we took a short walk to the Remembrance garden on Sleaford Road and laid beautifully decorated stones with the wreaths and crosses from the local community.



Children in Need

Many thanks to everyone who supported our fundraising efforts for Children in Need Day. We are very pleased that we were able to wear our pyjamas although it was such a shame not to be able to do our usual sharing breakfast together, putting our coppers on Pudsey, face painting or raffle. Hopefully next year we can return to these activities. However, there were lots of donations made at the gate in our buckets and we know that lots of families have supported the fundraising by making donations via text or other methods. Amazingly, we still raised a fantastic £214.59. We were so excited to get a visit from the famous Pudsey bear (socially distanced of course!) and the buzz this created around school was wonderful!



Super learning!

This month, I thought I would share some photos that show some of the great learning activities that have been going on in school despite all the restrictions.



In Year 6 the children are studying World War II and one day they arrived at school to find their classroom had been blacked out and they entered an air raid with sirens blaring and only tables for them to take shelter under to stay safe from the distant bombing. This was a fantastic immersive learning lesson and they then wrote some super diary entries about how it would have felt to live through this experience.

They also created some very impressive silhouette paintings of London during the Blitz which have made a wonderful classroom display.



In Year 1 the children have been learning about the different body parts and they enjoyed drawing around each other in order to make life-sized pictures to which they added the correct labels and learnt all about what we can see on the outside as well as what can be found on the inside. They had some interesting ideas about where each body part was located!

They then went on to learn about Florence Nightingale and their immersive lesson involved them finding their classroom had become a hospital ward and they were required to learn how to bandage patients, care for them appropriately and

clean up the hospital afterwards. They loved this experience and many now want to be nurses in future!



Our little Diamonds are our youngest children in Nursery and Reception and many of them are new to school. They are full of smiles and have been working hard on their letters and sounds and their numbers. What could be better than to see how much they are enjoying their learning and their faces in this photo cannot fail to bring a smile to your faces too!

Suitable clothing

As the weather at this time of year can be unpredictable, children need to come to school suitably dressed. There are lots of children who do not have warm coats which are needed for playtimes and lunchtime breaks when children can become cold. Gloves, scarves and hats can also be worn. However, sweatshirts and hoodies that are not part of school uniform should not be worn as a substitute for a coat. Footwear also needs to be suitable for the weather conditions and whilst boots

or wellies may be appropriate for walking to school they should not be worn in school all day so children will need to bring a change of footwear for the classroom. Similarly, trainers are not acceptable. A suitable PE kit for both indoor and outdoor sessions should be in school at all times. Please make sure that all items of clothing are clearly named as we seem to have an ever-growing pile of lost property!

Dates to the end of this term

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. All newsletters sent out from school are published on our website as well as many other subsidiary letters. 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 am also regularly tweeting! I can be followed at [@Winchelsea1](https://twitter.com/Winchelsea1).

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