



# Winchelsea News

*All Individuals Matter*

## September Newsletter

Welcome back!! I hope our pupils and 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.

### 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. They are happy for you to pop them an email, catch them on the playground or give them a quick phone call if that is more convenient.

### School developments and plans

Despite the summer holidays, work has not stopped at Winchelsea. We are really excited to have completed our SmartPod and we are planning our grand opening. After that please look out for an invitation from your child's teacher to come in and see the fantastic immersive sensory equipment in action! Our new Zen courtyard should also be completed during this month so keep watching Twitter for updates. We have refreshed resources and revisited our curriculum so the children will be experiencing some fantastic topics this year. We are already planning visits and visitors and are looking forward to PGL soon for some older children for a week in Yorkshire taking part in adventure activities and we have also booked our whole school pantomime trip to Newark to see 'Snow White'. We have planned quite a few other events in advance also so please make a note of the dates at the end of this newsletter so that you don't miss out on any of the fun!

### 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 18<sup>th</sup> although some of the clubs run by external agencies will start sooner.**

	Lunchtime	After school
Mon	Netball (Y5-6) Mrs Morley Cards and board games (Y3-6) Mr Rushton	Multiskills (R-Y3) (Carre's) 4.30pm finish
Tues	Recorders (Y5-6) by invitation Miss Reid	Choir (R-Y6) Miss Duckett/Mrs Jones 4.15pm finish
Weds	Chess (YR- 6) Mr Gravit	Rugby (Y5/6) (Carre's) 4.30pm finish Stop animation (Y4-6) Mrs Cox 4.15pm finish Gymnastics/dance (Yr-2) Miss Stewart 4.30pm finish
Thurs		Dancercise (Y1-3) Miss Marshall 4.15pm finish Football (Y4-6) Mr Green 4.30pm finish Magical Maths (KS2 and KS1 clubs) 4.30pm finish
Fri		Dance (Y4-6) Miss Reid 4.30pm finish

### 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.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind parents that our school gates do not open until 8.45am and therefore the children are not supervised until they are in school. A number of children are sometimes arriving far too early 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.

### Policies and protocols

You will shortly be receiving a number of documents from the school office which I urge you to read carefully. The first is the school's new Parental Code of Conduct which has been produced by the Local Authority and which sets out expectations for how parent and carers should behave. The second is the school's Attendance Policy which sets out new guidance on the introduction of fines or more serious consequence for pupil absence. The third is the school's updated Separated Parents Policy which clarifies how school will work with parents in these circumstances. These documents can also be found on our school website.

### **After school provision**

We appreciate how difficult it can be for working parents to co-ordinate their working hours with school hours. Whilst we offer a good range of after school clubs these finish by 4.15/4.30pm and parents need childcare beyond this time. We work with a number of excellent childminders who collect pupils from school and we work in partnership with First Steps who provide childcare on our school premises until 6pm every evening - they are the point of contact for parents to make arrangements.

### **Breakfast club**

Mrs Hilton will continue to run our breakfast club this year. If you know you would like to use this facility on a given day please use our online booking system or contact the school office on the day before by noon so that Mrs Hilton can be informed. Payments are registered by the school office and need to be prompt otherwise provision may be jeopardised.

### **Sickness reminder**

The school operates under guidance regarding pupil sickness absence, which is statutory and advised by county. In order to minimise the spread of infections 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. Schools clearly 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. **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/ Miss Brooks to contact you as this takes up a lot of valuable time which can be saved if you leave a 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**

September 6<sup>th</sup>: Term starts  
September 16<sup>th</sup>: 11+ Paper A  
September 23<sup>rd</sup>: 11+ Paper B  
September 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>: Paralympic Sports Week  
October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>: PGL Week  
October 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>: Y6 Bikeability Week  
October 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>: Parents consultations Week  
October 18<sup>th</sup>: Wrates photographs (families/individuals)  
October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>: Half Term  
October 31<sup>st</sup>: School re-opens (Please note this is a Tuesday)  
November 9<sup>th</sup>: Flu immunisations  
November 20<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup>: Assessment Week  
December 11<sup>th</sup>: 9.30am Diamond Xmas Play to parents 1.30pm Y4-6 Xmas Play to parents  
December 12<sup>th</sup>: Diamond Xmas Play to parents 6pm Y4-6 Xmas Play to parents  
December 14<sup>th</sup>: Newark Pantomime 'Snow White'  
December 15<sup>th</sup>: Reports issued to parents  
December 18<sup>th</sup>: 5.30pm Y1-3 Xmas Play to parents  
December 19<sup>th</sup>: 1.30pm Y1-3 Xmas Play to parents  
December 20<sup>th</sup>: Term ends (Please note this is a Wednesday)

### **Future term dates for 2023/24**

January 3<sup>rd</sup>: Term starts (Please note this is Wednesday)  
February 12<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup>: Half Term  
March 7<sup>th</sup>: World Book Day  
March 18<sup>th</sup>: Wrates photographs (classes/clubs/teams)  
March 28<sup>th</sup>: Term ends (Please note this is a Thursday)  
April 16<sup>th</sup>: Term start (Please note this is Tuesday)  
May 6<sup>th</sup>: Bank holiday (school closed)  
May 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>: Half Term  
July 19<sup>th</sup>: Term ends

### **Emails and texts from school, our website and Twitter**

We want to ensure that information can be received by parents efficiently so we use our school email system to send out letters and other correspondence. Please make sure school have your correct contact details and those of your emergency contacts. We also use a texting service to get information to you e.g.when clubs have had to be cancelled at short notice. Our school website: [www.winchelsea.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.winchelsea.lincs.sch.uk) is designed both 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. Information sent out from school is published on our website along with school documentation and policies. If you love seeing photos of what your children are getting up to in school then please follow us on Twitter. Each teacher has a Twitter page and I am also regularly tweeting! I can be followed at **@Winchelsea1**.

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

Miss Helen Duckett

Head Teacher