



All Individuals Matter

Winchelsea News

October Newsletter

PGL in Devon

A group of 33 children accompanied by Miss Reid, Mrs Cox and Mr Riley are currently enjoying a fabulous week in North Yorkshire. They are taking part in lots of exciting activities. I am well informed that they are rising to the challenges they are facing, overcoming some fears and pushing themselves to achieve more than they might have expected. Many activities encourage team work and it is always great to see and hear about them helping each other, encouraging their friends and cheering each other on. You can see lots of their adventures on Twitter!

Paralympic Sports Week

Last week the children had a brilliant week learning all about paralympic sports. The children used specially adapted sports wheelchairs to experience the challenges of a range of sports such as basketball and rugby. The children thoroughly enjoyed trying something new and learning new skills but also gained a fantastic insight into sport inclusivity. Again, you can see lots about this on Twitter!

Children in Need



On Friday November 17th it is Children in Need Day. As is the tradition at Winchelsea, the staff and children will be invited to wear their pyjamas for the day and have breakfast together and to take part we ask for a donation of £1. There will also be a chance for children to pay to have their face painted on the day. FOWS will be organising the event. There will be a raffle for Pudsey merchandise by the school council and tickets will be on sale in school in the days leading up to the event. If you have any spare copper coins or other loose change, we will be attempting to cover our large Pudsey boards throughout the day too.

Staffing changes to Sapphire class

Mrs Cox has requested a change to her working hours and governors have agreed to put in place shared provision for the remainder of the year. Interviews have taken place and we are very pleased to welcome Mrs Archer, a highly experienced teacher, who will be working alongside Mrs Cox in a job share capacity after half term. Mrs Cox will be working Monday-Wednesday whilst Mrs Archer will work Wednesday-Friday. The overlap for them to work together on a Wednesday will enable there to be a seamless provision for the children to ensure that learning is built on successfully across the week. Mrs Archer will be coming into school before her contract officially starts to meet the children although the class already had a lesson with her during the interview process. There will also be an invitation from Mrs Cox to a parent workshop soon when parents can meet Mrs Archer. We look forward to welcoming her to our Winchelsea team and getting to know her better.



Harvest gifts

Once again, we hope to be able to send out a number of harvest produce boxes to members of the local community nominated by parents so we would be grateful for any donations that you might send into school. Please let the school office know if you would like to nominate someone to receive a harvest box from us.

COVID-19 update

In recent weeks, there has been an increasing number of enquiries to the Lincolnshire Health Protection Service from schools regarding COVID-19 testing. Since March 2022 when the final Covid restrictions were lifted, the UK Health and Security Agency (UKHSA) advised that COVID-19 should be managed like other respiratory infections, such as flu, with no requirement to perform an LFT. This information has been sent out to Headteachers to be shared with parents:

'It is not recommended that children and young people (under 18 years of age) are tested for COVID-19. If, however they do test, the advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days from the date of the positive test, with the day of the test being day 0. Children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults. A child or young person who is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, should continue to attend their education setting as normal. Respiratory infections are common in children and young people and for most will not be serious. Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education setting.'

Poppies for Remembrance

As usual, Winchelsea will be commemorating Remembrance Day and poppies will be available in school for children to wear. Children simply need to bring in a donation for the collection which goes directly to the Royal British Legion to support soldiers and their families. Poppies and other merchandise will be sold in school by Year 6 pupils every day in the days leading up to November 11th.



Holidays in school time



Once again, I would like to remind parents that taking holidays in school term time is not permitted unless the family circumstances are exceptional and unavoidable. This includes long weekends where children will be absent on Friday and/or Monday. Whilst I entirely understand and sympathise with the difficulties that families face with work commitments and the difference in price paid for holidays during school holidays, I am unable to authorise pupils' leave from school in these circumstances. **Parents will have received the school's updated attendance policy last month which includes information about penalty fines which we now have no option but to introduce.** I am hoping that by including this information in my newsletter along with the term dates for this academic year which are always given at the end of every newsletter, parents will support school in this matter and that fines will continue to be something that school avoids implementing.

Dates to the end of this term

October 9th-13th: Y6 Bikeability Week
October 16th – 20th: Parents' consultations Week
October 18th: Writes photographs (families/individuals)
October 23rd – 30th: Half Term
October 31st: School re-opens **(Please note this is a Tuesday)**
November 9th: Flu immunisations
November 17th: Children in Need Day
November 20th -24th: Assessment Week
December 11th: 9.30am Diamond Xmas Play to parents 1.30pm Y4-6 Xmas Play to parents
December 12th: 9.30am Diamond Xmas Play to parents 6pm Y4-6 Xmas Play to parents
December 14th: Newark Pantomime 'Snow White'
December 15th: Reports issued to parents
December 18th: 5.30pm Y1-3 Xmas Play to parents
December 19th: 1.30pm Y1-3 Xmas Play to parents
December 20th: Term ends **(Please note this is a Wednesday)**

Future term dates for 2023/24

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