



Winchelsea News

All Individuals Matter

December Newsletter

Not long to Christmas! School is extremely busy as we prepare for Christmas performances, visits to the pantomime, outings to see Santa or reindeer and Christmas song singing whilst still trying to get all the usual work done and I hope parents will join us to celebrate as we reach the end of the year.



Christmas performances

Christmas fever is, once again, taking over the school and everyone is working hard to prepare for our Christmas performances which are due to take place at the end of term (dates and times are listed at the end of this newsletter). I am sure your children will already be talking about the role they may have, practising their lines, perfecting their dance routines and singing the songs very loudly and non-stop (so some parents have informed me!). We hope parents will join us but also hope you appreciate the hall space is limited and due to health and safety regulations we must be careful not to have too many people in the hall at the same time. Therefore, as usual, we will have to place some restrictions on numbers and each Key Stage have sent out information about the arrangements for seating, tickets etc. Please read their information carefully so that you are clear of procedures to avoid any embarrassment or disappointment on the day. We look forward to sharing our work and we are sure you will once again not only be greatly entertained but will be impressed by the high standards of performance our children can achieve.

Poppies for Remembrance

Thank you to everyone who donated money for poppies and other Royal British Legion merchandise in the lead up to Remembrance Day. We raised a fantastic £274.39. We held a special assembly in school in the morning and invited families from the Services to join us in the afternoon for a get-together. This was a lovely occasion and it was super to see children and parents or other family members talking about their shared experiences and getting to know each other better. In addition to our usual Remembrance assembly we also hosted a joint concert between the two school choirs from Winchelsea and Chestnut Street in the afternoon. The children from those choirs have enjoyed making new friends over the last term as we have met on a few occasions to rehearse and we performed a song together as one collaborative choir which was beautiful. We hope to work together again in the future on more projects.



Children in Need

Many thanks to everyone who supported our fundraising efforts for Children in Need Day. By wearing our pyjamas, sharing breakfast together, putting our coppers on Pudsey, face painting and the raffle we managed to raise £449.33. Special thanks go to our Friends of Winchelsea who worked hard to organise many aspects of this very successful event. The photograph shows some of our raffle winners!

Grand opening



On December 1st we held the grand opening of our fantastic new SmartPod and sensory garden. These are two projects that have taken a couple of years to come to fruition and I believe they provide some innovative and unique provision for our children that cannot be found in any other Lincolnshire school. The Smartpod building is fitted with the most amazing technology to enable immersive and experiential learning with three full wall projection, interactive floor, black out, sensory equipment so pupils can feel an earthquake and even an infuser component to provide various aromas! This is part of our creative curriculum provision as well as great support for some of our SEND pupils. The children have also been keen to develop a new sensory garden to provide a place of calm for their mindfulness and this is now in place which is equipped with



a central fountain, water jets which dance to music, sensory plants, storyboard and wind chimes. If your child's teacher has not yet invited you to have a look please watch out for your invitation so you can see these two new spaces for yourself!

POLITE REMINDER !!!!.....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. Please try to avoid bringing cars onto the school site. This photo was sent to me from the bus company to show how challenging it is for their drivers to navigate our site due to double parking. 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 and be mindful of residents living on the surrounding estate who sometimes tell me that their drive accesses are being compromised. By following these guidelines we aim to ensure our site remains as safe as possible. I have also had complaints about cars that are stationary but parents leaving their cars running while they drop off their children or wait to collect them. Please could all drivers be aware of high levels of exhaust fumes and air pollution and be mindful of others at the school gates.



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 8th: Flu immunisations for those children absent previously

December 11th: 9.30am Diamond Xmas Play to parents 1.30pm Y4-6 Xmas Play to parents

December 12th: 6pm Y4-6 Xmas Play to parents

December 13th: 9.30am Diamond Xmas Play to parents

December 14th: Newark Pantomime 'Snow White'

December 15th: Farm Kitchen Xmas dinner (contact Farm Kitchen directly by 3pm Tuesday Dec 5th if you wish to order one)

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 starts (Please note this is Tuesday)

May 6th: Bank holiday (school closed)

May 13th – 16th: Year 6 SATs week

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

Have a lovely Christmas from everyone at Winchelsea!