



AUTUMN TERM 2016 NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

A very warm welcome back in to our new school year after witnessing and being part of an amazing summer of sporting achievements. During these fabulous sights we witnessed resilience, strength and depth of character, a desire to succeed, focus, persistence, seeking challenge and having a go – all characteristics our curriculum promotes in our school. My staff have been planning a broad range of activities to enthuse and excite your children whilst developing these Characteristics of Effective Learning.

I do hope that your children have had the opportunity to rest and have now fully re-charged those batteries and come back to school invigorated to learn.

Please take some time to read this newsletter and check our website and school/class twitter pages regularly for those all-important diary dates so you can add them to your family calendar at home. The website diary will be updated regularly so please keep your eye on it. Thank you and as always please pop in to make an appointment if you have any concerns to discuss or you would like to compliment your child's school and what we do.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Kathryn Magiera

Time Keeping

Our attendance continues to be extremely high, above the desired 96% that the Government would like it to be but we are still striving for it to be even higher and with the support of our families we can do this.



Please take some time to read our 'Attendance Policy' which is on the website, this explains our requirements for attendance and also explains that holidays will NOT be authorised in term time except under special circumstances. If you feel your request may come under special circumstances, please write a letter clearly explaining why and address it to myself as head teacher.

As well as being in school every day, being in school **on time** is essential in order for children to start the day positively in their class with the peers rather than walking in late and not knowing what is being learnt. The number of lates has NOT decreased, and it is familiar faces who are late. Whilst at times I understand that there can be traffic issues but more often than not it is due to not getting up on time in order to be out of the door with everyone and everything each child needs. I have a meeting with our Education Welfare Officer in the first few weeks of our new term in order to discuss how we can ensure that ALL our children are in school on time to start their school day. 20 minutes late every day is 1 hour and 40 minutes learning every week that is a Maths and English lesson every week or your child's support with an additional adult.





This year the attendance certificates at the end of the school year will be linked to lates as giving out attendance certificates to children that are 20 minutes late every day is giving out inconsistent messages to our 98% of families who are able to get their children in to school on time.

Let's work together as we have with our attendance and reduce the number of children late for school over the coming year! I would like to thank you in advance for your support with this.

Curriculum

This school year our curriculum continues to be studied using themes. Again each theme will be based on high quality literature and art. The themes are as follows –



Autumn Term – ***A Day in the Life of...***

Spring Term – ***A Voyage of Discovery***

Summer Term – ***Where my Wellies Take Me...***



Overviews for each theme will be sent out by the class teacher at the beginning of the term but they will also be on our website along with the yearly overview for the themes and more detailed progression of skills for each subject for each year group. These can all be found under the curriculum tab once you have clicked 'School Information'.

Last year we started to introduce the Characteristics of Effective learning across the whole school and we have seen amazing results on our children's self-esteem, self-belief and 'have a go' attitude. Please support us as we grow these characteristics by attending one of our information evenings throughout this year. During these evenings we will use fun and engaging family activities which will allow you as a family to identify the characteristics yourself and see them as lifelong learning tools. If you would like to learn more about these please speak to myself or Mrs Osborn who leads our curriculum as a member of our Senior Leadership Team. You can also find them in the curriculum section on our website along with the 'Pit of Learning'.

Staffing changes

As you know we said good bye and good luck to Miss Coates, Miss Rowlinson, Miss Burns and Miss Mogford at the end of last year who have all gone on to find new jobs continuing in the job they love, teaching and working in schools!

As you can see we have said goodbye to a number of staff but we now have the opportunity to welcome new staff, I know that you will all make them feel extremely welcome in to our school. I would like you to join me in wishing them a successful career at our school.

New Staff

Miss Rebecca Salisbury –

Teacher Year 1/2

Miss Natalie Jeffery –

Teacher Year 3/4

Miss Jessica Morley –

Teacher Year 4/5

Mrs Esther Edwards –

EYS teaching Assistant

Mrs Valerie Whittaker –

Teaching Assistant Year 4/5

Mr Justin Dobson –

1-1 Teaching Assistant Year

1/2





We are also looking for a mid-day assistant if you are interested please contact the office. I would very much appreciate it if you could speak to people in our community and let them know that this role is available, thank you.

New Build

As with any building in school there is always a delay! We were hoping that our new eco build would be up and ready to use over the summer holiday but this is not to be. We are still waiting to hear from planning, once we have the go ahead, (fingers crossed), we will commence. I am determined to have it up and ready to use for the New Year, January 2017.

Mother and Tots



Our school has a Mother and Tots morning each and every Monday from 9.00am to 10.30am, from Monday 19th September.

Previously parents have run this but as their children have now come to school age Mrs Selby will be leading the planning and organisation of this group with two of our teaching assistants. If you are interested in attending please just come along on Mondays, bring your friends the more the merrier! During the morning you will be made to feel extremely welcome and your child or children can participate in a number of fun and messy activities.

Payments into school

I know I say this every year but just a gentle reminder.....We would like to reiterate that wherever possible, any payments made to school are made via ParentPay. If need help with your log in details, please contact the school office.

The following payments are now online so that you can pay small amounts weekly or monthly as it suits you –

Menai – Year 6 – November 2016

Pantomime – Nursery & Whole School – December 2016

Residential – Year 4 – March 2017 – price not available yet but no more than £150

Beeston – Year 2 – July 2017

The cost of all these upcoming events/residentials are on ParentPay.



New Families

May I take this opportunity to welcome all our new families in to Reception and Nursery.

This is an exciting time for any child starting school but I always believe that it is more difficult for the parents.

The children generally skip through the doors quite happily whilst we have many parents not wanting to leave the window!

We have many children starting our school who are already familiar to school as they came to our nursery or they already have siblings in our school, may I ask that whilst we warmly welcome these children we make a special welcome to our new families and try to get them involved as much as we can in our PTA, conversation in the playground and many other school activities we may be holding.



From 1st September a school lunch will cost £2.20 per day. Can you please ensure your child's lunch and snack account are kept in credit as it is unfair on the staff in the kitchen and your child when they are turned away because they already owe money.



If your child comes to our breakfast club at 8.20am then you need to pay the £1.50 charge on ParentPay, where your child's attendance is logged daily. Any purchases made will come directly from your child's snack balance on ParentPay.

Snacks are for children from Year 1 to Year 6, all Key Stage One and Reception pupils get free fruit and milk so please do not feel they need to purchase snack at break time.

Water is available freely all day and you are welcome to send in a HEALTHY snack with your child for break from home.

Communication

After our School Development consultation I sat down and read all the comments. Over 97% were overwhelmingly positive and I would like to thank you all for working with me and my team in order to make our school a successful place for your children to enjoy their education and thrive.

All letters will be on the website and they will be in folders labelled with each month for letters that have gone out to the whole school. Letters will continue to come home on Tuesday. If they come home on a different day due to admin confusion then a text will be sent home to let you know a letter should be in your child's bag - it is therefore important that your child, whether in Year Reception or in Year 6, has a bag or reading folder in school so letters can be placed in them rather than being out on their desk and then they forget to pick them up.

If you have any other ideas that you feel will aid communication or improve daily life in school please email Tammy on our admin email admin@wittonwalk.cheshire.sch.uk and she will forward them to me. Any ideas will be much appreciated.

Church News

Welcome back!

I hope you have all had a really good summer break, and are looking forward to the new school year. And a special welcome if you are new to our school.



We want to let you know about our new exciting after-school service for children and their carers to enjoy together. It starts on Wednesday, September 21st, and will run during term time. It's called *Messy Church*. Some of you have already been to some of our seasonal *Messy Churches*, and this will be similar. From 3.15pm there will be a snack (something to eat and drink), then activities until 4.00 (crafts, lego construction, table-top games and jigsaws, quizzes and puzzles linked with the Bible story for the day). At 4.00pm there will be a lively service which will include action songs and animated Bible stories. We'll finish at 4.30pm.

We'd love to see you there! *Revd Alison*





PTA News

The Witton Church Walk PTA would like to say a huge thanks to everyone who has supported us over the past year - we have had some great fundraisers including the video gaming night, the May Fayre and Bingo! We are now looking for a new Team of people who can take the PTA forward with some new and exciting fundraisers and activities - if you would like to get involved please enquire at the school office or follow us on Facebook.

There will be a Beetle Drive for new parents and carers to the school, which will be held on Monday 10th October - all welcome - would be great to see you there! The PTA AGM will also take place on Monday 26th September. Further details will follow.

Please do continue to support us and please do let us know if you can spare some free time to volunteer with the PTA to raise vital funds for our children

Many thanks for ALL of your support,
Nikki Townley, Carol Gibbon & Amy Lear

Please note that our PTA have a Facebook page which is used to pass information on to each other and place reminders of school events. This page was abused last year as a very small number of parents used it to place negative or unkind remarks on. Please note that if this happens you will be asked to take the comments down in line with our 'Compliments and Complaints Policy' and it will be reported to Facebook and the Police. In this day of technology, we, as adults, need to support and guide our children by modelling appropriate use of social networking sites so our children are able to be responsible when using these sites. If you do have any concerns about your child or suggestions about any aspect of school life, please do not hesitate to contact the office and I will arrange a mutually convenient time to meet with you and discuss this in order to move forward positively.



Governor News

On behalf of the Governing Body I just wanted to take the opportunity to say 'Happy New School Year' to all our children and their families, especially to those children and families who are joining our school for the first time this September.

As we start the new academic year it is also useful to look back at last year, please look out for the Governor's Annual Review of the school year 2015-16 which will be on the website by the end of September.

For those of you who are wondering who the school governors are and what we do, you can find out all about the role of the Governing Body in the Governor pages of the school website. If you would be interested in joining our Governing Body by becoming a parent governor, we will shortly be sending out a letter asking for parents to consider taking on this rewarding role. Please look out for the letter and don't hesitate to get in touch if you wish to find out more about what is involved.

Learning is a life-long process and our focus on developing the skills and knowledge of staff and governors is key to the continued desire to continuously improve the outcomes for our pupils. Following the success of last year's 'back to school' day, governors will once again have the opportunity to spend the whole day in school on Thursday 29th September. We will have the opportunity to talk to staff and children, look at the displays and children's work and ensure that we are up to date with the latest developments in education with briefings from Mrs Magiera and her senior leadership team. We also hope to have the chance to meet and talk to parents too, so please watch out for further information on this nearer the time; however if you would like to get in touch with the Governors at any time, feedback and comments are always welcome, please e-mail 'chair@wittonwalk.cheshire.sch.gov.uk'

Regards

Sarah Merison, Chair of Governors

