



Witton Church Walk Aided CofE Primary School

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the final term of this school year. This term starts off with the children learning all about....Where our Wellies Take Us! Interwoven into these topics we have lots of exciting activities planned e.g. Healthy Schools week, School Sports week, Enterprise for Year 6, Forest Schools, Northwich Sings, All Change Day, Takeover Day for our Year 6 children when they lead the school, sports days, educational day visits for everyone, our Year 2 residential to Tattenhall and our Year 4 residential to Mount Cook. Of course we have many more exciting opportunities which your children will partake in as they continue their learning so please ensure you keep up with these events on our school calendar, twitter and our school website. I know that this term your children will experience some inspirational learning opportunities in which they will be able to develop their understanding of the world around them, begin to learn about The Rights of The Child and the continue to develop the characteristics of learning that will stand them in good stead for a successful future.

I hope the weather is kind to us this term. Mrs. Magiera

Healthy Schools week and School Sports week

Miss Higgins, Miss Boston and Mrs. Westron are working very hard at the moment putting together an exciting plan for our busy two weeks.

They are planning a mix of activities which will ensure everyone will have the information they need to make healthy choices for their mind, body and soul. Please look out for the letters explaining the timetable of activities. School Sports week, although a very exciting week for our children, is a very busy week.

Chris Story, who leads our school sports partnership, organises the events and I am apologising now if you receive letters close to the event or even text messages to give permission. Sometimes we only get a few days' notice of events and I would, as you know, always allow our children the opportunity to access these activities.



School Places and Nursery Places – Rising 3 paid places

Please let parents know that we are now taking 45 pupils in Reception, 5 additional places. We hope that our school will grow to enable us to maintain this structure and continue to see our children thrive, our school succeed and continue to be a school for the future delivering 'Everyday Excellence'. If you have any questions about places for children in Nursery or Reception please pop in and ask me and I will endeavor to answer them.

We will also be taking Rising 3s in our Nursery for September for 5 mornings, (places are limited and will go quick) – please pop in to the office for more details or an application form.



More Important News

Feedback from our parent questionnaire

Thank you for returning your questionnaires we were overwhelmed with how many we had returned and how many positive comments we had regarding the safety, opportunities and fun your children have during their time in our school. There were two strands which you feel we could improve upon;

1. Communication.
2. Informing you of your child's progress.

I am asking you for ideas in these areas.

1. We currently pop most events on our website at the beginning of the school year and add events at the beginning of every term which I refer to in my termly newsletter. We use twitter, weekly letters, text messages, websites and also notes on the classroom doors to update you with news and events. Please can you jot down any ideas you have to improve our communication and hand them to the office for my attention or email them to admin@wittonwalk.cheshire.sch.uk e.g. Teachers could tweet any messages they put on the classroom door.

The governors and I are very keen to make amendments and we would like to work together with your ideas on how this can evolve to improve our communication.

2. We currently offer three parents evenings over the year, one each term. The final one in the summer term is to discuss your child's report if you would like to. At the end of the school year teachers write a detailed report on progress and attainment and throughout the year and if we are worried about your child's progress your child's teacher or I would discuss this with you. Again I would be very keen for any ideas on how this could be further developed and I urge you to jot ideas on a piece of paper or send them on an email to the address above.

Building work

As you will have noticed building work has not started. United Utilities are investigating a water pipe but we are extremely hopeful that the build will be with us VERY soon!

Residentials

Please ensure you take advantage of paying for residentials on ParentPay as it spreads the cost over the school year.



PTA News

Exciting news, We have a Grand Raffle with lots of fantastic prizes to be won. Watch out for tickets in your child's book bag:

1st prize: 7 night Euro Camp family holiday to be won

2nd prize: 3 family days out passes (Altrincham Ice rink, Cotebrook Shirehorse Centre and Manchester Sea life centre)

3rd prize: Pamper package (Cut and blow-dry with the house of Quirk and a £20 beauty treatment Voucher) Plus many more.....including a Bombay Quay meal voucher and Chester Zoo tickets!!!!

The Grand Draw will take place at our May Fayre on Saturday 13th May 2017 10.30am - 1.30pm and additional tickets can be requested from the office.

Also at the May Fayre, we have our dance and Judo stars returning to entertain the crowds along with the Vale Royal Theatre Company, who will be giving us a glimpse of their upcoming show - Calamity Jane and ending the day with a traditional May Pole Dance, performed by our very own Children.

There's lots of exciting activities for the children to get involved with all based on this term's theme of "Where Will My Wellies Take Me?" and prizes to be won, including a treasure hunt for a scooter!

We still need volunteers! If you are interested in helping out on the day then please get in touch with a PTA member in person, via facebook or [PTAWitton@live.co.uk](https://www.facebook.com/PTAWitton@live.co.uk).

Also in the pipeline for the Summer term is a prize bingo and disco, but these are subject to the volunteer support for the May Fayre.....so please get involved and support your PTA.

Lastly we will be having a dress down day for items for the children's tombola items and for the bottle tombola!



SAT's preparation – Year 2 and Year 6 parents

YEAR 2

The tests can be taken any time during May and they are not strictly timed. Most pupils won't know they are taking them as teachers will incorporate them into everyday classroom practice.

Subject

Test paper

English reading	2 papers: short text and questions; longer text with separate questions
Mathematics	2 papers: arithmetic; mathematical reasoning
English grammar, punctuation and spelling (optional)	2 papers: spelling; punctuation and grammar (including vocabulary)

YEAR 6

May I request that parents watch the DfE information video on the school twitter account.

Further information.

Teachers will make sure all pupils in their class are prepared for the tests and there's nothing specifically test-related that you should do to prepare your child. You should just follow the general advice teachers give about supporting your child's learning throughout the year.

If you want any further information about the tests or assessments, or have any questions, please talk to your child's class teacher.

You can see examples of the tests your child will take at www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-practice-materials

More details about the tests can also be found at www.gov.uk/STA .

St Helens News

Welcome back for the new school term. I hope that you have all had a lovely Easter weekend and were able to enjoy something of the new life of this Easter and Spring season.

We shall be having our school celebration of Easter on Wednesday (April 19th) at 9.00am in church. Please do join us for this.

Just to let you know that **Messy Church** will be starting up again on Wednesday, April 19th. Messy Church runs every week during school term time and is for children and their Carers together. We have a really enjoyable time with refreshments – often linked with the theme of the day - crafts, games, modelling, puzzles and then a Celebration time when we all gather together to share what we have been doing, sing, pray and watch *Movie time!*



Drop off and Pick up

Please may I remind parents that school starts PROMPTLY at 8.50am. We have decreased our lates dramatically after the register has closed however we are struggling to make improvements on our lates before the register has closed. Let's work together to decrease these lates.

The end of the school day pick up seems to be getting later and later for some children. This is to remind parents that school finishes at 3.15pm. Any child still waiting at 3.25pm will be taken to the office with a senior leader and parents will pick up their child from there.

Tea and Tots, Mondays, 9.00am – 11.00am

Our mother and tots group is thriving, growing week on week.

We have made the decision to keep the hall as their meeting place as the space is there for all of the exciting and messy activities which Miss Ennion and Miss Ward plan for our young visitors.

Please encourage any friends to join our group and pop in on our Open Day on the 25th April to look at our Nursery provision and around the school. Please call to book an appointment. 01606 288128



We know how busy Sundays are for families, but you may like to know that we have a monthly service (every 2nd Sunday in the month) starting at 4.30pm. **Café Church** is an informal service in a café style setting. We start with a *bring and share* tea (sandwiches, crisps, cake etc) and then continue with a service that lasts for about 40 minutes and is suitable for all ages. This term, the dates will be May 14th, June 11th, and July 9th.

Parents – you may also wish to join us for the school Collective Worship on alternate Wednesday mornings in church, and you are welcome to stay for a cup of tea/coffee afterwards.

As usual, we shall be having a Confirmation Service in church near the end of the Summer term. This is an important service, led by a Bishop, and it marks the desire of those being confirmed to *confirm* their commitment to the Christian faith for themselves. This year it will be on July 9th at 9.30am. A number of our Year 6 children will be among those being Confirmed. Confirmation is for adults too, so if you would like to know more, please get in touch with me.

The church is now open most Saturdays from 10.00-4.00 (unless we have a wedding) so please feel free to drop in for a look around or for some quiet time. The kettle is always on, and if you want to have a chat with me there, do get in touch and we can arrange a time.

We are looking forward to the summer months and an enjoyable time in school and church.
Rev. Alison

Governor News

It is hard to believe that we are a quarter of the way through 2017 and that Summer Term is upon us. During this period the Governors have continued to fulfil their roles within school: attending full Governing Body meetings as well as the sub-committee meetings, and liaising with the link teachers for our areas of responsibility. All the details about the Governor Committees and the areas of responsibility can be found on the school's website Governor pages. You will also find the February 2017 Governor News in which I welcomed Mr Edd Williams as Parent Governor. Since then we have had a new Foundation Governor appointed. I extend a warm welcome to Mrs Ruth Cannon.

As the 'new' Chair of Governors I would like to express thanks to Mrs Sarah Merison, who becomes an associate member of the Governing Body, for the commitment she showed as Chair over the past six years, and for the tremendous support she has been since I took on the role. No one should underestimate what she has done during her tenure as Chair of Governors.

I have been a Governor at Witton Church Walk School since 2009 and during that time there have been changes, some driven by external factors and others through an increasing confidence in the ability of those within the school to be inspirational and innovative. It has always been my observation however, that whatever changes occur, the children are always at the centre. It is the needs of the children in the care of our school which motivates and drives the teaching and support staff, the ancillary staff and the Governors. By all 'pulling together' we give our children the best start in life.

This is also an opportunity to thank you for the support you give to the school. I briefly attended the Upper Key Stage 2 Science Fair on March 23rd and was very pleased to see so many parents and carers there. Your attendance offered so much support and encouragement to the children – and weren't they confident young people? It is nearly nine years since I retired from teaching and one of the things I miss is the 'buzz' such as existed in the hall that afternoon.

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'

Graham Sheen



REMAINING HOLIDAY DATES 2016/2017

	Date of Closing	Date of Re-Opening
May Day Weekend 2017	Friday 28 th April	Tuesday 2 nd May
Summer Half-Term 2017	Friday 26 th May	Tuesday 6 th June
Summer 2017	Tuesday 25 th July	

REMAINING INSET DAYS (Teacher Training) – Monday 5th June 2017

HOLIDAY DATES 2017/2018

	Date of Closing	Date of Re-Opening
Summer 2017	Tuesday 25 th July	Tuesday 5 th September
Autumn Half-Term 2017	Friday 27 th October	Tuesday 7 th November
Christmas 2017/2018	Friday 22 nd December	Monday 8 th January
Spring Half-Term 2018	Friday 16 th February	Monday 26 th February
Spring Break 2018	Thursday 29 th March	Monday 16 th April
May Day Weekend 2018	Friday 4 th May	Tuesday 8 th May
Summer Half-Term 2018	Friday 25 th May	Tuesday 5 th June
Summer 2018	Friday 20 th July	

INSET DAYS (Teacher Training) – 5 in total

Monday 4th September 2017, Monday 6th November 2017, Monday 4th June 2018, Monday 23rd July 2018
Tuesday 24th July 2018

