



## AUTUMN TERM 2023 NEWSLETTER

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Dear Families,

A very warm welcome back to another year at Witton Church Walk. The years fly by, but we must remember to stop and take time to reflect on every moment and make those memories that we can look back on and talk about in years to come. My staff have been planning a broad range of activities to enthuse and excite your children as they open their eyes to new experiences and take time to embed skills and knowledge from prior learning over this coming year. I do hope that your children have had the opportunity to rest and have now fully re-charged those batteries and have come back invigorated to learn.

Please take some time to read this newsletter and check our website 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. Take time to download our School Spider App which will give you reminders of events coming up so no one misses out.

Social Media – please also remember to follow our Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook accounts to ensure you see everything that each class has been up to, and you receive regular reminders and updates for events coming up!

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

### **Head Boy & Head Girl**



Congratulations to our new head boy and head girl who take up their new positions as we return to school, Jacob and Anaya. I know they are very excited to get started and to support all our wonderful children to ensure our school continues to be the best it can be!



### **Time Keeping and Attendance**

Since becoming head teacher at our school thirteen years ago our attendance has gone from strength to strength, consistently being over 96% - something we should be extremely proud of as a school community. However, since coming back from COVID our attendance dipped significantly, last year it rose again but we still have a way to go before we get back to 96% as we have always been.





This coming year my attendance officer, family support worker and my SENCo will be putting our rigorous policy in to practice and following our very clear protocol for any attendance that dips below 96% consistently, the child is absent on the same day each week and where medical evidence is not provided. The protocol offers many opportunities for supporting parents and ensuring all our children access the education that they are entitled to, and which is a legal requirement for ALL children. Where the protocols are not adhered to by families, support is not taken up and attendance continues to dip a fixed penalty notice will be issued by myself and the local authority.

Please take some time to read our 'Attendance Policy' which is on the website, this explains our requirements for attendance and explains that holidays will NOT be authorised in term time.

### **PERSISTANT ABSENCES –**

We have had an increase in a number of children who are persistently absent – my attendance team will also be tracking these families very carefully and again offering as much support as we can to ensure their children, again get the support they need in order to access their education. Education is vital for not only academic learning but also to develop our social and emotional skills as well – developing the whole child is key and this is our priority. If you feel you need any support, please just ask Mrs Johnson or Jackie. My door is always open too, we just want to support as best we can to ensure your children are in school each and every day.

### **LATES -**

As well as being in school, being in school on time is essential in order for children to start the day positively in their class with their peers rather than walking in late and not knowing what is being learnt. The number of lates has decreased significantly. Thank you for your support in ensuring all our children start school at the correct time, let's keep this up as we enter this new school year.

REMEMBER - 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.

***Let's work together as we have done for the past seven years and ensure we end this year with our attendance significantly above 96% rather than below!***

I would like to thank you in advance for your support with this.

### **Curriculum**

Throughout this year we will be studying themes as a whole school. As in previous years this Autumn term our theme will be based on high quality literature and art. The themes are as follows –

Autumn Term – Where our Wellies Take Me!

Spring Term – A Day in the Life of

Summer Term – Voyage of Discovery and Healthy Schools





## Homework Policy

We have made some changes to our Homework policy – please read it carefully, you will find it on the school website.

The most important support you can give your children is the skill of reading and to read accurately and fluently – this opens so many doors in more ways than you will ever imagine. Therefore, we are concentrating on this during our school year. Our Homework Policy has been uploaded onto the school website, or if you prefer you can ask for a paper copy from the office.

Each class teacher will send out a text to each family via school spider each week to explain the homework. There will **not be** any GCP books sent home.

The focus will be reading – fluency, developing vocabulary and comprehension.

Then for maths times tables through Rockstar maths (year 2-6), which will be monitored closely by all staff so please encourage your children to access this and some number work for our youngest children (year 1 and 2), via the numbots app online.

You will still receive the half termly curriculum grid homework but this is not compulsory, we have had some wonderful research completed at home through this and it has fully enhanced the children's learning in the classroom. If you do get some time to maybe complete two or three squares please do – it will only help and support your child with their knowledge and skills.

## Payments into school for educational visits, Pantomime and residentials

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. Please ensure that all outstanding payment for educational visits and residentials are cleared before the first Friday of this term – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Due to non-payments, payments for the pantomime and residentials **MUST** be paid for **BEFORE** the day of the visits. If payments are not received your child will be unable to attend. If you have concerns over payments then please contact the office as soon as the letter goes out to speak with Mrs Foulkes or myself and we can agree a way forward...there is always a way forward, please just ask.



## **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 gate!

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.





We will continue to request voluntary contributions for educational day visits but if enough payments are not collected then the trip will be unable to go ahead. All visits are subsidised by school but as budgets get cut further this will become less. We are extremely grateful to our PTA for the funds they offer which ensures the majority of our coach expenses are covered for everyone.

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

**Min Y Don** – Year 6 – November 2023, this has been on for a number of months

**Pantomime** – Reception to Year 6 – December 2023

**Mount Cook** – Year 4 – March 2024, this has been on for a number of months

**Tattenhall** – Year 2 – July 2024 – once we have a date confirmed, this will be on ParentPay but will cost no more than £100

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

### **Snacks and Lunches**

From 1<sup>st</sup> September a school lunch will cost £2.75 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.



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. Please remember juice and flavored water are ONLY allowed with children's lunches.

### **Helping Hands Wrap Around Care**

At Witton Church Walk we strive to offer parents high quality before and after school care. Helping Hands is managed by school staff who create a safe, nurturing educational environment. Further information, along with application forms and terms and conditions are available here - [Witton Church Walk CE Aided Primary School: Wrap Around Care](#)





### **Reminders on uniform**

Please see our school website for our uniform lists. I would just like to remind parents of the following –

- Only small studs are allowed in ears, no necklaces or bracelets.
- Your child may wear a watch - this watch must not be able to access the internet.
- Black shoes with socks or tights.
- Any coloured sandals may be worn but socks must be worn.
- Leather close fitting boots may be worn but if your child come to school in UGG boots or wellington then they must change into their school shoes on entering school.
- **No** nail varnish.
- Hair **must** be tied back off the face

Your child must have a coat in school as the weather turns colder.

### **New Staff**

Please share with me and give a warm welcome to new members of our team, some familiar faces in new roles and some new members to our team. We are really excited to extend our warm Witton welcome to everyone.

**Miss Alex Waters** – Teacher Year 1/2

**Mr Richard Lambert** – Site Maintenance Officer and 1:1 Teaching Assistant

**Miss Emily Stagg** – Play leader during playtimes

**Mr Parkin** – 1:1 Teaching Assistant

**Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Ball.....**it is with great excitement that I write to let you know that Mrs Ball is expecting her first child with her husband. This is such wonderful news and I know you will wish her lots of luck and happiness along with us. Mrs Ball intends to stay in work until we break up for Christmas. When her class return after Christmas they will be taught by Miss Naylor as their teacher and they will continue to be supported by Mrs Davies each morning and also Mr Lambert for some of the afternoons as they are now. Miss Naylor has been completing her degree whilst managing our wrap around care and working as teaching assistant in our school for the last two years. She will be working closely with Mrs Ball throughout the Autumn term so the transition will be extremely smooth.

Finally, If you have any other ideas that you feel will aid communication, please email Tammy on our admin email [admin@wittonwalk.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@wittonwalk.cheshire.sch.uk) and she will forward them to me. Any ideas will be much appreciated.

Thank you for reading our newsletter and here is to another wonderful year at Witton Church Walk!  
Mrs Kathryn Magiera





### **Governor News**

I just wanted to take the opportunity to say 'Happy New School Year' to all our children and their families from the Governing Body, especially to those children and families who are joining our school for the first time this 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. There have been some changes to the Governing Body this year. We would like to thank Tim Lee and Michael Roberts for all the time and hard work they have given. We also warmly welcome Fay Jackson as our new Parent Governor.

Every year at Witton Church Walk is busy and rewarding, last year there was much to celebrate including our continued improvement in results in national tests, both in levels achieved and progress made by our children. For further information on the academic year 2022-2023 look out for the upcoming Governor's Annual Review.

Learning is a life-long process and we are very keen to continue to improve our skills as governors. We are planning a 'back to school' day on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, when Governors will spend the whole day in school. It will be a great opportunity for us to talk to staff and children, look at the displays and children's work and ensure that we are up to date with the continually changing world of education. 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](mailto:chair@wittonwalk.cheshire.sch.gov.uk).

**Regards, Ruth Cannon, Chair of Governors**

### **PTA News**

The Witton Church Walk PTA (Parent Teacher Association) would like to welcome all Parents, Carers and Pupils a warm welcome and return to a new term at School. We would also like to extend our thanks for all of your support last term.

We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead with many events planned - so keep a look out in the school calendar for these events. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us at our PTA Annual General Meeting which will be at school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm in the school hall - come along to find out more about the PTA and contribute your ideas.

We look forward to seeing you all soon - please follow our page on Facebook for the latest PTA news - search for Witton Church Walk PTA.

[Friends of WCW](#)

**PTA Team**

