



AUTUMN TERM 2018 NEWSLETTER

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 savour every moment and make those memories so that we can look back and talk about them 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 App which will give you reminders of events coming up so no one misses out.

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 and Attendance

Since becoming head teacher of our school eight 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 last school year we saw our attendance dip below 96%.



This coming year my attendance officer will be putting our new policy in to practice and following our very clear protocol for any attendance that dips below 96% consistently e.g. your child is absent on the same day each week and where medical evidence is not provided. The policy offers many opportunities for supporting parents and ensuring all our children access the education that they are entitled to. Where the policy is not adhered to by families and attendance continues to dip a fixed penalty notice will be issued, as a final outcome.

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.

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 the 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 – Only One You



Spring Term – Growing up Global



Summer Term – Where is Paddington?



This term we will be using our book to celebrate what makes our school special and looking at each one of us as individuals and how that makes our school a special place to learn and be together.

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.

NEW STAFF

Miss Hannah Simpson – Teacher
Year 1/2

Mrs Amanda Curwell – EYS
Teaching Assistant

Mrs Lynn Adamson –
Mid-day assistant

Mr Parkin –
Mid-day assistant





As we will be saying goodbye to Reverend Alison this term we will be remembering how she has made our school and church a special place to learn, she has given us many special memories and we would like to share these with her in her special service on Friday 28th September. We would like everyone to join us at this service and then, if possible join us for lunch on the school field. Mrs Osborn will send out a flyer with more details in a couple of weeks but save the date – **FRIDAY 28th SEPTEMBER**. 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'.

Breakfast Club, snack time & school lunches

From 1st September a school lunch will cost £2.30 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. Please remember juice and flavoured water are ONLY allowed with children's lunches as part of a balanced lunch.

Payments into school for educational visit, Pantomime and residential

We would like to reiterate that wherever possible, any payments made to school are made via ParentPay. If you need help with your log in details, please contact the school office. Please ensure that all outstanding payment for previous educational visits and residentials are cleared before the first Friday of this term – Friday 8th September 2018

Due to non-payments, from September 2018 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.

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 –

Menai – Year 6 – November 2018, this has been on for a number of months

Pantomime – Whole School, Reception to Year 6 – 14th December 2018

Residential – Y4 – 29th March 2019 – price not available yet but no more than £160

Beeston – Y2 – July 2019 – price not available yet but no more than £80

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

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.

Please remember that if your child brings a phone to school it must be placed in the office at the beginning of the day and collected at the end of the school day.

If you have any other ideas that you feel will aid communication please email Mrs Foulkes on our admin email admin@wittonwalk.cheshire.sch.uk and she will forward them to me. Any ideas will be much appreciated.





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 - all of the funds go back into the school and provide our pupils with extra equipment and support. A huge Thank-you!



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 Tuesday 18th September at 5.30pm 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.

PTA Team

News from the Church

I hope you have all had a good summer break and are looking forward to the new term with all the opportunities it will bring. A special welcome to families who are new to our school and we hope that you will settle well and quickly into the school community.

We greatly value the very special relationship that the school and church share together, and you are very welcome to join us in any of the services, activities and events that we organise at the church. Our monthly Family Service will now be on the 3rd Sunday in the month, and the next one will be on September 16th. This service is lively, informal, relaxed, makes full use of technology and is appreciated by people of all ages. The service starts at 10.45am but you are very welcome to join us for coffee/tea/juice/biscuits (and sometimes cake!) from about 10.20am. On the other Sundays, you are also very welcome to join us for our Sung Communion service, when we also have Sunday Club for children aged 3-11. The children have a great time there exploring bible stories through their own choice of activity, including lego, art and craft, modelling and lots more. We start at 9.30 and finish with coffee/tea/juice etc.

For those of you with pre-school children, do bring them along to Praise and Play on a Tuesday afternoon. This is an informal time in church for pre-school children and whoever is looking after them. It happens every week in term time. We start at 2.00 and finish at 3.00pm. It's a really great way of getting to know other young families and finding out a bit more about what church is like.

And finally, as many of you know, these next few weeks will be my last as Vicar of St. Helen's Church, as I will be retiring on September 30th. I approach this with great mixed feelings, but overall, it is the right time for me to be doing this. However, I shall miss being part of Witton Church Walk School very much. My involvement with you has been a very special part of my ministry at St.





Helen's Church, particularly the relationships that I have built up with the staff, children and parents. This school is a very special place! It is one where God's love is daily lived out; where every child is valued, cared for and given the opportunities they need to thrive; where every *door is open and every gift unlocked*. Thank you for letting me be part of your school and for the wonderful memories I will be taking away with me. May God continue to bless you in all you do.

Rev. Alison

Governor News

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff

Welcome to the new school year. A particularly warm welcome to those who may be new to our school in whatever capacity. I hope that you will soon feel very much part of the family of the school and build up enduring friendships. I also hope that the summer holidays have been a great family occasion and have produced many happy memories, particularly since the weather has been very kind.

The start of each school year brings with it different challenges and I know that there is already a busy time planned with an exciting curriculum and a variety of events to make school an engaging place to be. In Autumn the school creative curriculum is focusing very much on the uniqueness of each child and linking it with the values of the school. Our aim is to celebrate the value of each child in our care and, of course, the weekly celebration assemblies enable us to do that. We want our children to succeed academically but we also want them to develop a range of skills and competencies to ensure that they feel fulfilled and can play a positive and valuable role in society as they mature. We can only achieve this by developing a close partnership between home and school, so the channels for good communication are always open.

The Governors will continue to be closely involved with the school attending committee meetings as well as monitoring their focus areas. Of course, the major change for the Governing Body will be the retirement of Reverend Alison Harris as Vicar of St Helen's and therefore as ex officio governor of the school. I would like to pay tribute to her commitment to the school and the way she has supported teaching personnel during her tenure here. We are extremely grateful and feel we have been well blessed over the past six years. We wish her and her husband a long and happy retirement.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that I feel very privileged to be part of Witton Church Walk Primary School and to share in what we all hope will be a very happy new academic year.

Graham D Sheen, Chair of Governors





HOLIDAY DATES 2018/2019

	Date of Closing	Date of Re-Opening
Summer 2018	Friday 20 th July	Tuesday 4 th September
Autumn Half-Term 2018	Friday 26 th October	Tuesday 6 th November
Christmas 2018/2019	Friday 21 st December	Monday 7 th January
Spring Half-Term 2019	Friday 15 th February	Monday 25 th February
Spring Break 2019	Friday 29 th March	Monday 15 th April
Easter 2019	Thursday 18 th April	Tuesday 23 rd April
May Day Weekend 2019	Friday 3 rd May	Tuesday 7 th May
Summer Half-Term 2019	Friday 24 th May	Tuesday 4 th June
Summer 2019	Wednesday 24 th July	

INSET DAYS (Teacher Training) – 5 in total

Monday 3rd September 2018, Monday 5th November 2018, Friday 30th November 2018,
Monday 3rd June 2019, Monday 24th June 2019