



SPRING TERM 2019 NEWSLETTER



Dear Families,

Welcome back to our new term and the first term of this new year....2019! I hope you have all had a restful and peaceful Christmas and new year with your families.

'Our Vision'

Last term we did a lot of work in school looking at what our school vision means to us personally, our school community and how we live out our vision in school as a member of our school community - staff, children and governors. We shared some of this work with you in our service for Harvest. I ask, through this newsletter, to take some time to reread our vision, I know time is precious but our vision is why you chose our school for your children and it is important that we remind ourselves and reflect on the Christian values and aims in which we endeavour to achieve in our daily practice as valued individual members of our school community. I would like to thank you for taking time to read this, I am sure your children will be able to share the work they have been doing around our vision.



Our vision

Where Every Door is Opened and Every Gift is Unlocked''

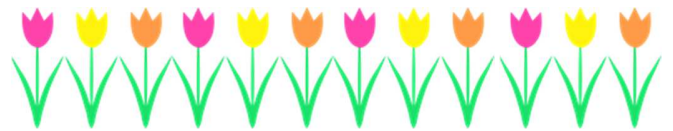
To elaborate on this...At Witton we are a partnership of school, church, home, the Diocese and community. We create a stimulating and caring environment, grounded in Christian belief and practice, so that all members of our school community can flourish. We all appreciate and value what it means to be a positive member of a diverse and multicultural community. Time is taken to value and nurture each child educationally, creatively and spiritually. Children and staff are encouraged to aim for 'Everyday Excellence' and believe in themselves. Understanding and valuing their self-worth and the importance of their place and purpose in our community to be the person they are fully capable of being.

Our aims, which further develop this in detail, can be found on our website under 'Our Vision'.

Staffing changes

I am delighted to inform you that we have employed an existing member of our school staff to the position of nursery teacher during Mrs Ridd's maternity leave in the summer term. Mr Wilson is a fully qualified teacher who currently holds a teaching assistant post in KS2 at our school. Mr Wilson will start his transition after February half term. As assistant head and Early Years lead, Mrs Selby, has





planned a detailed transition which will allow Mr Wilson to meet our nursery parents and children, observe Mrs Ridd and share expert knowledge of our nursery and teaching skills. He will also have many opportunities to work alongside Mrs Lightfoot, Mrs Wilkes and Mrs Snowdon in nursery. Mr Wilson is looking forward to teaching in nursery and meeting our nursery children. I am sure that you will join me in welcoming him in to our nursery class and in to our early years team, I have no doubt that he will be extremely successful.

Year 5 and 6

As you know maths is a real focus in our school, especially since the new curriculum and the implementation of the new external challenging SATs in 2016. During this term we have regrouped our Year 5 and 6 pupils for maths whilst employing an additional teacher, Mrs Booth. For three days a week the children will be grouped in to 6 groups each taught by a qualified teacher and some groups having additional support with a teaching assistant. This will provide our Y6 pupils with vital revision and opportunities to refine their skills before their SATs whilst our Y5 pupils continue with a maths curriculum that challenges them and provides them with opportunities to also refine and practise new strategies. This term's learning will be closely monitored by our maths lead, Mrs Parr, to ensure that our children continue to progress and meet their own personal targets across the maths curriculum.

Maths

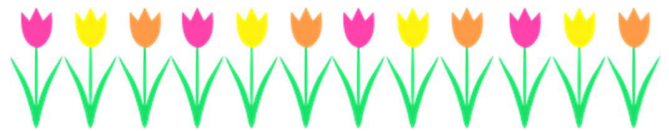
As I said in my letter regarding performance tables prior to our Christmas break, maths is a focus in our school and securing progress within the challenging curriculum in which our children are tested against externally in Year 6. We are a school that continually looks outwards and thrives on

moving forward, sharing good practice and developing our teaching through the use of research. Last term we were successful in being chosen to be part of the 'Mastery Maths' approach with the NCETM (National Centre for the Excellence in the Teaching of Maths). This approach is being distributed across school this year and we are already seeing the impact of it in classrooms. The mastery approach allows opportunities for children to develop deep and lasting procedural and conceptual mathematical understanding. **If you would like to learn more about it please just take a look at their website or speak with Miss Salisbury or Mrs Parr, who are leading this within school.**

Curriculum

This term our curriculum is all about... 'Growing Up Global'. Our children will be surrounded by learning opportunities in which they can learn and share knowledge about the world around them, how they can look after the world, how the world can provide for them, about the Commonwealth and about how choices they make or lead on can create 'big' changes in the wider world around them.





Sharing good news

Last term we successfully gained the Silver quality mark for science, Silver quality mark for PE and the Gold quality mark for RE. All three had extremely challenging external assessments which we had to meet. These achievements are ones in which we are very proud of and demonstrate that the curriculum your children receive is broad, balanced and of a high standard. We are currently waiting to be assessed for the Basic Skills Quality mark in January 2019 and we feel very confident that we will again achieve this, for the third time - therefore evidencing that the Basic Skills for Maths and English are being taught at our school extremely well and have been for 9 years. All these quality marks evidence to us internally and externally that our school is providing a curriculum and the experiences that as a school we are undoubtedly proud of. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our school community for choosing our school for your children and a huge thank you to my staff for their dedication and commitment to the teaching in their class and the leadership of their subjects within school.



Attendance and Lates

As per our Attendance Policy, a copy of which can be found on the school website, we will also be reporting any unauthorised absences from school to our Education Welfare Officer and a Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued to you [and your partner/husband] in accordance with section 444 of the Education Act 1996. The current rates payable by parents are £60 where the amount is paid within 21 days and £120 where the amount is paid within 28 days. This charge is **per parent/carer per child**. If the fixed penalty notice remains unpaid this could lead to prosecution in the Magistrate's Court.

Thank you for support with attendance as currently we are 96% but only just – we still have some work to do but we are heading in the right direction!

Concerns and celebrations

I would just like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the support we provide in school for parents and families who have any concerns about their child. As I say in our new intake evening and during 'in year admission' meetings - if concerns are not brought to a member of staff's attention or to mine or my deputy then we cannot move forward positively with them for everyone involved.

May I take this moment to ask parents and families that do have any concerns now or in the future that they take the time to speak to a member of staff immediately to ensure they are given an opportunity to reach a positive conclusion for all involved.

'Love thy neighbour as yourself'





Mark 12:31



Likewise if you would like to bring any celebrations to my attention, I would dearly like to hear them. Often parents or grandparents send me emails, letters or just catch me to say how my staff have been helpful to their child or sorted a concern out quickly for them. These moments are valued immensely by all staff, myself and governors of the school. In life saying thank you, welcoming others with a smile and offering that hand of friendship is something that God taught us to share with others and passes kindness to others in unmeasurable ways. May I thank you for all your support you give to school, working in partnership to ensure the most positive outcome for your children.

Young Voices



Children attending the Young Voices concert will shortly be receiving a letter from Mrs Parr with the final details so that you are aware of what your child needs to wear, food and drink they need, adults attending and details of pick up and drop offs. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to pop in to the office and ask a member of staff.

Parents Evening – Advance Notice

Monday 4th February - we will be holding our Spring term parents evening for our Reception children. Please look out for the letter to confirm your attendance and request a timing that is most suitable for you. It will run from 1.00pm until 6.30pm with a break for teachers between 3pm and 3.30pm.

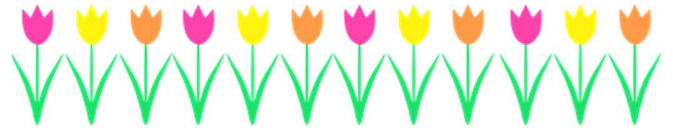


Tuesday 5th February - we will be holding our Spring term parents evening for children from Year 1 and Year 2. Please look out for the letter to confirm your attendance and request a timing that is most suitable for you. It will run from 1.00pm until 7.00pm with a break for teachers between 3pm and 3.30pm.

Monday 18th March - we will be holding our Spring term parents evening for 2019 for our Nursery children. Please look out for the letter to confirm your attendance and request a timing that is most suitable for you. It will run from 9.00am until 5.30pm with a break for teachers between 12.00pm and 1.00pm.

Wednesday 20th March - we will be holding our Spring term parents evening for children from Year 3 to Year 6. Please look out for the letter to confirm your attendance and request a timing that is most suitable for you. It will run from 1.00pm until 7.00pm with a break for teachers between 3pm and 3.30pm.





Standardised Assessment Tests (SAT's) for Y2 & Y6 PUPILS

External Standardised testing will occur in May for both of these year groups. Each child's teacher will have tweeted a guide from Youtube on their twitter page that will help you understand the expectations and organisation for these tests. It is imperative that as parents you support your child leading up to and during these tests. There will be a letter for Year 2 and Year 6 parents in the next two weeks explaining the support we are giving your children in class and also how you can support your child to ensure that they succeed.

The Year 2 SATs legally have to take place during the month of May. Please ensure that you child is in school daily but especially during May so they are able to access their external tests.

Year 6 SATs take place during the week of 14th May, it imperative that your child is in each day from now until these tests to maximise their learning, but especially during the week that the tests take place.

Standardised tests will take place during the month of May for ALL Year 2 pupils.

Key Stage 2 tests for Year 6 must be administered as set out below.

Monday 13 th May	English Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling Test – Papers 1 & 2
Tuesday 14 th May	English Reading Test
Wednesday 15 th May	Maths – Paper 1 - Arithmetic Test Maths – Paper 2 - Reasoning
Thursday 16 th May	Maths – Paper 3 - Reasoning

Residential for YEAR 4 and YEAR 2

YEAR 4 - Our numbers are now finalised and have been sent to the centre. As stated in previous letters, your child will only be able to attend the residential if payment is received in full before the trip.

YEAR 2 – You are able to start making payments to the Beeston residential, please take advantage of these to allow you to spread the payments out. As with any residential, your child will only be able to attend the residential if payment is received in full before the trip.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Kathryn Magiera
Head Teacher

