



AUTUMN TERM 2015 NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

A very warm welcome back in to what will be my fifth full academic year as your head teacher and what a busy five years we have had and this coming year will be no exception. My staff have been planning a broad range of activities to enthuse and excite your children as they full fill their potential 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 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.

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 is 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.



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 slightly but it is not enough and it is the same children time and time again 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.

Let's work together as we did 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 has altered slightly. Throughout this year we will be studying themes as a whole school, we trialed this for one topic last year and it concluded with amazing results for all of our children. Each theme will be based on high quality literature and art. The themes are as follows –



Autumn Term – Who Pushed Humpty Dumpty?

Spring Term – Conflict and Peace

Summer Term – Olympics/Queen's birthday celebration/Healthy Schools



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'.**

Staffing changes

As you know we said good bye and good luck to Miss Boulton, Miss Woollam, Mrs Harding and Mrs Walsh 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! This school year we will be saying good luck to Mrs Westron as she leaves us this week to embark on a new adventure with the birth of her twins, we are hoping to see her return towards the end of the summer term.

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.

We are also looking for a mid-day assistant as Miss Ryder has taken up a new role, if you are interested please contact the office.

First half term leadership

As some of you are aware I will be teaching in Mrs Selby's class until she returns during this first half term. Miss Woollam was employed to complete the whole of Mrs Selby's maternity leave however she fell pregnant herself once employed. I do hope to let you know what her new arrival is and that all is well as she has promised to let us know, it is all very exciting! I will be teaching Reception with Mrs Doyle and Miss Lock, I did approach Mrs Parr, but the thought of 'all those little ones' didn't quite get the response I was expecting. My specialism in teaching is the Early Years and so this is an exciting opportunity for me to get back in the classroom even if only for a short period of time.

New Staff

Miss Jessica Rowlinson – Teacher Year 1/2

Miss Rebecca Coates – Teacher Year 3/4

Miss Stacey Ryder – 1-1 Teaching Assistant in Year 3

Mrs Natalie Marshall-Whittaker – EYS Teaching Assistant

Mrs Judith Jones – Teaching Assistant in Year 5/6

Miss Tracy Ward will return for maternity – 1-1 Teaching Assistant Year 4





Please be aware that I will not be at the door in the mornings until our new Reception children are settled, once they are settled I will be on the door on Fridays, Mrs Parr will be there with Mrs Kenyon during this time. At the end of the day I will be at the Reception door when I will be more than happy to chat to you as usual once the Reception children are safe with the parents.

During this time if you would like to meet with me or talk on the telephone I will only be available to meet or speak on the phone during the afternoons unless it is an emergency. Mrs Parr will be available to meet or talk at any time during the day and you are more than welcome to meet with Mrs Parr first. Mrs Parr and I talk all the time and work very closely in partnership to lead the school but I completely understand that after a discussion with Mrs Parr you may still like to speak to me. If you would still like to meet with me than an afternoon appointment can be arranged, please do not worry.

Once Mrs Selby returns I will be at the doors as usual and appointments or conversation on the telephone can be made throughout the day.

Payments into school

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 –

Menci – Year 6 – November 2015

Pantomime – Nursery & Whole School – December 2015

Residential – Year 4 – March 2016 – price not available yet but no more than £150

Beeston – Year 2 – July 2016

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

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.



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.

I would like to welcome the following children who will be joining our school further up the school –

Jakub Wicher – Year 1
Jayden Hurst – Year 1
Adrian Komorniczak – Year 2
Barbara Caracas – Year 3
Nathan McNeill – Year 6



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. The point which some parents, 3%, made was communication and whilst this is never going to be perfect for everyone we have put some things in place to hopefully make some improvements.

1. 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.
2. Each class has a letter folder in their class and when my admin staff put a letter on their table to go out a copy will be placed in here. Staff will always have one at hand to refer to or copy one for you if you have misplaced yours or it didn't come home for any reason.
3. Letters will 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.
4. I have reminded staff about the importance of letters going out with enough notice. More often than not this happens but on the odd occasion a letter may be late and we apologise for this. We hope to ensure that all letters go out two weeks before the trip or sporting event. During Healthy Schools week letters were out late for sporting events but this was no fault of my staff, we sent the letters out as soon as we heard about the events and as we felt very passionate about our school taking part we sent them out and I would like to thank those parents for turning round the letters so quickly for permission as the children had a fantastic time at the competitions.
5. Newsletters will always be on the noticeboards around school.
6. Please can you ensure that we have your latest telephone number so we can contact you if there are any last minute changes to arrangements for trips.





7. Copies of all the letters are kept in the office so please pop in if you need another one, it only takes a minute to photocopy one....and finally,

8. If you would like a copy of letters emailing to you rather than a paper copy please pop in to the office and chat to Tammy and she will create an 'email group'. This will only apply to trip letters and general whole school letters from me, NOT sporting events or 'one offs' - these will still be paper copies. If you change your email address it is your responsibility to let the office know so this list can be updated.

If you have any other ideas that you feel will aid communication 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.

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 - with your help we raised over £60 with the Waitrose Community Project and over £90 with the Bags2School campaign - 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 Monday 14th 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

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.

Every year at Witton Church Walk is busy and rewarding, last year there was much to celebrate including our 'outstanding' church school inspection in January and continued improvement in results in national tests in both levels achieved and progress made by our children. For further information on the academic year 2014-2015 look out for the Governor's Annual Review which will be on the website by the end of September.

Learning is a life-long process and our governors are very keen to continue to improve our skills as governors. This year we are planning a 'back to school' day on Wednesday 30th 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. 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

