



## Witton Church Walk Aided CE Primary Autumn 2014

Dear Families,

Welcome to the Autumn Term of our new school year, and to this our first newsletter of 2014-2015. We return with a full complement of staff and lots of new families. I would like to welcome everyone back and a special welcome to all the new faces that we will see in and around our school. I hope that you all had a restful Summer holiday and are ready for the busy term ahead! We welcome our new Year Four teacher, Miss Burns, our new midday assistant, Mrs Derbyshire and our new Clerical Officer, Sue Rudge. Sue will work each Thursday and Friday. I am sure you will make them all feel extremely welcome.

School has been very active over the Summer break with many working parties starting on our yurt. I am sure you will agree the yurt with fully working stove will be a great asset to our commitment to outdoor learning and the development of Forest Schools. The PTA and School have funded this yurt together and I would like to say a huge thank you to the PTA for their donation. It is wonderful to see our whole school community coming together like this to benefit not only our pupils but also our local community.

**Mrs Magiera**

### **A quick reminder to parents and carers**

School hours are 8.50am to 3.15pm, Monday to Friday and begin promptly at 8.50am with the register and then an assembly each morning. If you are late for school please remember to sign the late book and order your school lunch. Please keep up our wonderful % for attendance over 95% and also ensuring we are able to keep the number of late arrivals to a minimum.



### **Money**

Lunches are now £2.15 per day.

Paying for lunch, snack and educational visits is via parent pay.

If your child comes to our breakfast club at 8.20am then they need to pay the £1.50 on ParentPay, where your child's attendance is logged daily. Any purchases made will come directly from your child's snack contribution 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 the hatch. Water is available freely all day and you are welcome to send in a **HEALTHY** snack with your child for break from home.

### **Witton Acorns**

Just a reminder that Witton Acorns, our before and after school care club, is now fully available to all parents to use on a 'when you need it' basis or for more regular bookings. Based out of our Community Room, this club has gone from strength to strength. The club offers a wide range of activities, including indoor and outdoor games, craft, painting, reading, imaginary play, construction, sport, computers, films and much more. Children are encouraged to choose their own activities, based on what they enjoy doing. If you want to visit the club, arrange a taster session, or have any other questions please contact the manager Norma Ridgway who will be happy to provide you with more information. Information is on our school website with contact details on.

## PE Kit must be in school for the first day of term,

Named navy shorts and a white t-shirt with the school logo on, (or a plain white t-shirt), and plain navy jogging top and bottoms for inclement weather. In order to participate in PE your child will need pumps or trainers in their PE bag - school shoes will **NOT** be allowed. Please ensure your child's pumps/trainers fit properly and that they are continually checked. PE kit should be worn for all curriculum and extra curriculum sports activities to meet Health and Safety requirements.

Girls hair **must** be tied back so please ensure a bobble is kept in your child's PE bag. If your child represents the school in a sporting activity they **MUST** have a PE kit in order to go, no PE kit means your child will not be able to represent the school. **Please ensure YOUR child has a school PE kit.**



## SCHOOL UNIFORM

If you go on to our school webpage you will see our school uniform list. You can order it from [myschoolstyle.com](http://myschoolstyle.com). Please note that **ONLY** black school shoes are allowed for school. Pupils may change in to trainers for break time so as not to spoil their school shoes during football! The children are very good at changing to and from school shoes and I commend them for that. If your child does not have their school shoes for whatever reason you must provide a letter to explain why.

## SMART

**S – Stand tall** – walk tall around school, be proud of where we are and what we are doing

**M – Make a difference** – to your learning, your day or someone else's. Smile, say please and thank you, open the door, greet someone, help someone

**A – Am I ready to learn** –

Do I know what is expected of me?

Do I know what my targets are and how to achieve them?

Do I have all the equipment I need?

**R – Respectful** –

Whether it be an adult in and around school or another pupil,

Do I listen carefully even though I may or may not agree?

Do I look at them when they are speaking?

**T – Tidy** –

I am tidy and ready to learn?

Do I have my full uniform on and am I wearing shoes and **not** trainers?

Is my hair tied back?

Have I only got studs in my ears? – if any other jewellery is worn your child will be asked to take it off and it will be kept in a safe place until home time. This is in line with our Health and Safety guidelines and also Cheshire West and Chester's.

Is my shirt tucked in?

We are proud to be at Witton Church Walk

## Educational Visits

Each class will go on an educational visit. This visit will take place at the beginning of their theme so that the work that the children complete in class will become real, as they have had that vital first hand experience. Each class teacher will send out their own letters to inform you of the visit, what your child needs and the cost. We are very lucky that our PTA subsidises these visits in order to keep the costs down, and for that I would like to thank you all for your continued support.

### Year 6 visit to Menai

Year 6 pupils will be visiting Menai very shortly and Mr Green will be chasing payments and sending out letters to provide you with more information about this residential. There will also be an informal information meeting in the school hall for parents, a confirmed date will be sent out shortly.

## Collective Worship

|                  |   |  |
|------------------|---|--|
| <b>MONDAY</b>    |   |  |
| 9.10am           | Singing Praise<br>After shared reading in class has finished. | Mr Green   |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>   |   |  |
| 9.00am           | Class assemblies  | Class teachers to lead   |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b> |   |  |
| 9.00am           | Collective Worship  | Reverend Alison Harris or Mr Graham Sheen<br>Alternate weeks in church |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>  |   |  |
| 9.00am           | KS1 and EYS Collective Worship                                | Head teacher or senior member of staff in her absence                  |
| 2.50pm           | KS2 Collective Worship  | Head teacher or senior member of staff in her absence                  |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>    |   |  |
| 9.00am           | Celebration Assembly  | Head teacher or senior member of staff in her absence                  |

### Celebration Assembly

We would like you to join us for Celebration Assembly. During this assembly we will continue to present a child from each class with a special certificate for their hard work, manners or consideration to others—these are examples. If your child is Star of the Week we will send you a text, no later than Thursday evening, to let you know. We will also be presenting three classes with special silver cups, you can see these cups in our Reception area. One is for 'SMART class of the Week', the second is for 'Attendance of the Week' and the third is for the class which has had no 'late' attendees for the week.

### *School Council, Eco Committee and E-Safety :*

*Our School and Eco Council have been up and running for many years now and is going from strength to strength. We have a continued focus this year on reducing our school's carbon footprint. The School Elections for our new school councillors will take place shortly.*

*Our e-safety committee will be working this year to ensure our children are aware of how to keep themselves safe both proactively and reactively on computers. We would like to thank Mr Bickerton for working closely with the children and sharing his expert knowledge.*

## **Head boy and Head girl**

We, Head Boy and Head Girl, are overjoyed to have been given the role of Head Boy and Girl. We are going to try our best to keep the school a safe and friendly place. We are looking forward to the challenges ahead of us, and setting good examples to the school.

Please let your children know that we are here if they need is or want someone to talk to.

We hope you have a had a nice summer!  
Grace Palmer and James Clarke

## **PTA**

### **A Special 'Thank-You' From The PTA**

The Witton Church Walk Parent Teacher Association (PTA) would like to extend a warm welcome to Families and children old and new this term - we're hoping this term and beyond will see some amazing fundraisers, activities, events and fun days which we can all be a part of - no matter how big or small.



We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to you all for supporting the PTA and its events and fundraisers over the previous terms and would love to encourage new members to join the PTA for our future events - whether you can help out for an hour or give us your expertise, knowledge or ideas - we welcome them all! We love planning all sorts of activities for all ages - ranging from Bingo nights to Summer Fun days. The money we raise is put back into the school and is spent on our valued pupils, so please get involved any way you can.

Everyone is welcome to come and find out more about the PTA at our next Annual General Meeting which will be held in school on Monday 15th September at 6.30pm - please come along - everyone truly welcome!

In the meantime please speak with the Office or Nikki Townley (Chairperson) if you have any queries about the PTA.

Here's to a fabulous and fun term!

## **Pupil Targets**

You will be aware that teachers continuously make assessments of pupils' learning and base their planning for teaching on these 'formative' assessments. Additionally there are the assessments made by 'standardised tasks and tests' at the end of Years 2 to 6 (in KS2 there are also brief tests throughout the year). All pupils have end of year targets, which are closely monitored by our Senior Leadership Team, based on these assessments.

We have moved more towards personalised targets for your child/ren, which will change much more frequently and will be specific to your child's next steps and our detailed marking. These targets can be found in your child's reading journals and in their school books. They will be given to you during parents evening, please ask for them. The targets will show you the journey which your child will be on, what they have learnt, where they need to go and that extra little challenge!

## **Parent Evenings**

Parent Evenings this term will be on Wednesday 22nd October from 1pm - 7.00pm. More details about this important evening will follow from Mrs Parr and Mrs Selby as Deputy and Key Stage One Leader.

## **Information Evenings**

We will also be holding two parent information evenings to help you support your child with their work at home. Letters will follow detailing dates and times of these events. The Key Stage 1 and Foundation Stage evening will be on Reading and Phonics. We would like to hold an information evening for Key Stage 2; please let us know what you like it to be for.

## St Helen's Church



A very warm welcome to all who are new to our school community, and an equally warm welcome to those who are returning! We hope that everyone will have a fulfilling year and that all our children will flourish in the months ahead.

We all value the close relationship that our school and church enjoy. As a church, we are very keen to encourage family involvement and I want to assure you that you will be very welcome to join us for any of the many things we offer for families and children. A few of the highlights coming up include our new monthly Café Church (an informal service for all ages for one hour, once a month!) which will be on September 14<sup>th</sup>, October 19<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup>, from 3.00-4.00pm, finishing with a drink and very nice cakes!! We are also planning to do an after-school Messy Harvest in church on Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>; lots of fun and activity around the theme of Harvest. If you still have younger children at home, you are welcome to join us for Praise and Play, our midweek group for pre-school children and whoever is looking after them: this happens on Tuesday afternoons from 2.00-3.00pm. And if you want to come to church on Sunday morning, we have a parallel Sunday Club for children with lots of enjoyable activities. The church will be open this Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> from 10.00-12.00 for our monthly Coffee Pot, (more nice cakes!) and this month we are partners with our school's PTA, so please do come and support this.

Once a fortnight, we have our school's Wednesday morning Collective Worship in church, and parents are very welcome to join us for that, and to stay for coffee afterwards. The first time this happens this term will be on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, so if you are free, please do join us.

If you want to find out more about St. Helen's Church, or if you want to meet me and have a chat, please do get in touch. My telephone number is 01606 42943 and email is [vicar@sthelenwitton.org.uk](mailto:vicar@sthelenwitton.org.uk). St. Helen's Church also has a website: [www.sthelenwitton.org.uk](http://www.sthelenwitton.org.uk).

I look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks.

*Rev. Alison*

***School Harvest Festival will be held in Church on Wednesday 8th October at 9.05am and our Christingle service will be in Church on Thursday 11th December at 1.45pm.***

***Please come and celebrate these special times with us.***

## Safeguarding

Please ensure you read the 'Security' letter which will be sent out by the end of the week and our reviewed Safeguarding Policy will be on the website as soon as it has been agreed by full Governors.

## Holidays

One more thing to celebrate is our reduced number of unauthorised holidays being taken during term time. Parents taking children on holiday during term time are aware that fines will be issued. Our policy has been in force now for a year and anyone taking holidays from now which are unauthorised will have a fine submitted to the Education Welfare Officer. Please be reminded that it is BOTH parents that will receive the fine. The policy is on our website, please read it to refresh yourself with the content.

## Head Lice

Please ensure all long hair is tied back and short hair is held off the face with slides or a headband. We do not want our little friends in school if possible! For advice on head lice if your child gets them, please see the letter on the school website. I ask that you do inform us if your child has head lice so we can send a quick note home to allow families to be prepared.

## Absence and Illness

If your child is absent from school, on their return please bring a letter into school to explain their absence. We need to keep a record for when the Educational Welfare Officer checks our registers each term. If your child has been sick could I remind you that they need to **be kept at home for 48 hours** to allow them to fully recover. We have a strict policy on absences and Mrs Koller will be requesting explanation of absences if they are not received.

### ***Have I made a healthy choice for my snack today?***

After promoting information about food choices and eating a balanced diet the school council are really pleased with the results of their hard work and dedication. We have more and more children using the knowledge they have gained to help them make a more informed choice about the food they choose for their morning snack. They understand both the benefits to their health and wellbeing and the impact that some foods can have on your body if you eat too much of them. At the end of last term we had a few chocolate bars and packets of crisps sneaking in, please remember we **only allow** healthy snacks at break time.

### **SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS**

**A reminder for you that Tempest Photography will be coming into school on Thursday 18th September for whole class photographs.**

**Please note that individual and family portraits will be taken later in the school year.**

## **Curriculum Development**

### **PE and AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

There will be lots of after school clubs to choose from this year, with some exciting new additions. The children will find out what is on offer next week once we have had confirmation from outside agencies and our local High School, a letter will be coming home on Monday. We hope to see lots of new faces this year. We will have a variety of sports specialists leading our afterschool clubs in partnership with the school sports partnership led by Chris Storey at Hartford High School. This will not only enhance the delivery of our PE curriculum but also further develop key skills which our children will need if they are to become our next Olympic Champions!!!

On Tuesdays we have employed Premier Sports to deliver specialist PE session to our children alongside our teachers, they will also be running two after school clubs and two sporting breakfast clubs from 8am—8.45am. The letter for these clubs will be out shortly. Premier Sports have come with a wonderful reputation and a glowing report from Ofsted, we are very lucky to have them in our school and I know that the staff are very excited to be developing their skills alongside the sports professionals.

### **The New 'Challenging' Curriculum**

David Cameron has called it a 'challenging' curriculum and that's what the new curriculum is! It is one of excitement and with many opportunities for the children to experience a vast array of new learning. It has enable us to devise our own challenging curriculum and set extremely high expectations of both teachers and pupils alike. The staff are very excited about it and I do hope that the children will be as they enter school this year. If you would like to see the curriculum coverage and progression of skills please look on our website.

### **Pupil Premium Funding and SEN offer**

You will be aware that every school now has to provide a description of the offer they have to meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs. Our offer can be found on our website, please take a look, any comments would be much appreciated on how parent friendly it is.

Mrs Kenyon is now leading the allocation of the pupil premium funding and the impact that this is having on the learning of these children. She will be working closely with Mrs Bickerton, one of our governors to ensure the school is held accountable on how they spend this money and the impact it has on raising the attainment of children who receive this funding.

If you are in receipt of any of the following benefits, please call 0300 123 7039 and apply for Free School Meals as we receive Pupil Premium Funding for each entitled child.

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

## **INSET DAYS 2014—2015**

Monday 1st September 2014

Tuesday 2nd September 2014

Monday 3rd November 2014

Monday 27th July 2015

Tuesday 28th July 2015

### **Homework**

The Government has suggested average homework times as shown below. These daily times assume working on 5 occasion during the weeks. These times **include** the recommended daily reading or book sharing time of 20 minutes.

Reception 20 minutes

Years 1-2 30 minutes

Years 3-4 40 minutes

Years 5-6 50 minutes



Remember to do a little each night, no more than the above guidelines. If you have completed this time and your homework is not finished, hand it in as it is with a short note. Children work at different speeds.

If you would like a copy of our Homework Policy please ask at the office or access the copy on our website.

### **VLE (Virtual Learning Environment)**

Our Virtual Learning Environment is a password protected website which links home and school in an exciting way. Each teacher has their own space and you will be able to access difference aspects of learning that your child has been completing throughout their time in school. It will provide you with a clear overview of the term's work and will be updated with activities, homework and news about their curriculum.

The site provides pupils with their own personal web space where they can upload photographs, videos, sound clips and enter their own text to create their own web pages.

**If you have any queries or questions about the site please arrange a mutually convenient time to speak to our Computing Lead, Miss Graham. All policies relating to Computing and Internet Safety are on our website.**

**Please cross reference our school calendar to your family calendar as the children are focusing their work this year on reducing our carbon footprint. Therefore very few reminders will be issued.**

**Alternatively this newsletter is always available on our website, please check for regular updates.**

## **Governor News**

Happy New School Year to all our children and their families.

Last year we welcomed two new governors to our governing body, Mrs Cath Bickerton was elected as a parent governor, and Peter Adams joined us a Foundation Governor. Over the summer, two of our Foundation Governors, Mrs Gail McCall and Mrs Sue Williams came to the end of their term of office, having made a great contribution over a number of years, our thanks to them for all they have done.

So as we start this academic year we are considering the best way to organize the work of our governing body and the skills we need to ensure we are governing our school well. The government has asked all governing bodies to look at how they work and how many governors they need to make their work most effective, we hope to agree this at our Full Governing Body meeting in November.

It is important that governors communicate directly with parents, you will remember seeing us at parents evenings asking for feedback and handing out questionnaires. Our annual review of the last academic year will be on the governor section of the school website by the end of September, feedback and comments are always welcome, please e-mail [chair@wittonwalk.cheshire.sch.gov.uk](mailto:chair@wittonwalk.cheshire.sch.gov.uk)

Mrs Sarah Merison

Chair of Governors

| <b>Date</b>                | <b>Activity</b>  | <b>Venue</b>  |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Wednesday 3rd September    | School Term begins,<br>NOT Nursery or Reception children   |   |
| 4th and 5th September      | Reception parent meetings  | Reception classrooms                                      |
| 4th September              | Nursery children back in school  |   |
| 5th September              | NO Celebration Assembly  |   |
| 8th September              | School term starts for our<br>Reception children   |   |
| 10th September             | Key Stage 1 WOW day  | School Hall   |
| 11th September             | Anderton Boat Lift visit for Lewis Carroll, David Walliams and JK Rowling classes                                      |   |
| 12th September             | Celebration Assembly—Everyone Welcome  | 9am School Hall   |
| 15th September             | Clubs to start this week!<br><br>Early Years Road Safety Workshops<br><br>Lower Key Stage 2 Science Day<br><br>PTA AGM | School Hall<br><br>School Hall<br><br>6.30pm, School Hall |
| 16th September             | Key Stage 1 Art Day  |   |
| 17th September             | E Safety and Cyber Bullying Workshops for Years 5 & 6  | School Hall   |
| 18th September             | Tempest Class Photographs  | 9.00am  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> September | PTA Treasure Hunt  | Details to follow   |
| 23rd September             | Michael Morpurgo and Anthony Horowitz Class<br>visit to Dunham Massey  |   |
| 24th September             | Year 6 Parents meeting for Menai   | 9.00am and 6.00pm   |
| 25th September             | Macmillan Coffee Morning   | School Hall - All morning                                 |
| 26th September             | Bags2School Collection   | 9.00am  |
| 1st October                | David Walliams Class - Walk around Northwich<br>Town and Library   | Afternoon   |
| 2nd October                | Lewis Carroll Class - Walk around Northwich Town<br>and Library  | Afternoon   |
| 3rd October                | JK Rowling Class - Walk around Northwich Town<br>and Library   | Afternoon   |
| 8th October                | Harvest Festival   | St Helens Church - 9.05am                                 |
| 13th October               | Year 5 - Pilgrim Day at Chester Cathedral  | Letter to follow  |
| 15th October               | Year 5&6 Girls Football  | UCAN  |
| 17th October               | Northwich Vision Art Day for David Walliams,<br>Lewis Carroll and JK Rowling Classes                                   | School Hall   |

|                                   |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| 21st October                      | Filbert Artist in all day - whole school   | School Hall  |
| 22nd October                      | Parents Evening  | 1.00pm - 7.00pm<br>Further details to follow                           |
| Monday 27th - Friday 31st October | HALF TERM  |  |
| 3rd November                      | INSET  | Staff only in school   |
| 4th November                      | WW1 Workshop for Michael Morpurgo and Anthony Horowitz classes   | School Hall  |
| 5th November                      | WW1 Workshop for Michael Morpurgo and Anthony Horowitz classes<br><br>Special Bonfire Night Lunch  | School Hall  |
| 18th November                     | Maths Roadshow   | Details to follow  |
| Monday 1st - Friday 5th December  | Year 6 residential visit to Menai<br><br>Last week for After School Clubs  |  |
| 8th December                      | Experience Christmas - Michael Morpurgo and Anthony Horowitz classes   | PM - St Helens Church  |
| 9th December                      | Experience Christmas - Michael Morpurgo and Anthony Horowitz classes<br><br>Dress rehearsal for Key Stage 1 and Early Years Christmas Production | PM - St Helens Church<br><br>AM & PM                                   |
| 10th December                     | Key Stage 1 and Early Years Christmas production<br><br>Experience Christmas - Michael Morpurgo and Anthony Horowitz classes                     | AM & PM performances<br>Details to follow<br><br>PM - St Helens Church |
| 11th December                     | Christingle Service  | 1.45pm - St Helens Church  |
| 12th December                     | Christmas Jumper Day   | Details to follow  |
| 16th December                     | Whole School Panto Visit   | AM - The Grange  |
| 17th December                     | Whole School Christmas Lunch   |  |
| 18th December                     | Young Voices choir   | 2.00pm - St Johns Church with Hartford CE High School                  |
| 19th December                     | Attendance Assembly<br><br>SCHOOL TO FINISH AT 1.30PM  | Children only<br><br>Merry Christmas                                   |

