



SPRING TERM 2016 NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

I would like to wish you all a very 'Happy New Year', I hope you enjoyed your Christmas break and that the children are ready to come back to school invigorated and ready to learn!

I would like to say a special thank you on behalf of my staff for the special gifts they received from your children at the end of last term. There are lots of exciting activities planned for the Spring term — please take some time read the calendar on our website and put important dates on your calendar, this will ensure that your children have the correct items in school on that day.

Our school website address is www.wittonchurchwalk.co.uk or follow us on twitter @witton_walkce

Thank you and Kind Regards,

Mrs Kathryn Magiera

Standardised Assessment Tests (SAT's)

YEAR 2 & YEAR 6 PUPILS

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 9th May Reading Comprehension

Tuesday 10th May English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Test

Wednesday 11th May Arithmetic Test, Maths A Reasoning focus

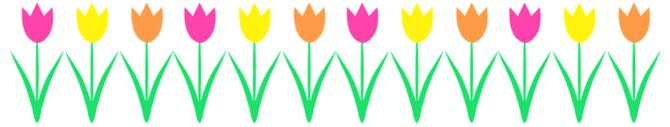
Thursday 14th May Maths B Reasoning focus

This term Year 6 pupils will be receiving small group tuition in the morning with Mrs Kenyon and booster classes during the afternoon with Mrs Whittaker and Mrs Parr to ensure the children have all the skills they need to be confident in their own abilities. It will give the children time to go over aspects of the curriculum they are unsure of, ask questions and clarify their understanding. Information will be provided to Year 6 parents during parents evening this half term. If you have any further questions please speak to Mrs Parr, Miss Merchant, Mrs Kenyon or Mr Green.

Year Two parents may speak to their child's class teacher or our KS1 team leader, Mrs Crosby or our Assistant Head, Mrs Selby, who has overall responsibility for KS1.

As always you are most welcome to pop in and chat to me about any aspects of the SATs you feel you need clarifying.





Positive praise, encouragement and discussions about working to the best of your child's ability is a good environment for your children to succeed. Please ensure that your child goes to bed at a reasonable time to ensure that they get the best rest and thus resulting in coming in to school fresh and ready to start their day.

Please note that levels are now not being used to judge your child's attainment so there will no longer be reference to Level 2B and Level 4B being national expectation for the end of Year Two and the end of Year 6 respectively. Once this has been explained at parents evening by your child's teacher, if you still require further information I will happily lead an information evening. A slip to judge whether this evening will be needed will be available to fill in after your parents evening appointment

Curriculum

First Aid training is coming in to our school. We have booked St John's ambulance to spend a week with us delivering training to all the children from how to make a 999 call to resuscitation. We are extremely welcome to St John's ambulance for providing this training, we will be paying for this training out of our school budget but there will be no cost to you as the Governors and I feel that this is a fabulous opportunity for your children to be part of and to develop these potentially lifesaving skills. They will be in school the week beginning 18th January and there will be a parent session the morning of the 20th January. Mrs Osborn will be sending out a letter to let you know how you can sign up for the parents session.

Interfaith Week

This week is normally held in November but as our diary was extremely busy in November we will be celebrating it during the first week in February. During this week we will provide learning opportunities to enrich the school's community awareness of different and distinct faith communities and develop understanding between people of religious and non-religious belief. There will be many celebrations, questions asked and knowledge gained during this week but more importantly the children will have a great deal of memorable experiences which they will be able to share with you during our sharing assembly at 9am on Friday 5th February. If you are able I do hope that you pop along to this worship, it will be instead of our usual Celebration Worship, and we will also have tea and coffee after in our Community Room.

Staffing changes

We very sadly said good bye to Mrs Rudge from our office on the last day of the Autumn term. Although Mrs Rudge had not been with us all that long we were very sad to see her go. Mrs Rudge has left to support her husband with his business which is flourishing and we wish her well. We will be welcoming Mrs Lisa Haslam to our office team on Wednesday of this week and I know that you will give her a warm welcome to our school community. Mrs Haslam will be in the office Wednesday mornings and all day Thursday and Fridays, as you know it takes a little while to get to grips with a new job but I have every confidence that she will get the hang of it in no time!

We also welcome Miss Salisbury and Miss Mealyou to our school until the Easter break. Both ladies are from our Teaching School Alliance and will be completing their second teaching practice in our school. Miss Salisbury will be working alongside Mrs Crosby and Miss Mealyou will be working alongside Mrs Kimber. We wish them every success as they develop their teaching skills and I know they will learn many new skills from our staff that will ensure they grow in to outstanding practitioners.





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 –

Residential – Year 4 – March 2016

Beeston – Year 2 – July 2016

The cost of all these upcoming events/residentials are on ParentPay. If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium then the cost for these residentials is reduced. If anyone feels they will struggle to pay the cost please make an appointment to meet with me and we can discuss this.

School lunch is £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. Please also ensure that your accounts are always paid up to date as debts can accumulate very quickly and they will still need to be paid.



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.



Parents Evening

Please do not forget that parents evening is coming up next Tuesday for Reception and Year 6 pupils. In order for us to maximise your children's progress and attainment it is imperative that we work in partnership and part of that is attending parents evening so we

can share your child's successes and also guide you with supporting your child at home to ensure that when they leave our school 'Every Door is Opened and Every Gift is Unlocked'. If you haven't received it already then there will be a letter coming out this week so you can book your appointment.

Parents Evening for Year 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 pupils will be on 23rd February. The letter for this will come home just before half term.



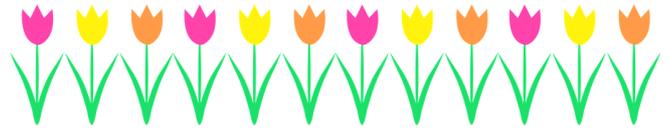
Mother and Tots

I am writing to see if we have anyone who would like to lead Mother and Tots from September. Mrs Gibbon and Mrs Ridgeway have led Mother and Tots for a number of years now and we are extremely grateful for their support, hard work and commitment. It has been a thriving group, a time when parents, old or new, young children and babies can come to our school and enjoy a relaxing time chatting and playing with each other.

One of my Teaching Assistants will be there to support whoever offers to lead this. It would be such a shame if we had to close this group and bring it to an end.

If you are interested please pop in and see me, I look forward to talking to our new lead or leaders.





In the Community

Parking

Towards the end of last term, I again had two phone calls from local residents as they had access blocked. I would like to remind you that we have 'free' access to parking on the Memorial Hall car park and on Lidl car park with kind permission from the manager. As work continues on the flood defenses, parking is becoming restricted at the Memorial Hall so please use the Lidl car park when you can. Both these car parks are minutes away from our school and are free and decrease the congestion outside school therefore increasing the safety for your children. You or I would not appreciate the access to our houses or drives be blocked so I ask that we all park considerately.

UNIFORM

I will be taking a much closer look at school uniform this term, especially shoes, if your child does not have the correct uniform a letter will be sent home. Uniform gives our children a sense of pride and belonging, we have always received comments on how smart our children look, e.g. Ofsted Inspectors, LA advisors, visitors to our school and education officers on school trips. Please remember that wellington boots, Ugg boots and any other colour except black boots need to be removed before the register is taken and children will put school their school shoes on. Wellington boots, Ugg boots and boots that are not BLACK are not part of our school uniform.



LOST PROPERTY/MIS-LAID UNIFORM

Our lost property boxes are full! All our uniform is exactly the same and it is difficult to distinguish which jumper, skirt or cardigan belongs to each child. It is imperative that every part of your child's uniform and coat is labelled so we are able to give it straight back to its rightful owner. It is also easy for your child to accidentally pop someone else's jumper or cardigan on. If this happens can I ask that it is returned immediately to school so we are able to pass it back to its owner? Thank you for your cooperation with this.





PTA News

Your PTA Team would like to - once again - say a BIG thank you to Parents, Carers, Staff and Families for all of your help and support over the past few months.

We've seen some amazing fundraising recently for our school and it's all down to your support! By bringing in your old clothes for our 'Bags2school' campaign, you helped us raise £72 for the PTA & school - a big thanks to everyone who contributed. Our successful Christmas Fayre raised over a whopping £800 and Christmas Bingo raised over £600 - we are sure you will agree this is amazing for our PTA and school funds!

Everything we raise goes back to the school and benefits our pupils directly, so thank you again. 2016 will remain as exciting as ever for even more fundraising - our very first school video gaming night will be held on Thursday 14th January (see fliers in book bags), and our ever popular Easter Bingo and May Fayre will be another huge success!

We are always on the lookout for more helpers, thinkers, do'ers and partakers - please do get in touch with us if you feel you can contribute to our friendly PTA Team. Find us on Facebook (Witton Church Walk PTA) or email us at ptawitton@live.co.uk.

Thanks again from Nikki, Carol & Amy - PTA Team.

Governor News

I hope you all enjoyed a restful and happy Christmas and feel ready to enjoy what I'm sure will be a very busy New Year at Witton Church Walk.

The governing body said farewell to Angela Atkinson, one of our foundation governors at the end of last term. Angela has been a fantastic governor, with a particularly important role supporting the children on our school's 'Ethos Group'. I just wanted to take the opportunity to say thank you once again to Angela for all she has done to support our school. We are currently in the process of recruiting a new foundation governor, more news to follow on this soon.

An overview of the work carried out by the governing body and its committees last term will be on the governor pages of the school website soon in our termly update, please see the Governor News section.

Regards

Sarah Merison

Chair of Governors

St Helens Church News

A happy new year to you all, and I hope you all had a very happy Christmas.

You may have heard this on the news too, but the first Easter eggs appeared in the shops - before Christmas Eve! Although I am sure that the motives for this were commercial, I couldn't help but smile at the deep Christian truth that this conveyed: you can't have Christmas without Easter, and you can't have Easter without Christmas. We may not always think of this when we are opening our presents at Christmas or eating our chocolate at Easter, but we can't have one without the other!

And here are some dates for your diary:

Café Church - our monthly, informal service for all ages starts again next Sunday, January 10th, then on February 14th and March 13th. Starts at 4.30pm with a light tea (sandwiches, crisps, cake) and finishes by 5.30pm

Wednesday morning Collective Worship in church - you are welcome to join us and stay for a cup of tea/coffee afterwards: January 6th and 20th; Feb 3rd; starts 9.00am.

And, finally, please go to St Helen's Church facebook page, click "like" and then you'll receive updates of all we are doing in church. And then click "share" to spread the word!

