

# Wintringham Primary Academy

Part of The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust  
Established in the Queen's Jubilee year 2012

Nuffield Road, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 0AW  
Tel: 01480 595885 email: [office@wintringham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@wintringham.cambs.sch.uk)

CEO: Mrs Susannah Connell BSc MA (Ed Mgt) NPQH  
Executive Headteacher: Mrs Tracy Bryden BSc Hons PGCE

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of another busy and productive half term, I wanted to let you know of some of the fabulous activities that have taken place. The children have been working incredibly hard, and it has been lovely to see their enthusiasm for all they do in school.

Please remember that we have a training day at the end of half term and we therefore look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

I was very proud of our Year 6 children for their maturity and positive attitude during SATS last week. I really enjoyed having breakfast with them each morning before their day started.

Sports Day this year will take place on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July**. As our numbers have increased, we will be holding events for Reception and KS1 in the morning and for KS2 in the afternoon. A letter with all the details will be sent out soon.

Class photographs will be taken on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June. A reminder will be sent nearer the time.

At the end of last term, we were delighted by the response to our Mother's Day Boutique and we hope that you enjoyed your presents from the children. We raised £300.00 which will be put towards additional resources for the school.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Book Fair last term. We raised a fantastic £318.65 which will be used to buy additional books for the school.

After half term, some of the children in Pre-school, who will be starting school in September will be joining the main school to have a school meal. We hope that this will help with their transition to school.

Reception have been exploring the wonderful world of minibeasts! The children were fascinated by the life cycles of some of these amazing creatures – including ladybirds, bees and butterflies – and were inspired by their new knowledge to create their own life cycle diagrams. During a bug hunt, they were very excited to find some ladybird larvae in our own outdoor area!

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In drawing club, we have been exploring 'Superworm' by Julia Donaldson. The children then imagined their own alternative adventures for Superworm.

In Year 1, the children have been listening to different music inspired by superheroes! They have been listening for similarities and differences in the instruments used and how the music can be used to tell a story. They thought of their own superhero adventures and how they could play music with tuned instruments to make high, low, loud and quiet sounds to tell the story.



In Art, Year 1 have been experimenting with colour mixing to discover how the primary colours can be used to make secondary colours. They have mixed and painted carefully to recreate art inspired by Jasper Johns' 'Numbers in Colour.'

In Geography, the children in Year 2 have been finding out about 'Africa'. They discovered that it is the second largest continent and that over 1000 languages are spoken there. Donaldson Class have also learnt about Africa's climate and compared this to the climate we have here in St. Neots. The children have then progressed onto learning about the Sahara Desert. They found out about the different animals that live there as well as settlements.

In Music, the children have been learning about 'Call and Response'. They listened to the sounds that well-known African animals make. They then had to pick appropriate instruments to replicate these sounds. The children then progressed onto remembering the 'response' part to a traditional song from Ghana called 'Che Che Kule' and the actions to accompany this.

Year 3 were fortunate enough to participate in 'Veg Fest' this term. The children went to our vegetable patch and tended to the potatoes and strawberries. They located the potatoes by knowing the leaves and then ensured that the weeds were removed so that the plants were getting the water. Working together, the children watered the vegetables and have continued to water these during lunchtime and outdoor learning.



Year 3 have been exploring Egyptian scrolls in their Art lessons. The children took inspiration from Egyptian hieroglyphics to create their own. They then made their own papyrus paper and took the ideas of hieroglyphics and created their own version that was related to themselves, for example, a pet, hobby or their family. The children used their imagination, creativity and perseverance to do this. These have now been displayed in the school for everyone to see!

Recently, Year 4 have been lucky enough to also be part of the ongoing 'Veg Fest' project at school. The children worked hard to weed the raised beds and start to improve the quality of the soil ready for planting. They worked in small groups to plant some seeds of various vegetables and

flowers and ensured all the beds were kept well-watered. The children are looking forward to seeing the fruits of their labours, later in the year.



Year 4 had a fantastic time away during their recent residential trip to Grafham Water. The children had the opportunity to try lots of exciting outdoor activities including kayaking, Jacobs ladder (high ropes) and mountain biking. The children also got to have a go at archery and the infamous Grafham Challenge, where they had to work together as team to make their way around an obstacle course blindfolded. Year 4 approached each challenge with enthusiasm, resilience and positivity. During their stay, the children worked towards 'The National Outdoor Learning

Award' which is a scheme that celebrates and captures participation in an outdoor learning environment. After each activity, the children had time to reflect on a range of skills to self-assess their attitude towards the challenges and the progress they made. They should all feel very proud of their achievements.

Year 5 had an amazing time on their trip to the National Space Centre in Leicester. The day started with a mind blowing visit to the Sir Patrick Moore Planetarium, where the children got a real taste of what it's like to be an astronaut. They were fascinated by the sights and sounds of space! After that, they spent the rest of the day exploring rocket parts, diving deeper into their knowledge of the planets, and taking part in fun interactive activities — including steering a space buggy! It was an unforgettable day packed with learning, fun, and discovery.



Some of our Year 5 children took part in a fun and challenging Maths event at Little Paxton Primary School. They competed in a range of rounds, including arithmetic, memory games, estimation tasks and exciting bonus questions. Working together as a team, they aimed to score as many points as they could. Although we didn't come away with a win, the children did an amazing job, showing off their fantastic problem-solving and reasoning skills. Some of the questions were tough, but they didn't give up – showing great teamwork, resilience and determination. A big well done to everyone who took part!

Rowling Class had a great time taking part in the Microscope4Schools challenge. A special microscope was delivered to school, and the children had loads of fun finding everyday items to examine up close. Their mission was to snap the most interesting photo they could — without making it too obvious what the object was! The photos have now been sent off, and we're excited to find out how we've done in the competition. As part of the project, the class also had the chance to chat with real scientists over Zoom. They learned about the different kinds of work

scientists do and even got to ask them questions. It was a fantastic mix of science, creativity and curiosity!

Last week our brilliant Year 6 children tackled their SATs, and we're so proud of them! They worked really hard, showed great determination and kept positive even when things got tough. It has been amazing to see their resilience and how they supported each other along the way. No matter what the results are, they've already achieved something special just by giving it their best. These tests are just one part of their journey, and they've shown what hard work and a great attitude can do. Well done, Year 6 – you've done yourselves proud!



Year 6 finished the week working with clay for their art lesson. They needed to create a sculpture that reflected them as a person. They really enjoyed working with the clay!

Year 6 have also just started their swimming lessons at Kimbolton swimming pool and are currently auditioning for parts in the KS2 end of year production of Matilda. I'm already looking forward to seeing their performance.

A group of Year 5 and 6 children took part in the Priory Cross-Country event, where each runner completed a lap of the course, just over 1km long. It was a tough challenge, but every child showed fantastic effort and teamwork. They worked extremely hard on pacing themselves, making sure they had enough energy to finish strong. There were some tiring moments along the way, but they never gave up. Their grit and determination were clear right up to the final stretch. We're really proud of how well they represented the school — a brilliant effort from everyone involved!

Some Year 4 and 5 children took part in the DLPT Dodgeball tournament and were unstoppable from start to finish! They won every single game, playing with skill, energy and amazing teamwork. Each match saw them push one another to do their best, showing real determination and focus. What stood out most was how much they encouraged and supported each other throughout — their positive attitude made all the difference. Thanks to their effort and teamwork, they made it all the way to the final... and won! A huge well done to everyone involved – a fantastic achievement!

We have a SEND DLPT Facebook group which is only for the parents of SEND children in the DLPT. If you would like to join the group please use the following link to the page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/737433803299735/>

You may be asked for further information to verify that you are a parent of a SEND child and which school your child attends.

For those parents that are new to the school, we have a closed Facebook group that is only open to parents and carers. A request to join this group can be made using the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/206660223237917/> The page is updated regularly with photographs and information of news and events.

Please can you remind your children that they are not allowed to climb any of the school fences at any time.

Please can I remind you not to encourage conversations with your children through the fence at break and lunchtimes. The children should be playing with their friends at these times. We have a duty of care to keep all of our children safe. If you need to get a message to your child, please call the school office.

Please try and make doctors and dental appointments in the school holidays or after school if at all possible. If you do have an appointment during the school day, please let the office know in advance and provide a copy of your appointment card. This should hopefully ensure that your child is not changed for P.E. at the back of the school field when you are in a rush to get to your appointment.

Term dates for the school year 2024/25 are provided in the diary dates section at the end of this newsletter. Please do not book any holidays during term time.

Please be aware that if a child vomits or has diarrhoea in school, they will be sent home immediately. Children with these conditions will not be accepted back into school until 24 hours after the last symptom has elapsed.

Please, if at all possible, could you walk to school with your children. If you have to drive, please can you park with consideration to our neighbours in our school car park on Aspen Avenue. Thank you for your co-operation.

### **Uniform**

Please note that we would ask that when you are purchasing new shoes for your child to wear at school that they are black school shoes. No trainers are to be worn other than for P.E. Our uniform is as follows:

Grey pinafore dress, skirt or trousers

Navy blue sweatshirt

Sky blue polo shirt

White or grey socks and if tights are worn in winter they should be navy blue or grey

Navy fleece

Black shoes with closed heels and toes

Summer dress is navy and white checked

Please ensure skirts are knee length. P.E. shirts should be a plain white t-shirt. P.E. shorts should be loose fitting 'football' style, and not leggings or cycling shorts.

Please ensure that your child brings a waterproof coat to school with them and a sun hat when the weather is warmer. All children should have a named water bottle in school every day.

### **Email Communication**

We have an email communication system which allows us to communicate with parents by email. I hope that everyone will remain in the scheme as this will save a lot of money currently being spent on paper and photocopying which can then be spent on the children and resources. Please ensure that your email address and mobile telephone number are kept up to date with the school office.

### **School Dinners**

Our new in-house caterers, Diamond Diners, now provide school meals for the children. Menus for the term have been sent out separately. The cost of a meal at school is £2.60 per child per meal. You may order lunches on a daily basis but all school lunches must be paid for in advance or on the day taken. School is not allowed to give more than one day's credit per child.

### **Online Payments**

Our Arbor online payment system is available for meal payments, trips and to pay for Cygnets. If you still can't access the Arbor Parent Portal, please contact the school office. The Arbor app is also now available for both Android and Apple devices.

### **Holiday Absence**

In line with Statutory Guidance from the Department of Education, Headteachers are only allowed to authorise absence during term time in exceptional circumstances. Family holidays are

not classed as exceptional circumstances. The children only attend school for 190 days out of 365 and we do expect parents to take holidays during the 13 weeks of school holidays. Please be aware that as this is an unauthorised absence you could be at risk of the Education Welfare Officer issuing a fixed penalty fine. Term dates for the 2024/2025 school year have been sent home to parents and are available on the school website. Please contact the school office if you require a further copy.

### **Visits**

From time to time, classes are engaged in local studies to support the curriculum, meaning that they need to leave the school site for a short walk or visit, perhaps to the church, for example. We seek to use the locality in practical ways to support the children's learning and always ensure appropriate and adequate adult supervision. If any visit involves transport or alternative lunch arrangements you will always be informed in advance but for a short local excursion, perhaps dependent on fine weather conditions, you may not be.

### **Nut Allergy**

May I remind parents that children's packed lunches must not contain peanut butter or other snacks which contain nuts. Please be aware of all items which also 'may contain nuts' as stated on the packaging, as we have several children with allergies in school. Thank you for your consideration.

### **Diary Dates**

#### **Summer Term 2025**

Monday 29th May – Friday 30th May	- May Half Term
Monday 2nd June	- Staff Training Day
W/C 16th June	- Reception Balance Bikes
Tuesday 17th June	- Class Photographs
Monday 30th June	- KS1 Trip to Whipsnade Zoo
Thursday 10th July	- Sports Day
Monday 14th July	- Reception Trip to Sacrewell Farm
Monday 21st July – Wednesday 23rd July	- Year 6 to Hilltop
Wednesday 23rd July	- End of Term

#### **Autumn Term 2025**

Monday 1st September	- Staff training day
Tuesday 2nd September	- Staff training day
Wednesday 3rd September	- Autumn Term starts
Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October	- Half term
Friday 19th December	- End of term

#### **Spring Term 2026**

Monday 5th January	- Spring Term starts
Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February	- Half Term
Friday 17th March	- End of Term

#### **Summer Term 2026**

Monday 13th April	- Training Day
Tuesday 14th April	- Summer Term Starts
Monday 4th May	- May Day
Monday 25th – Friday 29th May	- Half Term
Friday 17th July	- End of Term

Please be aware that we do occasionally need to alter some of these dates, but any alterations will be notified to parents.

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Bryden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Mrs Tracy Bryden  
Executive Headteacher  
On behalf of Wintringham Primary Academy (part of TDLPT)

If you would like to make any comments on the newsletter or anything to do with the school, please use the slip below.

To: Mrs Tracy Bryden, Executive Headteacher, Wintringham Primary Academy, Nuffield Road, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 OAW.

Child's Name:

Comment: