

Wintringham Primary Academy

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

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

31st January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a very busy start to the New Year at Wintringham, and it feels like January has passed very quickly. The weather is still very cold and wet so please can we remind you that all children should have a warm waterproof coat with them every day. We are still venturing outside for learning opportunities as well as break time, and a coat helps the children stay comfortable.

Some children in Years 5 and 6 had the privilege of travelling to London to see a performance of Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake at the Sadlers Wells Theatre. They took the train down to London and saw an incredible performance, and all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They were mesmerised by the show and were full of excitement and enthusiasm throughout the whole day.



During January, all children who use TT Rockstars have had the opportunity to take part in a competition called 'Top of the Rocks'. Five schools across St Neots entered and they have been battling it out to see which school can collect the most points throughout the month. It has been great seeing all the children taking part, and having a smile on their face when doing so! The competition ends today, so once the results have been finalised we will be letting you know how we got on.



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The Year 6 children also had the opportunity to go to The O2 for the annual Young Voices concert last week. Over 7000 school children from across the UK sang in one of the largest choir events in the country. Alongside guest stars including MC Grammer and Tommy Blaize, the children sang and danced their way through the evening and all had a wonderful time.

Ahlberg and Inkpen classes have been exploring the Ice Age! They have learnt about 'Snowball Earth' and the early humans and megafauna that lived during this period. We have thought carefully about similarities and differences between life for humans today and how it was in the Ice Age. They were very interested to learn that Neanderthals did not go to school! The children have also enjoyed creating their own cave art and learning about the amazing animals that lived at this time.

In Science, all of the Year 1 children have enjoyed exploring different everyday materials. Firstly, they identified and classified many types of materials and learnt their names. They sorted them by their properties including absorbency and feel. After this, they used their knowledge to help them choose the best material for different objects such as toys, even making their own! They will move on to investigating how some materials are waterproof next.

Year 2 have also been learning about 'Everyday Materials'. The children learnt that objects used certain materials because of their properties. The children then carried out an experiment where they measured the 'stretchiness' of different materials. The children 'stretched' out each material and used cubes to measure how stretchy they were and recorded this onto a results table. The children discussed what these materials would be useful for. In Art, they have been using paper to create sculptures. In a recent lesson, the children created a tree. They used different coloured pieces of paper to create texture to give a 3D effect. They looked amazing!

What a great start to the Spring term Wilson Class have had. This half term in Science, they are investigating forces and magnets. Over the past few weeks, the children have been learning about friction. They began by seeing how far different bottle lids could travel when being flicked (one normal lid and one with sandpaper). The children came to the conclusion that the reason the bottle lid with sandpaper didn't travel as far was due to the friction. After this, the children conducted an experiment with the question 'Does the roughness of a surface affect the amount of friction produced?' They worked in groups taking on specific roles to conduct this investigation. They used different surfaces on a ramp, such as wood, carpet and cardboard. They then measured how far their test car travelled, ensuring it was a fair test by repeating it 3 times before reaching their conclusions.

In Morpurgo class, we have been enjoying our new Science unit, 'Animals, Digestion and Food'. We have studied how the digestive system works and then moved on to looking at dental hygiene. The children conducted an experiment looking at how effectively different toothbrushes clean depending on how hard or soft the bristles were. The children enjoyed learning about the different types of teeth and their functions. In PSHE, we have been looking at 'Dreams and Goals'. The children have been discussing their dreams, goals and aspirations for their lives. We then looked at a variety of scenarios where children's hopes and dreams have not come to fruition and worked in groups to role play how they could support those children and think of advice or an alternative plan.

Rowling Class have had a fantastic start to the Spring term. They have particularly worked hard in P.E. and Music. In P.E., they have started to take part in both Netball and Gymnastics. In both sports, working as a team and individually play important parts overall so it has been great to see them doing well so far. In Music, the children have been learning about Blues music. To begin with, they learnt about the origins of Blues music and why it is played. They then learnt a song called the 'Moanin' Lisa Blues'. After this, they used the glockenspiels to play chord sequence of

the 12 – bar blues alongside a backing track. The class did an amazing job – they showcased skills such as their timing and ability to transition from one chord to another.

Zephaniah Class have been learning about Rivers in Geography. They had to investigate the world's rivers, where they are and how they start and end. The children have also been learning about how rivers shape the land and what land forms are created from the movement of water. We have also been learning about macrophotography in our Art lessons. The children photographed some fruits and vegetables in order to create a macrophotography effect, changing the visual effects on the ipads.

SEND

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. 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 and/or text message. 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 catering company, Aspens, provide school meals for the children. Menus for the new 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 Magpies. 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

Spring Term 2025

Tuesday 4th February

Monday 17th – Friday 21st February

Monday 24th February

- Star Gazing Evening

- Spring half term holiday

- Spring term continues

Wednesday 12 th – Tuesday 18 th March	- Book Fair in school
Monday 7 th – Monday 21 st April	- Easter holiday
Tuesday 22 nd April	- Staff training day, no children in school
Wednesday 23 rd April	- Summer term starts
Wednesday 14 th – Friday 16 th May	- Grafham Residential Trip

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

Yours sincerely



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: