

# 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

29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the start of December, it is lovely to see all of the children continuing to work hard in class as well as starting to get ready for all of the festive activities. The rehearsals for the Christmas performances are in full swing, and you will have already received further information about the individual plans for your child's class. Please can we take this opportunity to remind you to complete the forms to sign up for the Christmas lunch and for tickets for the performances if applicable for your child.

We have a couple of reminders for parents as well. Firstly, please note that the children should only have water in their bottles each day (please no squash, juice or flavoured water). Secondly, if your child is absent due to illness, please can you leave their symptoms on the absence line (e.g. heavy cold, sickness, sore throat etc) rather than just saying that they are feeling unwell. Knowing why the children are unwell helps us to track any illnesses which may be in school. Finally, please remember that the school gate will be closed at 8.45am sharp and any children who arrive after this time will need to come in to school via the office, they will receive a late mark for the morning session.

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, all the children helped raise money for Children in Need through different fun activities. There was a Pudsey competition, where the children coloured or made their own Pudseys in innovative ways. The School Council judged the competition, and the winners were given prizes. In the afternoon, the whole school took part in a 200-mile challenge. During this each child had to run laps of the playground so the total distance accumulated between all of the children added up to over 200 miles. They were hugely successful and ended up running 212.3 miles, a great achievement. Cumulatively across all of the activities, we raised a massive £167! Thankyou for all of your support.

Children in Year 5 and 6 participated in a DLPT swimming gala at One Leisure, St Neots. It was our first ever appearance, so the children were keen to impress. It was a valiant effort, with some of the children either coming ever so close to winning their heats or even winning them. Overall, they showed terrific sportsmanship. It was that good, a teacher from another school commented on how well they cheered on their team. Well done, everyone!

Year 1 have been exploring 2D and 3D shapes and have been identifying and classifying them. We have looked at the different types of shapes and have sorted them practically according to their features. The children have been using their shape vocabulary and reasoning skills to explain their sorting. In Science, we completed a minibeast hunt using our science knowledge of insects!

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We were very lucky to have a team from The Support Dogs Charity come to visit us, along with special a furry visitor! In a whole school assembly, 'Burnsy' and his handler explained to the children who The Support Dogs Charity are and what these dogs can do to help people. The children learnt that the dogs are trained from a very young age and then are placed with someone that may need help picking things up, walking safely along the road or helping people to keep safe. After the assembly, Year 2 were split into smaller groups and each group got to spend some time with the team as well as getting the chance to stroke and pet Burnsy as well !



Year 3 and Year 5 joined together this term to create some beautiful artwork for Remembrance Day. The children worked together to create a sunset using watercolour paints. They then made some silhouettes using black paper to add to the foreground of their paintings. The finished artwork was shown during our Remembrance assembly.



In Year 4, the children have been having great fun researching, designing and making our very own castles from cardboard, paper and kitchen rolls. First, we researched different examples of castles from around the UK and depictions of castles in literature. Then, we found out more about the different parts of castles and their purposes, including the battlements, turrets and the gatehouse. The children worked hard to make nets of cones to create conical roofs. In music, the children have learnt a song about rivers, which was sung in a round (two parts). Year 4 really enjoyed learning to sing in harmony together and worked hard to listen to each other so they didn't lose their note. We realised that there are lots of very famous songs that have been released that mention rivers!

Year 6 have started their DT focus on bridges. Initially, the children have been learning about different bridge designs and then tested the different designs to see how strong they were. In History, the children have been researching the Ancient Greek Empire and have created a timeline of events to stretch across the classroom. In Maths, they have been looking at improper fractions and mixed numbers. To help them learn how to convert between the two, they have been using grapes!



## **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**

### **Autumn Term 2024**

Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	- School Christmas Fair
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	- Christmas Lunch
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	- last day of term
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec – Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	- Christmas and New Year Holiday

### **Spring Term 2024**

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	- Staff Training Day (no children in school)
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	- Spring Term starts (children back in school)
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	- Year 6 trip to Sadler's Wells ballet
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	- Young Voices

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

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 0AW.

Child's Name:

Comment: