

# Wintringham Primary Academy

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

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Tracy Bryden BSc Hons PGCE

4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first month of the new school year has passed in a blink of an eye! We hope that all of our new starters are settled in with us now, and it is lovely to see our two Reception classrooms full of excited children ready to learn at the start of each day. Some of our Year 5 and 6 children have already taken part in their Bikeability course, and Years 1 – 4 have spent a day in Medieval England or Ancient Egypt as part of History off the Page. Our after school clubs have all started for the term, so please can we ask that you remind your children to attend the clubs that they have been signed up for each week.



As a reminder, the developers will soon be introducing Controlled Parking measures in Nuffield Road, and this could result in a fine if cars are parked there without the appropriate permits. Please could we ask you to park in the main school car park when dropping off or collecting your children.

The children have settled fantastically well into their new Reception classes. I have been so impressed with how well they have come into school, settled into our routines, and also with the way that they conduct themselves when moving around the school. They have enjoyed exploring their new environment, and we have been discussing the importance of taking pride in our classrooms and what we can do to make sure that we are looking after our learning spaces and resources. In Literacy, the children have been exploring the text 'The Colour Monster' and have enjoyed learning about and discussing the colour associated with each emotion in the book. This has also helped the children with developing their vital skills of emotion identification and regulation. Well done to all of the Reception children, and keep up the good work!

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Year 1 have had a great start to KS1. In English, the children have been using the book 'How to Find Gold' to inspire their writing. They have been focusing on writing simple sentences using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. The children have been using adjectives and nouns to make their writing more exciting and have even started to use 'and' to join sentences together. We have made maps to help us find the treasure and then written simple instructions on how to find it! In Maths, the children have been consolidating their subitising skills as well as looking at how numbers can be broken into groups. They have also been using the language of one more and one less when looking at numbers. In Geography, the children have been learning about settlements. They explored the world's population and have discussed the similarities and differences between villages, towns and cities.

Years 1 and 2 had a fantastic day at our History off the Page Day! The children spent the morning trying lots of activities that would have been seen in a typical 'Medieval Castle'. These included making perfume bags, making soap, writing their name and making faces out of clay. In the afternoon, the children had a banquet! The children were either knights, dancers, singers, storytellers or servers. The children also all looked amazing in their costumes!



Year 2 have had a fantastic start to the term! In Maths, the children have been learning about the place value of a 2-digit number. They have been using dienes to help them vocalise how many tens and how many ones there are. In English, the children have been reading 'The Jolly Postman' as their key text. So far they have produced some fantastic writing, some of which includes a character description about Goldilocks and instructions of how to get to the gingerbread cottage. In History, the children have been learning about 'Castles'. They have learnt about the three different types of castles which are the 'Motte & Bailey', 'Stone/Square Keep Castle' and 'Concentric Castle'. The children have really enjoyed learning about the differences between these.

In P.E., Year 3 have been lucky to have a specialised coach from 'Chance to Shine' in school who is teaching them the basics of cricket. The children have been focussing on one physical skill each week, and also have a personal target each to aim for. So far, they have all been mastering the skills of catching, batting and throwing.



Years 3 and 4 kicked off their Ancient Egyptian topic with their History Off The Page day. All the children looked great dressed up, and they enjoyed all the different activities such as making bread, making their own ink and creating canopic jars. We ended the day with a little entertainment and feast.

Year 4 have enjoyed a busy start to the academic year. In English lessons, the children have been reading the book 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. They have been rewriting some events from the book using the style of the author. In Maths learning, the children have been covering column addition and subtraction. They have been enjoying reasoning and problem solving. This half-term, Year 4 have been studying Ancient Egypt. They have been fascinated to learn about when in History the Ancient Egyptian Era was and what life would have been like for people living in those times. The children have also been lucky enough to take part in weekly cricket coaching with the 'Chance to Shine' coach.

Year 5 have made a great start to the academic year. Mr Colborne has been particularly impressed with their writing which has been based around their current text, 'The Nowhere Emporium'. In Maths, the children are learning about decimal fractions, and it has been great to see them showcasing their reasoning and problem-solving skills. In Geography, the children started their unit on 'Globalisation'. Currently, we are focussing on what globalisation is and how it has changed through time. In P.E., Year 5 are enjoying Tag Rugby and Lacrosse. Despite the poor weather conditions, they have all applied themselves brilliantly and have worked hard on their teamwork and decision-making skills.

Year 6 have had a lovely start to the year and have settled very well. They have started to read the book 'Holes' by Louis Sachar and have already been using the text to inspire their writing; the children are all thoroughly enjoying the story. In Art, we have begun to look at pieces linked to Space and have created a printing board to make our prints. We have also been exploring different biomes across the world in Geography and discovering biotic and abiotic factors in these environments.

### **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 will increase to **£2.60 per child** in September. 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 8 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	- Guardian Consultation evenings
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	- deadline for Cauliflower Card forms to be returned
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	- prospective parent tour (Reception 2025)
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	- prospective parent tour (Reception 2025)
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	- Half Term Holiday
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	- Staff Training Day (no children in school)
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	- Autumn Term continues (children back in school)
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	- Individual child photographs
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	- prospective parent tour (Reception 2025)
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	- prospective parent tour (Reception 2025)

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 0AW.

Child's Name:

Comment: