



Dear Parents and Carers,

Although it has not been possible to welcome all the children back, it has been lovely to see those children coming into school with a smile on their faces. They have really settled in well over the last few weeks. It has been great to hear what they have been up to.

I would also like to say a massive thank you to everyone that donated ICT equipment. This has really helped us ensure that all our Children are able to take part in home learning.

We have half term coming up from the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021. If you have any questions or worries, please do contact us asap and we can look to support you.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the staff at Winhills for the amazing job that they are doing supporting the children in school with their learning as well as with their 'home learning.'

### **Reception and Year 1 Bubble.**

The children have had a great time with the 'Three Little Pigs.' They have explored magnets- grouping materials; huffed and puffed the roofs made from different materials and investigated ways to keep the three little piggies dry. The children learnt how to measure and record their results as they worked and then explained what they had found out. They have invented their own version of the story 'The angry snappy alligator and the three slithering snakes' and learnt lots of new describing words.

### **Year 1 and 2 Bubble**

All of the children in the KS1 bubble have been completing the tasks to the best of their ability and working extremely hard. We have been immensely impressed with the children's attitude and learning behavior since returning from Christmas. On Mondays, the children have had the chance to learn to play 'chair percussion' with Mr. Truswell, which has developed amazingly in the last few weeks. They are building up to create a performance masterpiece. The children have been developing the design technology skills by designing, cooking, and baking with Mrs. Goodey throughout the week and have created some scrumptious bakes. Miss Brock has been working with the children to learn and refine their newly acquired sewing skills, which everybody has flourished in over the weeks. All of the children have had the opportunity to consolidate their Maths skills on Numbots throughout the week and have been reading with a grown-up once a day.

### **Year 3 and 4 Bubbles**

The children across the two bubbles in Years 3 and 4 have been working incredibly hard on all of their learning. They have taken on the differences in learning in school in a very mature manner. In PE, they have been learning skills in both hockey and netball and have shown great improvements. We have seen some fantastic writing in English from stories to instructions to poetry. They have used their imagination to create their own creature and make up their own descriptive language just like Lewis Carroll did when he wrote the poem the Jabberwocky. In maths, they have learnt new methods for multiplication and have further developed their understanding of division. The children have been enjoying learning about the Tudors in school. They have created a timeline to show the monarchs of the era and have learnt about each of Henry VII's wives and what happened to them. They very much enjoyed the Horrible Histories Henry VIII song 'Divorced, Beheaded, Died! Divorced, Beheaded, Survived!' The children have also loved Mrs Passan's science lessons investigating light. They showed great investigative skills when finding out which materials reflected light best.

### **Year 5 and 6 Bubble.**

Years 5 and 6 have been working really over this term. The learning in the key worker's bubbles has been the same as online. In English, the children spent some time reading Tuesday by David Weisner, and wrote several pieces linked to the books, before looking at Varmints by Helen Ward. Since then, we have been reading The Wreck of Zanzibar by Michael Morpurgo and have been writing in role as a range of different characters. In Maths, the children have been covering a range of topics, from shape and angles to statistics. It has been wonderful to see so many children engaged at home, submitting some wonderful pieces of work. The learning this term has gone beyond these two subjects: in science, we saw a bottle flipping challenge where the children investigated gravity and completed a fair test; in French, the children have been learning about French numbers, greetings, and animals, and even created a piece of art linked to Matisse; and in Music and ICT, the children have been programming their own songs and beats using Scratch.

It has been brilliant to see the children at home and at school so engaged in their Topic work on the Ancient Maya, with children creating Maya homes out of recycled materials, and even temples created from clay or electronically. The children have also been working so hard on their reading, we have had two children reaching their 'Millionaire Reader' award this half term. Keep up the hard work everyone!



**Please can we remind all parents that a face mask must be worn when dropping your child into school and collecting your child from school.**

**Please can we also ask that you follow the one-way system in and around the school playground when dropping off and collecting your child.**

**Please can we also request that only one Parent or Guardian comes into the school grounds to drop off or collect.**

Should you need to talk to your child's Class Teacher or any other member of staff, please email the school office:

[Office@winhills.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:Office@winhills.cambs.sch.uk)

Or call the School Office directly on:

01480 211626

### **Arbor Information**

Please make sure that you are signed up on Arbor. This is the schools main use of communication, payment system and online booking system for parents evening. If you have changed your contact details, please can you make sure that these are all up to date on Arbor too. Due to GDPR, we can no longer send data collection sheets home for you to check, this can be done through the Arbor portal and it is your responsibility to ensure the information is kept up to date. Arbor have recently released the Arbor app, which can be downloaded from the app store. We currently have over 94% of Parents who have successfully signed up. This makes such a massive difference to both the environment and our budget as we do not have to print as many letters.

### **Dates**

Please look at the future dates at the end of the newsletter so you are aware of training days and holidays. All dates are on the website under the calendar section:

<http://www.winhills-cambs.co.uk/diary/list/>

### **Little Gems Before and After School Club**

**Please can I remind you that all bookings and cancellations should be made via the school office.** 24 hours' notice must be given if your child cannot attend a session to avoid being charged. Breakfast is between 7.30am and 8.30am. Please let the staff know if your child has not had breakfast at home. Children attending after school club sessions from 4.30pm onwards will be provided with tea. Please speak to staff if you wish to see the menu.

## **School Dinners**

The cost of a meal at school from September for children in Year 3, 4 5 & 6 is £2.25, meals for nursery children are £2.00. **Payment can now be made online**, please ask the office staff for more information. You may order lunches daily but according to Local Authority's policy, 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.**

The voucher scheme is in place for those entitled to Free School Meals. This does not include Universal Free School Meals (All Reception and KS1 children). Some parents in KS1 and Reception will still get these though as they are entitled to it.

Some parents may have one child that is getting it and another who is not. This will be because your circumstances may have changed.

If you are unsure and think you may be entitled, please look at the following website:

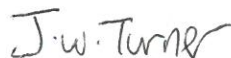
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>.

This gives you all the information so that you can see if you are eligible. If you are still unsure, you can always apply and see or email us for some more help.

## **Term Dates 2021**

Friday 12th February 2021	Term Ends
Monday 15th – Friday 19th February 2021	Half Term
Monday 22nd February 2021	Spring Term Continues
Tuesday 16th March 2021	Parents Evening
Wednesday 17th March 2021	Parents Evening
Friday 28th March 2021	Reward day
Friday 28th March 2021	Term Ends
Monday 29th – Friday 9th April 2021	Half Term
Monday 12th April 2021	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 13th April 2021	Term Starts
Monday 3rd May 2021	May Day
Friday 28th May 2021	Term Ends
Monday 31st – 4th June 2021	Half Term
Monday 7th June 2021	Term starts
Thursday 22nd July 2021	Term Ends

Yours sincerely



Mr. John Turner

Head of School

On behalf of Winhills Primary Academy (part of TDLPT)