



July 2022

Dear Parents

Year 6 will leave us and begin the next stage of their school life at Senior School. They have contributed a fantastic amount to the school and we will miss them.

Rosie, Shannon, Keira, Caden, Owen, Zachary, Mollie-May, Megan, Mia, Olivia, Olivia, Mia, Angel, Kaylin, Maria, Frankie, Megan, Caleb, Jacob, Maisie-Jane, Jayden, Lilly-Mae, Ben, Shay, Cameron, Noah, Isabella, Harry, Maria

The children across the whole school have had an amazing term and a fantastic year. We are all super proud of how they have taken on everything that was asked of them with huge smiles on their faces. It has been wonderful to see the children back interacting with their friends throughout the whole school and we look forward to this continuing next year. Just a reminder that the school day starts at 8.40am next year with the gates closing at 8.50am. The end of school will be 3.20pm. Nursery hours remain from 9am to 3pm but our EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) team know that this is not always easy with siblings so doors will open slightly earlier if needed.

Below are some additional highlights of trips that the children have been on since May half term.

HSSP Athletics

On Tuesday 7th June, a group of children from Year 5 and 6 took part in an athletics competition. They had to compete in a range of events such as: vortex howler, standing long jump, 100m sprint and 600m long distance run. All the children completed each event to a fantastic standard and their support towards each other and other schools was fantastic.

Yr. 3 and Yr. 4 Rising Stars

During the Summer Term, some Year 3 and 4 children competed in a rising stars event against teams from other schools. The children played dodgeball and all showed incredible enthusiasm. They were all awarded a medal for fantastic participation and teamwork. All the children showed great sportsmanship and honesty towards the rules.

School Council projects

Through the summer term, the School Council ran several projects linked to developing the wellbeing and health of the children at school. The first project ran alongside National Walk to School week, where the children collected stickers for each day they walked, cycled, or came by scooter. Well done to all those who took part - it really helps to reduce pollution and congestion around the school, making our community safer for all, whilst developing the fitness and health of our children. The second project ran alongside National Healthy Eating week. The school council ran a project for the children to design a packed lunch box, with a healthy menu to match. The aim was to promote healthy eating and to understand the importance of a balanced diet. We had winners from every class (selected by the school council) with an overall winner - Shannon from Year 6. Well to everyone who took part and well done to the School Council for all their hard work.

HSSP Cricket

A team of girls and boys from Year 5 and 6 competed in a cricket competition at Eaton Socon Cricket Club on Tuesday 14th June. They played 3 games against different schools and each game the score was incredibly close! One of the schools only beat us by 4 points! All the children batted, bowled, and fielded in different positions on the pitch. They all did incredibly well and their brilliant behaviour was commented on by other schools.

Winhills competed in another cricket competition on Tuesday 5th July with a team of girls and boys from Year 4. It was a lovely afternoon with only 3 other schools but the children thoroughly enjoyed the matches! As the matches progressed, their skills got better and better. Mr Finlayson commented on how honest and kind the Winhills children were towards other children and the Sports Leaders running the event. Their batting skills were brilliant and they all fielded in different positions throughout the afternoon.

Bosch Visit

On 16th June, the children in Year 6 were lucky enough to be invited to Bosch Rexroth for a STEM morning (Science, Engineering, Technology and Maths). The morning included a look at forces, with a focus on hydraulics and pneumatics. The children were able to complete a range of practical tasks including creating balloon cars, rockets, and helicopters, as well as using hydraulic lifts and truck. They were also able to see fork lift truck demonstration. We want to thank Rexroth for this wonderful opportunity and hope it really inspired the children with their STEM activities.

PTA (Parent Teacher Association) Film Night

The PTA organised a Film Night on Thursday 16th June 2022 for the whole school. It was lovely to be able to do whole school events again. A big thank you to the PTA for organising and we look forward to lots of events next year.

HSSP Hockey

Some of the children from our Year 6 class represented the school in a hockey tournament on Tuesday 21st June in St Ives. The children played a number of mini hockey matches against a range of other schools. Throughout the day, the children were showcasing their independence, resilience, and teamwork! Even through the warm weather, they all had the biggest smiles on their faces and played with such determination!

Rock Wrangle

On Friday 24th June 2022, KS2 took part in a Rock Wrangle in the hall. This is where the children do their 'Times Tables' to music. The fastest in each year group then took part in a final. The support that the rest of the school gave was amazing. I was so impressed with all the children. A huge congratulations to Lilly-Mae who won the competition.

Colchester Zoo

On 30th June, the children in Years 4 and 5 were invited on a trip to Colchester Zoo. We travelled to Colchester on the coach and saw a plethora of animals! The children were able to have question sessions with the keepers, watched a sea lion experience and walked amongst lemurs. Whilst walking around, the children were exposed to several different animal habitats, from the humidity of Indonesia, to the African plain. We saw such a variety of animals, including: bears, chimpanzees, elephants and even iguanas! Throughout the day, teaching staff were complimented from a range of people on the behaviour of our school – we could not have been prouder!

Clip and Climb

On Wednesday 6th July, a group of children from Winhills represented the school at a Clip and Climb event. The children spent the day at an indoor climbing experience in Cambridge and were first taught about how to stay safe using appropriate equipment. During the day, they climbed a range of climbing faces, which varied in difficulty. All the children had at least one turn on the 'stairway to heaven challenge' and the 'dropslide.' On the 'dropslide,' they held onto a sturdy bar and were pulled up the slide from the floor. They children then let go when they felt comfortable and were ready to enjoy the perks of the slide! While trying 'stairway to heaven,' everybody was attached to a harness and stepped across the steps, that were elevated off the ground.

All the children showed great perseverance and determination to complete the walls. We are so proud of their efforts and all present had the best day!

Football

On Friday 8th July, a team of girls from Year 5 and 6 competed in a football competition at St Neots Football Club. One of the children said, 'It was really fun and I really liked it. I really liked being a goalie and how kind all of the players were at the event.' The Winhills girls were awarded a certificate for competing in the competition but also were awarded certificates for being the most honest and having the best teamwork in the whole tournament.

Sports Day

Sports Day took place on Wednesday and Thursday 13th and 14th July in the mornings. It was amazing to welcome back parents to watch whole school events again. The children all took part in different races. It was great to see how much support they gave each other. The children were all great.

Hunstanton Trip

On Friday 15th July, KS1 and Year 3 visited Hunstanton Beach. Armed with their buckets and spades, they made their way down onto the sand. The children had a fantastic time playing in the sand and building sandcastles. They also had a walk down the beach and had a paddle in the sea. They were very excited to find crabs and jellyfish as well as collecting lots of shells! It was wonderful to see them having so much fun and laughing with their friends.

Garden Party

It was wonderful to welcome the Year 6 children to their Garden Party on Monday 18th July. The children all came dressed up looking fabulous ready to celebrate their time at the school. The staff decorated the hall beautifully and the children got to dance, eat, drink, and remember their times at Winhills by looking back at photos. I was so proud of all of them, especially in the heat.

Reward Day

This year, Reward Day was split between Tuesday 19th July (for our Year 6 children) and Thursday 21st July for the rest of the school. Even with the hot weather, the Year 6 children got to have a range of fun activities set out in the hall. They loved every minute of it and it was a wonderful way to thank the children for all of their hard work this year and across their time at Winhills.

The rest of the school had inflatables and other fun activities organised by their teachers. They all had a fantastic time

Hilltop Residential

Year 6 children had the opportunity to go on a residential to Hilltop. The kids took part in many activities to include Archery, Bike Riding, Big Zipper, Bush Craft, and the Tree Top Trail. The children all absolutely loved it and took part with smiles on their faces even when the challenges were scary. Their determination to succeed was amazing.

Mr Alan Ball

Winhills also said a fond farewell to Alan Ball who has been one of the Directors of the Diamond Learning Partnership Trust for over 10 years and helped support the education of the children at Winhills. Before that, he was chair of our Governing Body. We were chosen to host a leaving celebration for Alan Ball. The children all sang a beautiful song about why they are proud of our school. We have created a little area with a bench that the children can use to remember all the hard work that he has put in. We will also add some fruit trees in the Autumn to add to the area.

Attendance:

Please can you ensure that if your **child is not in school**, you ring the school office to let them know. If we do not hear anything, or you then do not answer a call from the office, you may expect a member of Winhills staff to visit your house to carry out a welfare check. This is something that has been heightened nationally with latest news stories around child welfare.

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/>

Parking

The school car park will be locked from 8:30am to 9:15am and 2:45pm to 3:30pm. Parents and staff will not be allowed to drive into the school car park at these times.

Please ensure you park considerately outside of the school, ensuring you do not block anyone's driveway or emergency access point. We are working alongside the local PCSO who will be regularly patrolling the local area. This is an initiative across the whole of St. Neots.

Red Post Box in Office Reception Area

Envelopes and forms should be posted in the red quick drop box in the office reception area. Please ensure all items are clearly named and easily identifiable. We encourage you to use this facility to save you time unnecessarily waiting.

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-hour 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.

Term time holidays

Following Government Guidance, we as a Trust do not authorise leave during term time unless there are extra ordinary circumstances, which are judged on an individual basis. As a result of this, we will apply to the Local Authority for a penalty notice if you take a child out of school for any unauthorised leave of more than 3 days and this may result in a penalty notice fine of £60.00 per parent per child, if paid within 21 days (about 3 weeks).

School Uniform

Children always need to have their PE kit and a pair of wellies in school.

As a reminder, the standard uniform consists of:

- White or blue polo shirts (plain)
- Grey trousers/skirt/pinafore with the length of skirt to be no shorter than just above the knee
- Grey or white socks, royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan (available from school with the school emblem)
- Royal blue pullover or cardigan.
- **Black footwear - shoes (not trainers)**

Hair – all long hair to be tied back, so that your child's vision is not impaired. Children may wear gel, ponytails, or hair bands, but no extreme fashion hairstyles please. **Please name every item of your child's school uniform.**

It is The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust's policy that earrings must not be worn for PE, and your child must be able to remove them if they wear them to school on PE days. Earrings should be small studs.

PE Kit

The children need a plain white T-shirt and plain blue/navy or black shorts. Please avoid strappy tops for the girls. If your child comes to school without the appropriate items or kit, a letter will be sent home with them indicating the missing item or appropriate school wear.

Uniform points will not be given out to pupils if they do not have the correct kit. If children do not gain enough points over the term, they will need to come to school in their uniform on reward day.

School Dinners

The cost of a meal at school from September for children in Year 3, 4 5 & 6 is £2.35 meals for nursery children are £2.10 and adult meals are £2.75. **Payment can now be made online.** Please ask the office staff for more information. You may order lunches daily but according to the 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.**

Term Dates 2022-2023

Autumn Term 2022

Thursday 1 st September	Training Day
Friday 2 nd September	Training Day
Monday 5 th September	Autumn Term Begins
Monday 24 th – Friday 28 th October	Half Term
Monday 31 st October	Training Day
Tuesday 1 st November	Autumn Term Continues
Wednesday 21 st December	Term Ends
Thursday 22 nd December –Tuesday	Christmas Holidays

I would like to thank you all for your continued support this year and enjoy the summer break with your child.

Finally, I would like to dedicate a poem to the Year 6 children.

Your primary school journey is ending

And what a journey it's been!

Full of laughter and learning

Even a few months of quarantine

Friends you all remember for a lifetime

Teachers who taught all that you know

There is nothing quite like your primary school days

And the school family who helped you grow

As you say goodbye to your primary school

All the memories will stay in your heart

Although this part of your journey is ending

The next one is bursting to start

We wish all of the Year 6 children well in the next chapters of their lives. We will miss you all.