



December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have come to the end of another fantastic half term of learning. The children have demonstrated positive learning behaviours both in the classrooms and on the playground.

There have been lots of exciting events and opportunities this half term. As usual, the children have approached these with enthusiasm.

As we approach the end of term, we do have to say goodbye and thank you to Mrs. Culver. She has worked at Winhills for many years but has made the decision to share her expertise with another school within the trust. She has been reducing the number of days that she has been with us over the last term, but that transition has finally come to an end. I am sure you will all join me in wishing her all the very best in her new role; the families and children of her new school are very lucky to have her.

After Christmas there will also be a change in Topaz class. Miss Holloway is reducing her time here at Winhills to 2 days per week, and although she will remain our Early Years Leader, she will not be the teacher in Topaz class. Mrs. Knott will be the new class teacher in Topaz.

Miss Booler will also be increasing her time teaching in Ruby class. She will be working 4 days a week, with Mrs. Myers teaching on the 5th day. This will allow Mrs. Myers some more time to support the school with our development of Special Educational Needs provision.

On behalf of the staff and Governors of Winhills, I would like to wish you a restful holiday, a happy Christmas (if you are celebrating) and a fabulous start to the new year.

We look forward to seeing you back on 8th January 2024.

Poppy Appeal:

Once again, the Poppy Appeal has been well supported at school. Donations from children and adults, as well as the purchasing of items such as wristbands and coat reflectors raised an impressive £209.29.

Children in Need:

We also supported Children in Need this term. Thank you all for your donations on the day and your purchasing of bracelets and badges. In total we raised £251.50 which will go towards improving the lives of children across the country.

Anti Bullying Week Monday 13th – Friday 17th November 2023.

The whole school took part in Antibullying week back in November. We highlighted the theme 'Make A Noise About Bullying,' with assemblies focussed on the topic and activities during PSHE time. We all wore odd socks to school to celebrate that we are all different.



DLPT (Diamond Learning Partnership Trust) Swimming Gala Wednesday 29th November 2023.

Children from both year 5 and year 6 took part in the Trust swimming gala this half term. They represented Winhills extremely well and demonstrated perseverance and pride within the competition. Their team spirit was commendable, and they even came away with some medals for placing first and second. Well done everyone who took part.

Wishing the lights on Christmas Assembly Friday 1st December 2023.

Friday 1st December was my first experience of wishing the lights on here at Winhills, and what an experience it was! There was a huge amount of excitement, a lot of decorations and mountains of 'fairy dust.' The decorations all appeared overnight on the 30th of November and although it did take a few attempts, you will be pleased to know that we were successful at wishing on the lights! This did mean that the hall looked fantastic for the Christmas lunch on Thursday 14th December, with a bit of help from the PTA and the midday team.



We were very impressed with the effort that the children went to for their tree decorations. It was really difficult to choose a winner per class. We chose our winners based on independence and those that made us smile.

Well done to the winners of the Christmas Decoration Competition,

Topaz Class- Arthur	Sunstone Class- Ethan	Ruby Class- Aluna
Moonstone Class- Lily	Sapphire Class- Jonah	Amethyst Class- Holly
Emerald Class- Sophie	Amber Class- Aurora	Quartz Class- Thomas

Christmas Jumper Day – Save the Children Thursday 7th December 2023.

It was lovely to see so many festive jumpers to recognise the 'Save the Children' Christmas jumper day on the 7th of December. Thank you for your contributions – we raised £129.00 as a school.

PTA (Parent Teacher Association) Christmas Fair on Thursday 7th December 2023.

Once again, the Christmas Fair was a huge success. The halls were busy, and there was a lovely atmosphere. Father Christmas really enjoyed meeting the children and we enjoyed playing the different games with you all. A huge thank you to the PTA for arranging the event, without this small group of organisers we would not be able to put such events on for the children. Their fundraising enables us to enhance the resources and opportunities we have here at Winhills.

Key Stage 1 – Winhills Christmas performance on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th December 2023

Many of you came to watch the Winter Performance put on by Year 1 and Year 2. The children were fabulous; amazing singing, dancing, and narrating. There were lovely comments from the audience and all the adults were very proud of the performers. Well done Key Stage 1.

Carol Concert on Wednesday 20th December 2023

All Key Stage two have had the opportunity to attend the Carol concert at St Mary's Church on Wednesday 20th December. This is a lovely way to end the term and sing with other schools within the trust. The singing was lovely, and our brave readers, Aurora, Noah, and Evie were very clear. We all left feeling very festive and ready for the end of term!

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 who have susses fully 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 PCSC who will be regularly patrolling the local area. This is an imitative 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 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.

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.

School Uniform

Children need to always 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 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. Girls and boys may wear gel, ponytails, or hair bands, but no extreme hairstyles please. **Please name every item of your child's school uniform.**

It is The Diamond Learning Partnership Trusts 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 £2.25, meals for nursery children are £2.00 and adult meals are £3.20. **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.**

Achievement Awards

Well done to all the children who have received awards this half term. I look forward to many more children receiving awards next half term.

Friday 10th November 2023

Weekly Achievement Awards		
Lucas	Katy	Hugo
Jonah	Teddy	Georgie
Joel	Mason	
RRR Award - Patrick	WAC Award - Bea	Art Award - Amelia

Friday 17th November 2023

Weekly Achievement Awards		
Caitlyn	Darcie	Cameron
Amzi	Isla	Reagan
Tye	Daisy	Aaron
RRR Award - Lemuel	WAC Award - Benji	Art Award – Georgia L

Friday 24th November 2023

Weekly Achievement Awards		
Teddie	Eric	Harley
Paisley	Riya	Aurelia
Shannon	Tristan	Rosie
Isaac		
RRR Award - Katie	WAC Award - Marnie	Art Award - Abigail

Friday 8th December 2023

Weekly Achievement Awards		
Christian	Megan	Lemuel
Delta	Cohen	
Isaiah	Alexis	
Anisa	Mateo	
RRR Award - Giordano	WAC Award - Mason	Art Award - Esme

Term dates

Thursday 4th January 2024

Friday 5th January 2024

Monday 8th January 2023

Wednesday 17th January 2024

Thursday 18th January 2024

Monday 19th February- Friday 23rd February 2024

Monday 26th February 2024

Training Day

Training Day

Spring Term Starts

History Off the Page Yr. 3 and Yr. 4

Yr. 6 Young Voices trip to the O2.

February Half Term

Spring Term Continues