

Winhills Primary Academy

Part of The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust

Established in the Queen's Jubilee Year 2012

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Susannah Connell BSc MA (Ed Mgt) NPQH

February 2024

Another really busy and exciting half term has passed here at Winhills Primary Academy, as we reach half way through the academic year.

It has been lovely to see so many children have the opportunity to immerse themselves in history experiences, with our History Off the Page visitors.

Now the weather is beginning to improve (hopeful I know), we are planning on getting the children immersed, once again, in Outdoor Learning. This will start with Moonstone, Sapphire and Amethyst having Forest School, starting after half term. We are looking at widening this provision over the half term, so that all of the children get a chance to experience learning in the outdoor environment. We will also be looking for some willing parent, carer, grandparent volunteers to come in and help us to cut, prune and dig our different areas. Keep a look out for the invitation!

Once again thank you all for supporting your children with their attendance, home learning and uniform this half term. Your positivity and support help to keep Winhills a great place for learning.

Friday 12th January 2024 NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe

Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 benefitted from a workshop from the NSPCC. The workshops talked to children about how they can keep themselves safe both at home and in the community. The volunteers who came in were very positive about the children's responses to some quite tricky topics and are happy that the children have the tools they need to keep themselves safe.

Wednesday 17th January 2024 History Off the Page – Life in Ancient Egypt.

Year 3 and 4 had a fantastic day experiencing Life in Ancient Egypt. Their costumes looked great and really helped the children to immerse themselves in the day. They visited stalls in the Valley of the Death and tried out lots of different Ancient Egyptian crafts, such as making perfume, canopic jars, praying bracelets, tomb paintings and mummification. During the afternoon, children experienced a royal court and banquet. They performed dances and plays as part of this court to the pharaoh and queen. They all had a brilliant day and we were so proud of how they transported themselves back to Ancient Egyptian times.

Thursday 18th January 2024 History off the Page – The History of Toys

Year 1 and 2 children have been learning about toys from the past. As part of their topic they also had visitors from History Off the Page. The children can now confidently say they are fully fledged toy experts. They spent the morning investigating the materials that different toys from the past were made from and how they worked. Then they spent the afternoon making their own versions. The day was fantastic and with everyone having lots of fun exploring all the different toys.

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Thursday 18th January 2024 – Year 6 Young Voices.

This half term, Year 6 once again had the privilege of being part of the largest school choir in the world. We took an exciting trip to the O2 Arena in London, where we joined over 8600 other children to sing a selection of songs accompanied by live music, lights and fireworks.

The whole experience was fantastic, with famous singers, amazing drumming and a huge audience. We were very tired when we got back, but it was definitely an experience we will not forget!

Tuesday 23rd January 2024- History Off the Page – Life in Tudor England.

Year 5 and 6 children also immersed themselves in 'Life as a Tudor'. Lots of effort went in to costumes, which the children loved, helping them feel part of the times. The children experienced using a quill and making their own ink, as well as creating their own soap for a bath and candle for lighting their homes. In the afternoon, a banquet with shows consisting of tudor dancing were held. The children saw first-hand what life had to offer the Tudors, they all took part brilliantly!

Attendance:

Please make sure 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 have a member of Winhills staff visit your house to carry out a welfare check. This is something that is being encouraged nationally with latest news stories around child welfare.

School Website: Class Pages

Just a reminder to have a look at the class pages on the school website. Teachers add information about the week's learning to the website, with examples from lessons and photographs. There is also information about the topics being covered over the term and key reminders for the class. <https://www.winhills-cambs.co.uk/20232024-class-pages/>

Class Dojo

Don't forget to log in to Class Dojo. Teachers add reminders for the coming week to the site and important information for you to be aware of. It is a great way for us to share information with you securely and quickly. If you do not have a log in, please let the office know who can arrange that for you.

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 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 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. We look forward to many more children receiving awards next half term.

Friday 19th January 2024

Achievement Awards.

Faith	Lily	Elliott
Alan	Jack	Amelie
Anisa	Evalyn	

WAC Award – Alisa

RRR Award – Sharnella

Art Award - Isla

Friday 26th January 2024

Achievement Awards

Harry	Robert	Evalyn
Lois	Jade	Ellie
Jacob	Bobbi	Ibrahim
Blake		

WAC Award – Deondre

RRR Award – Reagan

Art Award - Jayden

Friday 2nd February 2024

Achievement Awards

Lewis	Kathleen	Christopher
Zyad	Alex	Alexandra
Jasmine	Teiloras	Evie
Jessica		

WAC Award – Isla

RRR Award – Connor

Art Award - Harley

Friday 9th February 2024

Achievement Awards

Tristan	Luke	Lucas
Lilly-Rose	Riley	Amelia

Abigail	Tristan	
WAC Award – Adrian	RRR Award – Leilah- Rey	Art Award - Frankie

Friday 16th February 2024

Achievement Awards

Reggie	Owen	Bea
Primrose	Beau	Anna-Lea
Rosie	Reegon	

WAC Award – Oscar

RRR Award – Benji

Art Award - Elizabeth

Term dates 2024

Monday 19th February 2024- Friday 23rd February 2024

Half Term

Monday 26th February 2024

Spring Term continues

Friday 8th March 2024

Year 2 Botanical Gardens Visit

Friday 8th March 2024

Year 6 Magdalene College Visit

Tuesday 12th March 2024

SEND Parents Evening

Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th March 2024

Parents Evening

Thursday 21st March 2024

Year 1 Croxton Farm Visit

Friday 22nd March 2024

Year 2 Croxton Farm Visit

Thursday 28th March 2024

Term Ends

Friday 29th March 2024- Friday 12th April 2024

Easter Holidays

Monday 15th March 2024

Summer Term Starts

Yours sincerely



Mr. N Harradine

Headteacher

On behalf of Winhills Primary Academy (part of TDLPT)