

30<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Dear Parents

We have made a brilliant start to the New Year and the children have been busy starting their new topics. I am really pleased that the children have moved from Little Gems into Gems Nursery class smoothly and are enjoying the new experiences.

During the two training days at the start of term our focus was literacy where all the staff were trained in Read, Write Inc. This programme focuses on phonics, spelling, reading and writing from Reception to Year 2. We are in the early stages of introducing the programme but already your child may have told you about Fred the Frog and some rhymes to support writing letters. After half term we will be holding a parents workshop to inform you more about the sounds, the reading books and how you can get involved. If you would like more information about Read, Write, Inc please look at the website link:

**<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>**

I would like to remind you that if you have any questions or concerns about your child please talk to a member of staff. There is always a senior teacher in the playground in the morning who can pass messages to class teachers. If you feel you would like to meet your child's class teacher to discuss any concerns please request a meeting. We aim to meet with parents as quickly as possible so we can listen to your concerns.

### **Young Voices**

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January Year 6 had the experience of a lifetime when they performed in a Young Voices concert at the O2 arena in London. Alongside thousands of other children, in the world's largest children's choir, they sang the songs that they had been learning since September and also had the opportunity to watch performances by leading young guest artists. The atmosphere in the arena was electric and many of the children described the day as, "The best of my life!" One child wrote, "I sang my heart out when the music started even when, towards the end of the show, I was losing my voice." All the accompanying staff were incredibly proud of the children's behaviour, achievement and commitment.

### **Parking**

Can I remind you when dropping children off in the morning and picking up at the end of the day to park your car in areas where you are not blocking any driveways. Please drive carefully during these times as children and adults are walking and crossing roads.

### **Castles Day**

On Wednesday 14th January all of Lower Phase; Topaz, Opal and Emerald class arrived at school dressed back in time and spent the day fully occupied learning about life in Medieval Castle times. During the morning the children had hands on experience; making a perfume bag, Illumination painting, pie making, lamp making, gargoyle sculpturing, soap making, visiting the Medicine lady and purse making. Some children experienced bow and arrow target practice, while others became Rat catchers!

The afternoon was very different. The children arrived in the hall with a gasp - it had been transformed into the banqueting hall of a castle. We were served with bread and cheese, wine (Blackcurrant juice) all served in goblets and wooden platters, whilst each group took turns to entertain everyone by dancing, playing music, juggling and rope walking.

The History off the Page leader expressed that the children had been extremely well behaved and the adults had all worked well as a team. The children said, "I wish everyday was a Castle Day....." that sums it up!

### **Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers**

We are once again collecting the Active Kids vouchers available from Sainsbury's stores and online between Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May. We banked the vouchers from last year so along with this years total we hope to be able to purchase some more equipment for school.

### **Attendance**

Our attendance for this term so far is 95.9% which is just over the national average, well done to those classes who have achieved 100% in the weekly attendance competition. They are Amethyst, Topaz, Emerald and Moonstone. This is a fantastic achievement congratulations!

Thank you for all those who are trying really hard to get your children in on time, the doors open at 8.45am and your child needs to be in class ready to learn by 8.55am.

### **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.

### **Entrance drop box**

Envelopes and forms can now be left 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.

### **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.

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

### **Achievement Awards**

Sophie Gallacher	Elliot Rayner	Liam Pullen
Harmony Murkett	Rosie McAughey	Ben Musgrove
Jazzleigh Taylor		

**WAC** - Ella Hayward

**RRR** - Charlie Fowler

**ART** - Tyler Parker

### **Truly Trusted**

Tyler Parker	Caitlin Keating		
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**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

### **Achievement Awards**

Anthony Clarkson	Ethan Dorsett	Sophia Hodgson
Erin Riley	Ellie-Rose Scotcher	Annaleise Smith

**RRR** - Lucas Robinson

### **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 5 days.

### **Friends of Winhills School Association**

Friends of Winhills School Association meet regularly; each meetings starts at 6.00pm and lasts for about 1 hour. Everyone is welcome to attend and support our hardworking committee. The next meetings are scheduled for:

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015 &

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015

## **School Uniform**

Children need to have their PE kit and a pair of wellies in school at all times.

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

**New in stock – PE/Swim bags printed with logo £4.00**

## **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 for children in Year 3, 4 5 & 6 is £2.15 and for children in Nursery the cost is £1.90 per child from September. Adult meals are charged at £3.00 per adult. Payment can now be made online. **Your child should have come home with a letter regarding online payments, however, if this has not been received or you need help with setting this up please contact the office.** You may order lunches on a daily basis 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. As you know, any parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle can book to have a dinner with a child in the school any day of the week but we do require at least one day's notice where possible.

## **Future Dates**

10 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	Parents Evening 3.30pm – 8.00pm
11 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6.00pm
5 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	Travelling Books Book Fair in School
26 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	Reward Day
15 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2015	Grafham Water residential, Yr 4 children
11 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> May 2015	SATs
8 <sup>th</sup> July 2015	KS2 Performance 1.30pm & 6.00pm
9 <sup>th</sup> July 2015	KS2 Performance 6.00pm
15 <sup>th</sup> July 2015	Garden Party Yr 6
17 <sup>th</sup> July 2015	Reward Day
20 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2015	Hilltop residential, Yr6 children

## **Term Dates 2014-2015**

### **Spring Term 2015**

16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February

27<sup>th</sup> March

Half Term

Term Ends

### **Summer Term 2015**

13<sup>th</sup> April

4<sup>th</sup> May

25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May

1<sup>st</sup> June

22<sup>nd</sup> July

Term Starts

May Day Holiday

Half Term

Staff Training

Term Ends

## **Term dates 2015-2016**

### **Autumn term 2015**

2<sup>nd</sup> September

3<sup>rd</sup> September

23<sup>rd</sup> October

26<sup>th</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> October

2<sup>nd</sup> November

18<sup>th</sup> December

Staff Training Day

Term Starts

Staff Training Day

Half Term

Staff Training Day

Term Ends

### **Spring term 2016**

4<sup>th</sup> January

5<sup>th</sup> January

15<sup>th</sup> February to 19<sup>th</sup> February

24<sup>th</sup> March

Staff Training Day

Term Starts

Half Term

Term Ends

### **Summer term 2016**

11<sup>th</sup> April

12<sup>th</sup> April

2<sup>nd</sup> May

30<sup>th</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> June

21<sup>st</sup> July

Staff Training Day

Term Starts

May Day

Half Term

Term Ends

Yours sincerely



Mrs Diane Mitchell

Head of School

On behalf of Winhills Primary Academy (part of TDLPT)

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### **We welcome any comments you may have below:**

To: Mrs Diane Mitchell, Head of School, Winhills Primary Academy, Off Duck Lane, St Neots, PE19 2DX

Child's name:

Comment: