

Winhills Primary Academy

Part of The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust

Established in the Queen's Jubilee Year 2012

Off Duck Lane, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 2DX

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

Head of School: Mr John Turner BSc PGCE

Dear Parents

This term has been incredibly busy and eventful. I have been extremely proud of all of the children with how focused they have been on their learning. The children are always so keen to show off their super work as I walk around the school. The warm weather has coincided with lots of the sports events and school trips that we have had at Winhills.

A group of performers from Stageworks visited school and led an exciting assembly about Bike Safety. They used singing, dancing and acting to reinforce the important messages about keeping safe. Please help to reinforce this with the children as they play out on their bikes and scooters.

Transition to secondary school is a really important time for Year 6 who have already been visited by teachers from Ernulf and Longsands Academies. The children have started to complete a transition unit of work which will be passed on to their new teachers. This is a great opportunity for the children to create some positive impressions ahead of their start in September.

On the 17th of May, the eve of the Royal Wedding, Winhills came together and held their very own celebrations. Throughout the week the whole school had been busy creating their own individual flag to go on our school bunting to hang in the hall. The bunting was created with the theme unity and the colours of the Union Jack. Throughout the week, the national anthem could be heard throughout the school, as the children were learning the words and the tune. On the Friday, the children made a variety of sandwiches to enjoy on the field as part of a whole school picnic. In the afternoon all children and staff from nursery to year 6 came together on the field to enjoy a small picnic to celebrate the royal wedding.

On Thursday 7th June, Mrs Suali visited for a whole day of RE focusing on Sikhism. She worked with all year groups who got the chance to learn about the fundamentals of the Sikhism religion. Throughout the sessions, the children were able to ask their own questions and gain a deeper understanding of the religion. The children thoroughly enjoyed the insightful experience and were very lucky to gain so much knowledge.

This week GenR8 came in and lead an assembly for the whole school. It is always one of the highlights for the children (and adults.) It is a great mix of acting, story, puppets and song, joining in with the actions at every opportunity. The theme was about sharing and team work.

Reception have been enjoying the outside area during this fabulous hot weather. They have been bug hunting and bird watching, making some amazing observations and doing some super writing about these. The children have consolidated their mathematical knowledge of number and function and have been working on improving their use of phonics with their reading and adding conjunctions and adjectives. We are really proud of how hard they have worked in their final push to achieve GLD.

Key Stage One have had a fabulous term of learning. Our topic of the Seaside has really inspired the children and they are looking forward to their trip next term. The children have enjoyed all of the creative activities, including making some fantastic puppets in the ICE Zone. Year 2 are also very excited about their upcoming Music Festival. They have been busy learning all the words and singing away.

A huge well done to the children in Year 2 who sat their end of Key Stage One SATs in May. They all did brilliantly and have made so much progress since September. The children in Year 1 were also stars in their phonics screening check in June. Their scores have improved by huge amounts since joining Key Stage One in September. We are super proud of them all.

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Year 3 and 4 welcomed parents and carers on Tuesday 15th June for our third ICE zone open event. It was wonderful to welcome in parents and carers to work with their children. The children became the teachers for the afternoon and took part in activities such as painting, coding, gardening and creating RE PowerPoints. Here are some quotes from our visitors,

"I love seeing what the children have been up to and how happy they are in school."

"It was so nice to interact with my granddaughter. This is my third visit and I look forward to the next."

Earlier this term, Year 3 and Year 4 were very lucky to have an instructor from Grafham visit school to teach six afternoons of outdoor and adventurous PE activity challenges followed by an after school Grafham Adventure Club. Out on the field, they played fun games to develop team work, co-operation and communication skills as well as learning about mapwork and navigation before taking part in an orienteering competition. The children enjoyed the activities so much that we have included similar ones in our outdoor ICE zone learning.

Year 3

Over the last few weeks, Year 3 have been very busy learning about volcanoes, earthquakes, rocks and soil. This has been their Science and Geography topic but, in English, the children also wrote explanations about how these natural features are formed. There were even a few volcanic eruptions in the classroom with vinegar and baking powder rather than actual lava! They particularly enjoyed studying timelines showing the history of the Earth as well as making replica fossils from plaster of paris and then writing instructions for others to follow. Year 3 have also loved learning about the Amazon Rainforest as part of their South America ICE zone topic - their animal poems and descriptions are amazing!

The children are getting very excited with learning poems ready for the Poetry Festival in St Neots. The actions that they have added are amazing.

Year 4 have had a very busy term! They have been working very hard in lessons and have been producing some excellent work. Most recently, the children wrote a persuasive letter to myself requesting that they have a tea party at the end of term. They are just waiting for an answer. The class have also been finishing off their amazing South American work. It has been lovely to see the children embrace the work and produce wonderful pieces of art. In particular, they have shown great skills when replicating the artist Gustavo Ortiz's work. The children weren't afraid to use bold brush strokes and colours, make sure you check these out on our web page!

Year 5 and 6 Duxford- As part of their studies on the Battle of Britain and World War II, Years 5 and 6 travelled to the Imperial War Museum in Duxford. They had the opportunity to see a range of aircraft and vehicles used in both World Wars, got to walk on Concorde, and even saw a Spitfire taking off. Their behaviour was exemplary and we hope they had a wonderful time.

Year 5 have enjoyed investigating air resistance and friction in science. They have worked really hard on developing their drawing of 3D buildings with Mr Cornell. Year 5 came joint 2nd in the DLPT sports event, all participating in rounders, dodgeball and multi skills.

Year 6 At the start of term, the learning in Year 6 focussed on their SATs test in reading, maths and SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar). The children all worked extremely hard on their assessments, and we are looking forward to sharing the result with you when we receive them in July. Following this, the children have been doing a lot of writing following both their topic of Rivers and their Science topics of 'Evolution' and 'Animals including Humans'. It has been great to hear about the children learning how to read Ordnance Survey maps, the impacts of rivers and pollution, and seeing some of their wonderful artwork. During the term, they have also worked with a number of visitors, including Mr Cornell (our resident artist), ACTIOS (prayer spaces), the Hunts SSP (weekly hockey sessions), Mrs Bull (our Zumba teacher), Magistrates in the Community, and weekly visits to Ernulf for PE lessons with the children from Magistrates. Over the past few weeks, the children have been working hard to learn songs, dance moves and lines from their upcoming production of 'The Pirates of the Curry Bean'. It sounds fantastic and we are really excited to share it with you all.

Sports Events We have taken part in numerous sporting events and tournaments over the past few weeks ranging from five a-side football matches, cricket tournaments and athletics meets. Winhills took 2 teams to the St Neots netball tournament on the 8th May. Both teams played brilliantly and demonstrated excellent teamwork. They won some games, drew some games and lost a couple in a really close contest.

Winhills also took part in the cross-country event at Priory Park. Well done to all the children who have taken part and participated in all of the events. We are all proud of their fantastic achievements. A super effort from all who were involved, well done!

We are very proud to have been awarded our Gold School Games Mark from Sainsbury active kids. This shows the fantastic effort that is put in by both the children and the staff to make the school as active as possible. Well done all.

Inter sports competition

One of the great benefits of being part of the Diamond Learning Partnership Trust is the community links between the five schools. This term we are holding an inter-academy tournament which includes dodgeball, tag rugby and netball. The children are split into three teams and all children carousel around the three sports earning different points for a win, draw or loss. Winhills are delighted to host these tournaments; we have even been successful in winning one trophy for the year 4 tournament. The children have thoroughly enjoyed meeting the children from the different school and have already started to build new friendships with them.

Sports Day

This year's Reception Sports Day will be held on Wednesday 4th July and will be in the morning from 9.30 a.m.

KS2 Sports Day will be held on Thursday 5th July in the morning and KS1 will be held on Thursday 5th July in the afternoon. Parents and families are welcome to support the sessions. A section of the field will be reserved for viewing the events.

Please look at the future dates at the end of the newsletter so you are aware of training days, big bakes, performances and sports day. 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 considerably outside of the school, ensuring you **do not** block anyone's driveway or the school's emergency access point. As there are lots of trips this half term, coaches will need access to the school so please do not park in front of the school gates.

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 5 days.

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.**

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.

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.

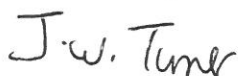
School Dinners

The cost of a meal at school for children in Year 3, 4 5 & 6 is £2.25 and for children in Nursery the cost is £2.00 per child. Adult meals are charged at £3.20 per adult. Payment can now be made online via agora. **Please contact the office if you need help with this.** 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

3 rd July 2018	Reception School Trip to Paxton Pits.
4 th July 2018	Reception Sports Day.
5 th July 2018	KS1 and KS2 Sports day.
6 th July 2018	Yr3 School trip to Kew Gardens.
9 th July 2018	KS2 Performance 1.30pm
9 th July 2018	KS2 Performance 6pm
10 th July 2018	KS2 Performance 6pm
11 th July 2018	KS1 School Trip to Hunstanton Beach
12 th July 2018	Yr2 Musical Festival
12 th July 2018	Reception Celebration Assembly 9.10am
12 th July 2018	Yr. 6 Garden Party
13 th July 2018	KS1 Celebration Assembly 9.10am
16 th July 2018	KS2 Celebration Assembly 9.10am
17 th July 2018	Reward day
18 th -20 th July 2018	Yr.6 Hill Top Residential Trip.
20 th July 2018	Summer Term Ends

Yours sincerely



Mr John Turner
Head of School
On behalf of Winhills Primary Academy (part of TDLPT)

We welcome any comments you may have below:

To: Mr John Turner, Head of School, Winhills Primary Academy, Off Duck Lane, St Neots, PE19 2DX

Child's name:

Comment:

