

Winhills Primary Academy Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2016

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Welcome to Winhills Primary Academy Academic Year 2016 - 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

I am delighted to welcome you all to the academic year 2016 – 2017. My name is Susan Jaques; I am the new Head of School. Teaching is a career which I always wanted to pursue; I have over twenty years' experience as an educator, including a range of roles in the UK and Spain as a class teacher, middle manager and senior leader. During the last eight years, I was the Head of Primary at two British schools in the province of Malaga, and also a team inspector for the National Association of British Schools in Spain. I have a Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) Honours Degree and a Masters in Education (Primary Education).

Mrs. Mitchell and I worked closely during the summer term to ensure a smooth transition for all. In addition to attending numerous meetings and conferences, we spent a wonderful afternoon with the students and staff during the whole school transition afternoon and an enjoyable evening with the new Reception parents during the induction meeting at the beginning of July.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Mitchell for all of her help and support during the transition process. I look forward to working with Mrs. Mitchell in the future as she commences her new post within The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs. Mitchell continued success and happiness in her new role.

'Behaviour is good. Pupils' behaviour in lessons and around school contributes to a calm and purposeful atmosphere,' Ofsted, March 2016.

During my visits to the school, I was delighted by the student's good behaviour and their polite, respectful attitudes. It was wonderful to see them rehearse for end of year productions; practise sports skills for annual sport's days; complete end of term tasks in their classrooms and the ICE zones; investigate plant root systems in the garden and relax together during break times.

Since my appointment as Head of School, I have heard many wonderful comments about Winhills Primary Academy from the students, staff, Governors, members of The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust team and from the parents whom I have had the pleasure in meeting so far; I am enthusiastically looking forward to continuing Winhills' journey onwards, towards excellence for all.

This academic year, the staff and I shall continue to tirelessly focus on the school's and the Trust's vision, aim and values.

Nurture

Inspire

Flourish

Winhills Primary Academy Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2016

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Vision, Aim and Values

Winhills Primary Academy's School Vision

To be the best that we can be!

Winhills Primary Academy's School Aim

To enable every child to reach their potential in an environment that fosters learning, respect, responsibility, laughter and friendship.

The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust's Vision and Values

The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust is focused on transforming children's lives and therefore life chances through a clear focus on unlocking every child's abilities by providing the perfect balance between an excellent education, uncompromising pastoral care and the nurtured development of every individual child's qualities.

Attendance and Punctuality

As Head of School, I shall consistently monitor and review attendance and punctuality figures:

- Attending school is crucial to developing, embedding and extending a child's knowledge;
- Punctuality, being present, participation, practise and being positive are all crucial elements in order to ensure accomplishments for all;
- Gaining an education requires hard work, an inquiring mind, focussed study and a sense of belonging and being valued;
- Poor attendance and punctuality issues have a negative impact on teaching and learning, student success and the overall success of the school.

Winhills Primary Academy should be well-regarded by all, with a combined dedication to improving attendance, punctuality and positive participation, Winhills' stance within the locality will be greatly improved.

Therefore, throughout the academic year, I should like to firmly request your dedicated support in improving the overall attendance and punctuality of Winhills' students.

Together, we shall aim high and achieve more.

(Continued on the next page)

Nurture

Inspire

Flourish

Winhills Primary Academy Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2016

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Attendance and Punctuality (continued)

<u>Average Attendance Percentages – Autumn Term 2015</u>		
Primary schools in the UK national average	Winhills Primary Academy Autumn Term 2015 average	Other primary schools within the Diamond Learning Partnership Trust Autumn Term 2015 average
96%	95.03%	96.62% - 97.2%

We understand that everyone is genuinely ill at some point and this may lead students to miss a day or two of school, which is permissible, but that should be a rare occurrence and not the norm.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance and / or punctuality, please do not hesitate to book an appointment to meet with me. All appointments may be booked via the school office. Thank you in advance for your support with this matter.

Further information and guidance concerning the importance of attendance and punctuality will be posted on the school's website, and sent home, soon.

Class teachers will send home further information about class timetables, rules, routines, topics and closed Facebook pages next week. Please remember to check book bags and the school website regularly. Once we have settled into the first term, we shall endeavour to send home all letters and leaflets on Fridays.

Winhills Primary Academy School Uniform

Please ensure all children attend school daily wearing the correct school uniform. We encourage all students to wear school uniform as we feel this gives them a sense of identity and pride in their school.

School Uniform

Plain white or plain, pale blue polo shirt

Grey trousers / knee length skirt / pinafore

Grey or white socks / navy blue tights

Comfortable, flat black shoes with closed heels and toes

Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan (available from the school office with the school emblem)

Royal blue jumper or cardigan

A warm, waterproof winter coat (suitable for school and brought to school daily)

A pair of wellingtons (to be kept in school at all times)

(Continued on the next page)

Nurture

Inspire

Flourish

Winhills Primary Academy Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2016

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Winhills Primary Academy School Uniform (continued)

PE / Sports - Students need to have their PE kit in school at all times.

Plain white t-shirt - no strappy tops

Indoor PE

Plain black or plain blue shorts

Pupils do indoor PE in bare feet.

Outdoor PE

Trainers must be worn for games outdoors (not school shoes).

KS2 pupils will need a plain tracksuit for outdoor games in the winter.

Hair

Students may wear a small amount of hair gel but no extreme fashion hairstyles. If your child's hair is long enough, please ensure it is tied back and kept away from their eyes at all times so that their vision is not impaired. Hair accessories should be plain black, blue or white.

Jewellery

No nail varnish or jewellery should be worn in school. Reasonable exceptions are inexpensive watches, small stud earrings or religious items. 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 on PE days. For Health and Safety reasons, the school does not permit any body piercing (apart from small earrings).

Sun Protection

Please provide a hat or cap for your child to wear during hot, sunny weather. Sun creams should be named and are the responsibility of the child. Shoulders and necks should be covered up.

Water bottles

All children should have a water bottle in school.

All belongings, including clothing, should be clearly marked with your child's name.

School Car Park

Please be aware:

To help **ensure the safety of the children** in school, the **car park gates will be locked** daily between **8:30am—9:15am** and again from **2:45pm—3:30pm**.

Please can we also request that both entrance and exit gates are left clear at all times.

By responsibly working together, we shall help to keep our students safe. **Thank you.**

Nurture

Inspire

Flourish

Winhills Primary Academy Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2016

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Arrangements for the Start of Term

Primary Students - Monday 5th September 2016

The first day of the Autumn Term for the Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 students will be on Monday 5th September 2016. The staff and I look forward to welcoming you. Please ensure your child(ren) are in the playground from 8:45am, when a member of staff will be on duty. Registers are taken promptly at 8:55am.

Nursery Students - 'Stay and Play' session, Thursday 8th September, 1:30pm – 2:30pm

For the new Nursery students, there will be a 'Stay and Play' session on Thursday 8th September, 1:30pm – 2:30pm. Parents will be invited to stay and enjoy refreshments and a chat together, along with Miss Grisby (the Deputy Head) and myself in the Nursery unit.

Reception Students - 'Stay and Play' session, Friday 9th September, 10:30am – 11:30am

The new Reception students will be invited to a 'Stay and Play' session on Friday 9th September, 10:30am – 11:30am. Parents will be invited to stay and enjoy refreshments and a chat together, along with Miss Grisby (the Deputy Head) and myself in the small hall, near the Reception unit.

Nursery and Reception Students - Monday 12th September 2016

Following the 'Stay and Play' sessions, the Nursery and Reception students will commence school on Monday 12th September 2016. The Nursery students will attend sessions throughout the week as previously arranged and organised with Miss Wiseman and Mrs. Holloway during July 2016.

Up-to-date Information and Consent

Please ensure the following information and permissions are kept up-to-date:

- Contact details, medical records and medications;
- Permissions regarding the collection of students at the end of the school day;
- Permissions regarding the collection of students after an approved activity.

Letters / forms will be sent home for you to complete. Please return the completed forms to your child's class teacher by the date specified on the letter.

Thank you.

Nurture

Inspire

Flourish

Winhills Primary Academy Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2016

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Energy and Enthusiasm

I believe all children have the ability to succeed; they should be presented with as many exciting, constructive experiences and opportunities as possible. Inspiring and teaching the whole child equips them with the knowledge and skills needed to be reflective, self-confident, well-rounded, global-minded citizens.

As Head of School, I shall work conscientiously and enthusiastically to inspire, lead and manage Winhills Primary Academy along its academic journey towards positive accomplishments for all. I look forward to a fun-filled autumn term bursting with captivating moments and interesting projects, workshops, competitions, open events, meetings, assemblies and concerts to name but a few.

Winhills Primary Academy has potential to become an excellent school where everyone enjoys learning together in a happy, secure and stimulating environment. With your continued support, the staff and I will actively and consistently seek to provide interesting activities which challenge, develop knowledge and skills, inspire, question and promote thinking skills as well as create a sense of awe and wonder about the world around us. In doing so, we shall aim to provide a stimulating, thriving educational ethos and culture which enthuses all to work hard, aim high and aspire to achieve their best.

Parent, Carer and Family Participation

Successful parent, carer and family participation is crucial to student success. Positive, supportive working interactions play a vital role in each and every child's development, achievement and enjoyment, both at home and school. To help me gain a comprehensive view about Winhills, regarding perceived strengths and weaknesses, the learning environment and the current activities and events offered, a questionnaire will be sent home within the next few weeks for you to kindly complete and return to your child's class teacher.

Analysis of completed questionnaires will enable us to further develop the school and foster links within the local community and beyond. Strengthening and expanding the working relationships between students, staff, parents, carers, families and the locality will play a crucial role in the development, growth and outlook of Winhills Primary Academy; I look forward to meeting all members of the school community and to fostering links.

Thank you for taking the time to read this first bumper edition of the newsletter. Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, exciting and productive academic year.

Susan Jaques
Head of School

Nurture

Inspire

Flourish

Winhills Primary Academy Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2016

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Diary Dates

The calendar may also be accessed via the school website at:
<http://www.winhills-cambs.co.uk/diary/list/>

<u>September 2016</u>	
Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd September	STAFF TRAINING DAYS - <u>School Closed</u>
Monday 5th September	AUTUMN TERM STARTS for Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
Tuesday 6th September	History Off the Page Tudor Day - Year 3 and Year 4
Thursday 8th September	New Nursery Children and Parents Stay and Play 13:30 to 14:30
Friday 9th September	New Reception Children Stay and Play 10:30 - 11:30
Monday 12th September	TERM STARTS for the Nursery and Reception Children
Friday 30th September	School Photographer - Individual Photographs

<u>October 2016</u>	
Wednesday 12th October	Parents' Evening 15:30 to 19:00
Thursday 13th October	Parents' Evening 15:30 to 18:00
Friday 21st October	STAFF TRAINING DAY - <u>School Closed</u>
Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October	HALF TERM - <u>School Closed</u>
Monday 31st October	STAFF TRAINING DAY - <u>School Closed</u>

<u>November 2016</u>	
Tuesday 1st November	2nd Half of the AUTUMN TERM STARTS - Nursery to Year 6

Nurture

Inspire

Flourish

Winhills Primary Academy Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2016

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Contact Details

You are always welcome to visit school or meet with me, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

Executive Headteacher: Mrs. S. Connell

Head of School: Miss. S. Jaques

Winhills Primary Academy School

Off Duck Lane,

St. Neots

Cambridgeshire

PE19 2DX

Telephone: (01480) 211626

Fax: 01480 479869

Email: office@winhills.cambs.sch.uk



Challenge Your Child



Using the following sentence openers, challenge your child to complete each one.

Or, choose one as a story starter and challenge your child to write an interesting story and / or draw an imaginative picture / illustration.

1. Inside the gigantic, green box...
2. The best thing about summer was...
3. The perfect pet would be...
4. All at once, the rain turned into...

Nurture

Inspire

Flourish

Winhills Primary Academy Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2016

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Make a Positive Comment or Suggestion and / or Get Involved as a Volunteer

If you wish to make a positive comment / suggestion, please complete section 1 and section 2 below, then return this page to: Miss Jaques, Head of School, Winhills Primary Academy, Off Duck Lane, St. Neots, PE19 2DX

Section 1:

Name: _____ Phone No: _____

Email: _____

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Section 2:

Positive comment / suggestion: _____

Get Involved as a Volunteer:

If you are interested in helping, please complete section 1 above and section 3 below, then return this page to: Miss Jaques, Head of School, Winhills Primary Academy, Off Duck Lane, St. Neots, PE19 2DX

Section 3:

There is a requirement for schools to carry out a Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check for all staff and volunteers who have regular contact with students. All schools need to hold a register of the checks undertaken. In order for you to work in school as a volunteer, you will need to complete a DBS form. Please be assured that all information will be treated in the strictest confidence and that these checks are done only in the best interests and safety of our students.

Further information about volunteering within a school setting will be shared in the next few weeks.

☐ I would love to help; I would happily attend a meeting about volunteering within a school setting and complete a DBS form.

☐ Please tick both circles to confirm you have read and accept the information above.

Thank you

Nurture

Inspire

Flourish