

Winhills Primary Academy

Part of The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust
Established in the Queen's Jubilee Year 2012

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C.E.O Mrs Susannah Connell BSc MA (Ed Mgt) NPQH
Headteacher: Mrs Roxanne d'Arcy BA (Hons)

July 2024

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well. As the Headteacher of Winhills Primary Academy, I am delighted to reflect on what has been a fun-packed and enriching school year for our children and staff. Although I have only been here for just over a term I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the children, families and wonderful staff at Winhills.

We have come to the end the Summer Term and Year 6 will leave us and begin the next stage of their school life at Senior School. They have contributed a fantastic amount to the school, and we will miss them.

Amelia, Amelie Archie, Aurora, Benjamine, Blake, Daisy, Eliza, Ella, Elliott, Ethan, Evie, Flo, Ibrahim, Isaac, Isla, Jessica, Joel, Kai, Kianna, Lacii, Lemuel, Lily, Logan, Lucas, Lucy, Lucy Malavika, Mason, Mason, Noah, Noah, Reagon, Reegon, Ronnie, Rosie, Ruby, Ryan, Scarlet, Thomas, Tom

Usher Cup winner: Reagan

The 2022-2023 academic year has been filled with numerous activities, learning experiences, and memorable moments. Here are some highlights:

Tuesday 4th June 2024 – Yr5 and Yr6 Athletics

8 children from Year 5 and 6 represented Winhills at St Ives Outdoor Centre for an athletics competition. The children all participated brilliantly. They competed in the standing long jump, vortex howler, 100m sprint and 800m run. Although the 800m was quite a challenge, they didn't give up!

Monday 1st July 2024 – Yr. 5 Summer Trip to Legoland

"Legoland was an absolute blast". After fundraising to reduce the cost of the trip and raising £350, the children had the best day at Legoland. Year 5 split into different groups and chose the rides, shows and experiences they wanted to do. Lots of them watched the pirate show which was

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hilarious, visited miniland and went on incredible rides- the majority favourite being 'Flight of the Skyllion'.

Tuesday 9th July 2024 – Reception and Yr1 and Yr2 Summer trip to Audley End

The children had a wonderful day at Audley End Miniature Railway and their spirits were not dampened by the drizzly weather. They started their day with a ride on a steam train through the woods where they had to keep their eyes peeled for different fairytale creatures. They loved trying to guess which story the scenes were from. After the train ride, they were greeted by a woodland fairy who taught them how to make a magical fairy wand which they could bring home to use. Finally, they were able to explore the enchanted woods and had to find the fairy and elf houses hidden within the trees. A truly magical day.

Tuesday 9th July 2024 – Yr4 and Yr5 Football match Middlefield

10 Year 6 children represented the school for their final time and won 4-0 in a football match against Middlefield. The teamwork, sportsmanship and consideration they showed as well as their fantastic football skills was fantastic! They were able to constantly press and had multiple opportunities to score (including a penalty) and defended brilliantly- so well that our goalkeeper didn't get to touch the ball for the whole game!

Wednesday 10th July Sports Day

Although slightly wet, all of the children were superstars during sports day! KS2 competed in a range of races such as the tennis ball and racket, obstacle, 100m sprint and 300m run. They were very disappointed that it was too wet for the tug of war but they were still enthusiastic (especially during the cha cha slide warm up). In the afternoon, KS1 also competed in a variety of races from the egg and spoon to a sprint race. All of the children were rewarded stickers for their excellence.

Thursday 11th July Yr3 and Yr4 Summer Trip to Gulliver's Land.

On Thursday 11th July, Years 3 and 4 went to Gulliver's Land. The children faced their fears and all the staff were so proud of how they challenged themselves and pushed their own boundaries. We definitely have some thrill seekers! Highlights from the children include the upside down and spinning Dragon siege ride and the slightly damp log flume. There were so many smiles and lots of laughter from the children (and staff!) during the day. It was such a fantastic day to celebrate the end of the year.

Yr5 visit to Longsands Science department

The children loved visiting Longsands and were in awe of the size of the school! They were all engaged and enthusiastic about the experiments they were shown and took part in. They had to test different substances to see if they were alkaline or acids and the adults were very impressed with them all. They were very excited to see Mrs Smith explode a helium balloon with fire!

Rexroth Visit

On Wednesday 26th June, Year 6 were very fortunate to have been invited to visit Rexroth (a Bosch company) based locally on Cromwell Road. Whilst there, the children participated in a range of different STEM activities to experience some of the operations that are managed by Rexroth. Some of these experiences included: using hydraulic training rigs, pallet truck and scissor lifts as well as balloon cars and zip wires. These activities allowed the children to learn more about hydraulics

(which Rexroth specialises in) as well as the process of pneumatics. The children absolutely loved their morning visit and are very grateful to Jim Malin (our Chair of Governors) for taking the time to organise this for our school.

Arbor Information

Please make sure you are signed up on Arbor. This is the school's 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 has recently released the Arbor app, which can be downloaded from the app store.

Attendance update from Mr Nelson

Attending school is incredibly important and our whole school attendance target is 96%. Currently, our year to date attendance figure for the academic year 2023.2024 for the whole school is 93.79% - this is slightly short of our target by 2.21%. However, this time last year our whole school attendance figure was 92.96% so we have improved from last year's percentage by 0.83%. Well done to all children who have achieved 100% attendance this term. Currently, there are 11 children from YR-Y6 who have achieved 100% attendance for the whole academic year! These children, if in everyday from now to the end of term, will receive a special attendance certificate as well as mini trophy for their achievement.

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.

Dates

Autumn Term 2024

Tuesday 3 rd September	Training Day
Wednesday 4 th September	Autumn Term Starts
Monday 28 th – Friday 1 st November	October Half Term
Monday 4 th November	Training Day
Tuesday 5 th November	Autumn Term continues
Friday 20 th December	Term Ends
Monday 23 rd December – Friday 3 rd January	Christmas Holidays

All dates are on the website under the calendar section:

<http://www.winhills-cambs.co.uk/diary/list/>

Breakfast and Afterschool 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.

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 (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 £2.60, meals for nursery children are £2.41. **Payment can now be made online**, please ask the office staff for more information. You may order lunches daily 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.**

The voucher scheme is in place for those entitled to Free School Meals. This does not include Universal Free School Meals (All Reception and KS1 children). Some parents in KS1 and Reception will still get these though as they are entitled to it.

Some parents may have one child that is getting it and another who is not. This will be because your circumstances may have changed.

If you are unsure and think you may be entitled, please look at the following website:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>.

Achievement Award Assembly's

Friday the 14th of June 2024

Maja, Suhaib, Joey, Olivia, Sam, Elizabeth, Adrian, Flo Mason
RRR Award- Aurelia, WAC Award- Leila, Art Award - Benjamine

Friday 21st of June 2024

Aleksander, Connor, Simran, Raisa, Emma, Kathy, Hollie, Abigail, Noah, Aurora
RRR Award- Ellie, WAC Award- Charlie, Art Award - Freya

Friday 28th of June 2024

Caden, Wade, Alana, Igor, Frankie, Mitzie, Aimee, Lily, Ronnie
RRR Award - Finley, WAC Award - Tahlia, Art Award - Ella

Friday 5th July 2024

Logan, Katherine, Henschel, Emma, Sophie, Malavika, Daisy
RRR Award - Tristan, WAC Award - Leo, Art Award - Janai

Friday 12th July 2024

Harper- Mae, Mia, Willow, Luna, Freddie, Rhys, Alice, Isla, Amelie, Laci
RRR Award – Isla, WAC Award – Archie, Art Award - Mattius

Reading Millionaires

Year 6

Mason

Tom

Aurora

Noah

Thomas

Jessica – 5 million words

Year 5

Ethan

Alisa

Amber – 2 million words

Abigail – 2 million words

Liliana– 2 million words

Year 4

Bea

We are already planning for the 2024-2025 academic year and are excited to introduce new programs and initiatives to further enhance our childrens' learning experiences. Here are some upcoming plans:

- New Curriculum Enhancements: We will be introducing enhancements to our curriculum to include more hands-on learning opportunities.
- Parent-Child- Teacher events: We will continue to hold regular parent-teacher meetings and introduce parent learning mornings to ensure open communication and collaboration between home and school.

Meet Our New Staff Members

I am pleased to announce the addition of three new members to our staff at Winhills Primary Academy. We are excited to welcome them to our team and look forward to the positive impact they will have on our school community.

- Paul Thorn - Our new caretaker. Paul brings a wealth of experience in maintenance and is dedicated to ensuring our school environment is safe and well-maintained for all our children and staff.
- Laura Sharpe - One of our new midday supervisors. Laura is part of our PTA and enthusiastic about supporting our children during their lunchtime break, ensuring they have a positive and enjoyable experience.
- Hazel Chalkley - Another new midday supervisor. Hazel shares Laura's commitment and is eager to contribute to the wellbeing and happiness of our pupils during lunchtime.

Finally, I would like to dedicate a poem to the Year 6 parents.

Dear Year, 6 Parents,

I give you back your child, the same child you confidently entrusted to my care last September.
I give them back inches taller, months wiser, more responsible, and more mature than they were then.

Although they would have attained their growth in spite of us, it has been our pleasure and privilege to watch their personality unfold day by day and marvel at this splendid miracle of development.

I give them back reluctantly, for having spent nine months together in the narrow confines of a crowded school, we have grown close, have become a part of each other, and we shall always retain a little of each other.

Ten years from now if we meet on the street, your child and I, a light will shine to our eyes, a smile to our lips, and we shall feel the bond of understanding once more, this bond we feel today.

We have lived, loved, laughed, played, studied, learned, and enriched our lives together this year.

We wish it could go on indefinitely but give them back we must.

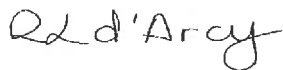
Take care of them, for they are precious.

Remember that we shall always be interested in your child and their destiny,
wherever they go, whatever they do, whoever they become.

Their joys and sorrows we will be happy to share.

We shall always be their friends.

Yours sincerely



Mrs. Roxanne d'Arcy
Headteacher

We welcome any comments you may have below:

To: Mrs. Roxanne d'Arcy, Headteacher, Winhills Primary Academy, Off Duck Lane, St Neots,
PE19 2DX