



Newsletter – 1st December 2023

Updates this week:

- Christmas Productions
- Christmas Fayre (Thursday 7th December)
- Christmas Dinner (Wednesday 20th December)
- Staffing Update
- End of Term
- X (Twitter) and Facebook
- Reception Applications

Letter from Mr Gaffiney

Happy Advent everyone! It's officially the run in to Christmas (though Mrs Gaffiney has been pushing for Christmas to start since October!), which also marks the start of our Christmas festivities. There are lots of details about this here, in addition to the information shared in letters, but please do let us know if you have any questions.

The children are practising hard for the different events we have planned, and the list of these is below. We can't wait to welcome you to our celebrations – the children already sound wonderful!

This year, thanks to the hard work of Ms Orme and Ms Grisedale, we are able to send a choir to the JMAT Christmas Concert. This will be a brilliant event and a great opportunity for our children too!

The Christmas Fayre is just around the corner. A huge amount of work has gone into this and I cannot thank the PTFA enough for their hard work. Please do come and join us next Thursday from 3.30pm for a fantastic festive event!

We are also really looking forward to Christmas Dinner Day with our friends from Mellors. Look out for the menu and pre-order information coming out next week for more details.

Also, just a reminder that we will also be closing the school at 1pm on the last day of term, Friday 22nd December.

As you can see, we have lots going on and hope to create a truly magical season for our children. This can be a wonderful time of year, but it can also be exceptionally difficult. We are in tough financial times, and it is also a time of year when we feel the loss of others especially keenly. If you need any help at all, from a cup of tea and a chat to support and guidance on where to find help, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Sending very best wishes,

Mr Gaffiney

Updates

Christmas Productions

We can't wait to share our Christmas Productions with you! We're doing things a little differently this year, with Nursery having a crafts and singalong session, a Nativity production for Reception and Year 1, and carol concerts at the Church for Years 2 to 6. Dates are below and further details will follow!

Nursery Crafts and Singalong	Wednesday 13 th December, 2-3.15pm
Reception and Year 1 Nativity	Monday 11 th December, 5-6pm Wednesday 13 th December, 5-6pm
Year 2 and 3 Carol Concert in Church	Tuesday 12 th December, 5.30 – 6.30pm
Year 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Concert in Church	Thursday 14 th December, 5.30 – 6.30pm
JTMAT Christmas Concert @ John Taylor (Choir only)	Tuesday 19 th December, from 9am

We have had some questions about logistics about these events. Miss Gallagher has sent a letter out this week, but do get in touch if you have any questions and we will provide an update for everyone.

PTFA Christmas Fayre 7th December

Please come and join us at the Christmas Fayre next Tuesday from 3.30pm!



Christmas Lunch

Menus and pre-order information will be sent our next week – please can all orders be in by Thursday 7th so we can order the food. Many thanks

Staffing Update

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Wagstaff for her brilliant work in Year 1 this term to cover Miss Hughes' maternity leave. We wish her all the best as she joins the staff of Christ Church School In Burton from January. We are also mega excited that Miss Hughes is rejoining us!

Unfortunately, Mrs Claxton remains unwell, and we send her our very best wishes. We are working with JTMAT to ensure our Year 2 class continue to thrive, and will update you as soon as we are able to.

Miss Whitley is expecting her first child in January, and so will leave us temporarily at the end of term. We wish her all the very best for her new adventure!

Finally, we welcome Mr Collins, our new Site Supervisor. We are delighted that he is joining the team, and Mr Gaffiney is delighted that he can pass the bin emptying duty to someone else! Thank you also to Mr Nye for all his hard work to support the school in this area.

X and Facebook

Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates, pictures and celebrations of our school! We are @WinhillSchool on X, Winhill Village Primary & Nursery School on Facebook

Reception Applications

Please get your admission applications in to Staffordshire Admissions ASAP! Please share far and wide too – we'd love to welcome lots of new people to the school! You can go straight to the admissions page with this QR Code:



Diary Dates

Date	Activity	Additional information
Thursday 7 th December	Christmas Fayre	
Monday 11 th December	Reception and Year 1 Nativity 5 – 6pm	Ticket information to follow
Tuesday 12 th December	Year 2 and 3 Carol Concert in Church, 5.30 – 6.30pm	
Wednesday 13 th December	Nursery Crafts and Singalong, 2 – 3.15pm Reception and Year 1 Nativity 5-6pm	
Thursday 14 th December	Year 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Concert in Church, 5.30 – 6.30pm	
Tuesday 19 th December	JTMAT Christmas Concert	For children in our choir only
Wednesday 20 th December	Christmas Dinner and Jumper day	Information will be shared next week
Friday 22 nd December	End of Autumn term – school closes at 1pm	
w/c 25th December and 1st January	Christmas Holiday	
Monday 8 th January	Training Day – school closed for all pupils	
Tuesday 9 th January	Start of Spring term 1 – all pupils back	
January (date TBC)	Young Voices	For children in our choir only
Friday 26 th January	Year 5 Class Assembly	
Friday 2 nd February	Enhancement Day	A day of enrichment for all children – information to follow!
Wednesday 7 th February	Parents' Evening – Reception, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6	Will run from 1-7pm after feedback from parents. Invitations to be shared shortly
Thursday 8 th February	Parents' Evening – Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5	Will run from 1-7pm after feedback from parents. Invitations to be shared shortly
February/March (date TBC)	Year 5 Residential	Information will be shared in the next two weeks
w/c 12th February	Half Term Holiday	
Monday 19 th February	Start of Spring Term 2 – all pupils back	
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day	Information to follow
Friday 8 th March	Year 4 Class Assembly	
Friday 15 th March	Family Lunch – Year 3 and Year 4	Invitations to follow soon!
Friday 22 nd March	End of Spring Term – school closes from 1pm	
Monday 25th March – Friday 5th April	Easter Holiday	
Monday 8 th April	Start of Summer Term 1	
Friday 26 th April	Year 3 Class Assembly	
Thursday 2 nd May	Polling Day (Main School open, Nursery closed)	
w/c 13 th May	Year 6 SATs	
Friday 17 th May	Year 1 Class Assembly	
Friday 24 th May	Enhancement Day	A day of enrichment for all children – information to follow!
w/c 27th May	Summer Half Term Holiday	
Monday 3 rd June	Start of Summer Term 2 – all pupils back	
w/c 3 rd June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Checks	
Friday 7 th June	Year 2 Class Assembly	

w/c 10 th June	Future Aspirations Week	A week of activities looking at jobs and our future
w/c 10 th June	Year 1 Phonics (plus Y2 retakes)	
Friday 21 st June	Family Lunch – Year 5 and Year 6	Invitations to follow soon!
20 th and 21 st June	Year 3 and 4 campout and activity days	Details to follow!
Tuesday 25 th June	Sports Day	
Tuesday 2 nd July	Reserve Sports Day	
Friday 5 th July	JTMAT Training day – school closed to all pupils	
Friday 12 th July	Reception Class Assembly	
Thursday 18 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Event	
Friday 19 th July	End of term (school closes from 1pm)	

We will do all we can to keep to these dates but may need to change them in exceptional or unforeseen circumstances. Thanks for your understanding.

Training Days (School Closed to pupils)

Monday 8th January – School Training
Friday 5th July – MAT Inset
Monday 22nd July – School Training

Communication

We absolutely value the relationships we have with parents and appreciate the importance of communication as part of this. As such, either Miss Gallagher and I are always available on the door in a morning, or you can make an appointment to see us through the office. Though we may not be able to see you immediately, one of us will always get back to you as soon as we can, and this shouldn't ever take longer than 48 hours.

A reminder that we are no longer using the text message service for parents to message us – please send an email to win-office@win.jtmat.co.uk or give us a call on 01283247570.

We are also aware that there have been some glitches with the text message service. Please do let us know if this affects you and we will do what we can whilst we find a solution.

The School Day

The doors open from 8.45 and all children must be in for 9.00am at the latest. This time is used for learning so the earlier your children can be at school, the more they will get out of this time.

The school day will ends at 3.15pm for Key Stage 1 and 3.20pm for Key Stage 2.

Breakfast Club

We are delighted to provide our own in-house Breakfast Club daily whenever school is open to pupils in all classes. Pupils may arrive any time from 7.30am and no pre-booking is required.

Costs:

7.30 – 8.45am £3.50

8.00 – 8.45am £3.00

These prices include breakfast

After-school Club

We offer after school care daily whenever school is open to pupils in all classes in partnership with Winhill Childcare. They organise and run this session, so if you would like to make use of this then please let the office know and we can share their details.

Pupil Premium

Pupil Premium is an opportunity for those eligible to secure additional funding for their child. This money is used to support them in their learning, as well as subsidising things such as school trips. Please do let us know if you think you are eligible for this, or you can apply directly. Further details can be found here:

[Overview - Free school meals - Staffordshire County Council](#)

Uniform

Looking smart is an important aspect of our school life and we want all of our children to wear our school uniform with pride. Uniform with logos on is available at [My Uniform \(myuniformltd.co.uk\)](http://MyUniform(myuniformltd.co.uk)) or www.wbglobaltrading.co.uk

Logos do look smart but they are not mandatory and local supermarkets have perfectly suitable smart uniform items at very reasonable prices.

On a normal school day, all children should wear:

- Red crew neck sweatshirt/cardigan
- White polo or shirt
- Grey or black school trousers/skirt/pinafore dress or red gingham school dress
- Black flat sensible school shoes (shoes are to be plain with no coloured logos, smart plain black trainers are acceptable)

For safety, earrings must only be modest studs and no necklaces, bracelets or rings should be worn. If jewellery, outside of these guidelines, is worn please do not be offended if your child is asked to remove it for the remainder of the day. If you are planning to get your child's ears pierced, then the start of the summer holiday is ideal as hopefully they can then remove them independently for PE lessons.

Watches are acceptable. Smart watches, however, are worn at your own risk and school cannot any responsibility for loss or damage if these are brought into school.

All long hair should be tied back daily for school. Please use modest hair accessories only.

PE Days

On a PE day, we would like to ask all children to come to school in their PE kit. This saves time changing, preserves privacy and hopefully helps with the washing at home too!

Our PE kit is as follows:

- Plain white T-shirt
- Black or grey PE shorts or leggings
- Trainers
- Warm tracksuit top and bottoms

Pre-loved uniform will be available in a swap shop from mid-September. If you have high-quality pre-loved uniform with plenty of life in it still, please bring into to school (washed and clean) so that it can be re-homed.

Birthdays

At Winshill, we love sharing birthdays with our children! As such, from this year, children are invited to come to school in their own clothes on their birthday (or the day nearest to it of a holiday or weekend birthday). They are welcome to bring sweets or cakes to celebrate with their friends, but these should not include nuts and we ask that dietary requirements of classmates are considered.

Absence and Attendance

We strongly encourage good attendance from all of our pupils. Every day at school matters and so we encourage children to be in school unless they are too unwell to be so. If your child is ill, please contact us via phone on the first day of their absence to advise off the reason why they are absent.

It is always our preference that routine medical or dental appointments be taken outside of the school day, though we recognise that this may not always be possible. Please do not be offended if we ask to see proof of the appointment. This is part of our MAT Attendance Policy.

We cannot authorise any holidays in term-time. Please be advised that such absences are recorded as unauthorised and may be subject to penalty notices (for children 5 years and over).

Questions and concerns

At Winshill Village, we are proud to be a 'family school'. We always work tirelessly in the best interests of your children and keep them at the forefront of all decision-making. We are committed to making their primary school days the very best years of their life.

If, however, something is not going right, you have suggestions on how we could improve something or you have any questions, concerns or worries, we do strongly encourage you to get in touch. We will always welcome you in, listen to you and act on your concerns.