



Newsletter – 13th October 2023

Updates in this newsletter

- Pride of Winshill Awards
- Book Fair
- Uniform Swap Shop
- Reception and nursery open Evening
- Year 5 and 6 Parents' Lunch
- Parents' Evening

Letter from Mr Gaffiney

Well, it seems Autumn has finally arrived! As I write this, the rain is teeming down and we have had some very soggy children arriving in school! As much as the recent warm weather has been a lovely treat, I always think that the transition into Autumn is a special time of year. Change can be refreshing, and it makes you appreciate the variety of seasons we enjoy in the UK.

Change is something we all experience through our lives, and managing it is one of the things we are working especially hard on with our children. We can't know what the future holds for them – ten years ago there was no Uber, YouTubers weren't a thing and Artificial Intelligence was just in films – but what we can be certain of is that they will experience change. They will need to have resilience, adaptability and a drive to succeed, all things that we develop through our work in school.

Perhaps most importantly, they will need to have empathy. No matter what changes in technology take place, the thing that makes us human is our ability to connect with others. I am so proud of how brilliantly our children do this, and it is a pleasure to enhance this through our work together in school; for example, through our PSHE sessions and class forums, children are developing their critical thinking, skills of empathy and self-awareness.

They are simply incredible, and we couldn't be more proud of them!

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,

Mr Gaffiney

Updates

Pride of Winhill Awards

Congratulations to this week's celebrated children!

Class	Pride of Winhill Winner
Reception	Mia
Year 1	Dylan
Year 2	Freddie
Year 3	Isabelle
Year 4	Mason A
Year 5	William G
Year 6	Dotty

Book fair

Our Book Fair is on throughout next week, after school in the hall. We will be operating this on a cashless basis, so don't forget your bank cards! The range of books is lovely this time, and every book you buy also contributes to providing new books for school.

SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

COME TO the BOOK FAIR!

FREE BOOKS FOR YOUR SCHOOL WHEN YOU BUY AT THE BOOK FAIR!

A POP-UP BOOK-STORE WITH HUNDREDS OF BOOKS FROM JUST £2.99

LAST YEAR, YOUR SUPPORT HELPED TO DONATE OVER £5.3M BOOKS TO SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE

PERCIE JACKSON by Rick Riordan £7.99 **£2.99**

SPEAK UP! by Richard Doyle £7.99

OH MAYA GODS! by Mia Evans £7.99

YOU GATES by Peter Bunzl £12.99 **£7.99**

The Baddies £7.99

BLUEY BARKY BOATS £6.99

Date: Monday 16th October – Thursday 19th October after school in the hall

Scan the QR code to pay online!

Uniform Swap Shop

At the same time as the book fair we will be running our uniform swap shop. Come and browse the uniform we have available and take whatever you need.

Thanks to everyone who has donated uniform too!

Reception and Nursery Open Evening – Wednesday 18th October

Our Reception and Nursery Open Evenings (for new children starting the school) is on next Wednesday, 3.30pm – 4.30pm. We've advertised this on Twitter and Facebook but please do share this far and wide – we'd love to welcome as many new families to our school community! Appointments can be booked by contacting the Office.

If anyone can't make this session, please get on touch and we'll book an alternative slot to visit us.

Year 5 and 6 Parents' Lunch – Friday 20th October

This Friday is the Parents' lunch for Year 5 and 6. A message has gone out to these parents today but please let us know if you haven't received it and we'll book you in. We can't wait to welcome you for one of our lovely Mellors lunches!

Parents' Evening

You should be receiving a booking link for Parents' Evening either today or early next week (depending on the technology working!) For learners with Special Educational needs, an additional process will be in place to make sure you have the time you need to discuss your child's Plan Do Review targets.

Diary Dates

Date	Activity	Additional information
Wednesday 18 th October	Open Event – future Nursery and Reception parents	Event Information to be shared on all platforms shortly
Friday 20 th October	Family Lunch – Year 5 and Year 6	Invitations to follow soon!
Monday 23 rd October	PTFA Annual General Meeting and Initial Meeting	From 3.30pm in school – all welcome!
Wednesday 25 th October	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 26 th October	Parents' Evening – Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5	Will run from 1-7pm after feedback from parents. Invitations to be shared shortly
w/c 30th October	Half Term Holiday	
Monday 6 th November	Training Day – school closed for pupils	
Tuesday 7 th November	Start of Autumn term 2 – all pupils back	
w/c 13 th November	Anti-Bullying Week	Activities in school throughout the week
Friday 17 th November	Children In Need Day	Own clothes day with a donation to charity
Friday 17 th November	Family Lunch – Year 1 and Year 2	Invitations to follow soon!
Monday 20 th – Wednesday 22 nd November	Year 6 Residential	Information shared this week
Friday 1 st December	Year 6 Class Assembly	
Thursday 7 th December	Christmas Fayre (TBC)	Awaiting confirmation from new PTFA
w/c 11 th December	Christmas productions (TBC)	Details to follow
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 later in the term
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 6th November – MAT Inset
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 end at 3.15pm for Key Stage 1 and 3.20pm for Key Stage 2. **Please note our new dismissal procedure which will start from Monday 11th September!**

Please note that we are going to formal consultation on changing the school day. This will be shared with you in the Autumn Term.

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 \(myuniformltd.co.uk\)](#) 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 accept 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 Winhill, 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 or email 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.