



Newsletter – 15th December 2023

Updates this week:

- Christmas Dinner (Wednesday 20th December)
- Christmas Jumper Day (Wednesday 20th December)
- End of Term, including Christmas Party afternoon Thursday 21st December)
- Toys and fidget spinners
- X (Twitter) and Facebook
- Reception Applications

Letter from Mr Gaffiney

As we enter the final week of the year, I'd like to thank all of you for your kindness and support. Winshill continues to go from strength to strength thanks to you, our wonderful children and amazing staff! This week has been particularly special, with every child sharing their talents through our Christmas events and really getting the festive season going! I have been so proud of every one of them!

The last week of term is a little calmer in terms of events, and we are looking forward to a lovely end to the year. However, this is also the time of year where people can be stressed, stretched and be overwhelmed in a number of ways. This is certainly the case for our children – this has been a really long term and they are really tired, and they're also so excited for Christmas! – and this can mean that tempers are shorter. We will do all we can in school, and if you can help us by making sure children get a good night's sleep that would be really appreciated!

It's also the case for us as adults. We absolutely appreciate the stresses of the season, but please can I remind you that we are here to help you and your children and will not tolerate any form of abuse. We have unfortunately experienced this on a couple of occasions in the last week, either directly or when it has been reported to us. If you have any concerns, please come and speak to one of us calmly and we will do all we can to help.

I wish you a wonderful week before Christmas, and look forward to sharing the festivities with the children in the coming days.

Sending very best wishes,

Mr Gaffiney

Updates

Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 20th December

We're looking forward to a delicious meal together!

Christmas Jumper Day – Wednesday 20th December

Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper instead of their school jumper on Wednesday (usual uniform to be worn other than the jumper, please.) No donation necessary!

Christmas Party Afternoon – Thursday 21st December

On Thursday, children are invited to bring in a toy or game from home to play with in the afternoon. Please don't send in anything valuable, and no phones are allowed. Children will not need party clothes, just their normal uniform.

Last and First Day of Term

A reminder that, as always, school closes at 1pm on Friday 22nd December. Monday 8th January is a training day, so school will open for children on Tuesday 9th January.

Toys and fidget spinners

We have noticed an increase in the number of soft toys, fidget spinners and other items being brought into school. From January, we politely ask that, unless agreed with the school as part of a special educational need provision, your child does not bring anything in from home. Thank you for your support.

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
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
Thursday 21 st December	Christmas Party Afternoon	Normal uniform, children allowed to bring in toys and games
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.