



Newsletter – 8th September 2023

What an amazing first week! It has been such a pleasure to welcome all of our amazing children back to school. They have settled in brilliantly, showing hard work, motivation, kindness and that incredible Winhill spirit that helps make this school such a special place!

We've also been delighted to welcome our new staff to school. Mrs Jenkins-Heron has taken over our older Nursery class and is doing an amazing job! Alongside Mrs Smith who now leads the younger class, the whole setting is buzzing with learning, kindness and enthusiasm! Mrs Wagstaff has also joined us in Year 1 and has already had a huge impact, with a calm but exciting learning environment for these incredible children. Miss Whitley has returned and we are so pleased to welcome her back, and Mr Baker has continued brilliantly as a member of our staff team!

In fact, everyone in the school has been fantastic. This is a wonderful place to learn thanks to the hard work of our amazing staff team and your support. Thank you so much – it's going to be an exceptional year!

I hope you have also heard about our new catering provider, Mellors, and their amazing team who have taken over our school dinners from this week. The quality of the food is sensational and I would wholeheartedly recommend giving the meals a try! New menus are available on the website.

We have had a couple of departures over the summer break. Mrs Potts, who worked in the kitchen and breakfast club, has left to take up a new role, and Mr Duffill has also left the school to take on a new venture. We wish them every success!

This has also meant that we have some vacancies in school. These include a Site Manager, as well as opportunities to be a lunchtime supervisor. If you are interested in either of these positions, please do get in touch!

We've communicated some changes to dismissal procedures via a letter, which will start from Monday. The letter is also on the website if you need it, and please do let us know if you have any thoughts or suggestions about the changes.

Thanks for a wonderful start to the term. It is a pleasure to work alongside this sensational community and I can't wait to share the next year with you all.

With very best wishes,

Chris Gaffiney

Headteacher

Dates for Autumn Term

More will be added through the year – we will keep you informed via letters and the website!

Date	Event
Monday 4 th September	INSET DAY – No pupils in school
Tuesday 5 th September	INSET DAY – No pupils in school
Wednesday 6 th September	Children back in school
Thursday 21 st September	PTFA Launch meeting and AGM – all invited!
Tuesday 10 th October	World Mental Health Day: Activities in school
Wednesday 25 th October	Open Day and Evening for Nursery and Reception
Mon 30th – Fri 3rd November	HALF-TERM WEEK
Monday 6 th November	INSET DAY – No pupils in school
Mon 13 th – Fri 17 th November	Anti-bullying Week: Activities in school
Tuesday 19 th December	JT MAT Carol Concert for School Choir pupils only
Mon 25 th Dec – Fri 5 th Jan	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Monday 8 th January	INSET DAY – No pupils in school

Training Days (School Closed to pupils)

Monday 4th September – School Training

Tuesday 5th September – School Training

Monday 6th November – MAT Inset

Monday 8th January – School Training

Friday 5th July – MAT Inset

Monday 22nd July – School Training

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 Winshill 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](#)

School Meals

Mellors have now taken over our catering and the food is sensational! Menus are all on our website and we encourage you to try them out!

The cost of a school meal is £2.60. This **does not apply to free school meals** for children in Reception or Key Stage 1, who will still continue to receive a school dinner free of charge, as will pupils eligible for Free School Meals.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Keep an eye out in the next two weeks – we hope to share an offer with you soon!

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 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).

Communicating with Staff

We greatly value positive, open communication with our parents. Each morning, a member of our Core Leadership Team will be available on the door to the main building, where any messages can be shared.

If you have a more complicated request, please make contact with the school office who will make an appointment for you with the most appropriate person in school.

From September, we will not be using the text messaging service to receive messages. Please call us or email win-office@win.jtmat.co.uk and we will get back to you.

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.