



Withernsea Primary School



‘ALL- Aspire and love learning’

September 2016 Newsletter

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a good Summer holiday and have returned refreshed and ready for a new school year. We welcome new staff and also new children to our school and hope that they have a happy experience with us.

Our school vision continues to be:-

**ALL –
Aspire
Love
Learning**

We hope that parents can support this ideal and support their children in their learning and hopes and dreams for the future.

We spent last summer term reviewing our curriculum and have organised lots of our learning in each year group around a ‘key question’ for each term – we will send out further information for each year group but this term’s lines of enquiry are

- Year 1 – Have our toys always been the same?
- Year 2 – Why is the sea so important to animals and humans?
- Year 3 – Who were the best - Romans or Celts?
- Year 4 – Why should we protect rainforests?
- Year 5 – What is British culture?
- Year 6 – Would there have been a World War 2 if Adolf Hitler had not existed?

We hope it makes learning more meaningful and relevant for our children. Much of our work will focus on these big questions but there will be smaller fortnightly lines of enquiry that build up over the term.

A Fresh approach to spellings

One of the key areas we are focusing on this academic year is improving children's spelling. KS1 will continue to have phonics lessons and learn words relating to the phonics sounds – we will still send these words home so parents are aware which sounds the children are learning each week. However, as they get older and move to different spellings we will trial a different approach as we have found weekly spelling tests have not improved our children's spelling ability overall. They often seem to learn words for the test and then spell them wrong in their work or forget those spellings a couple of weeks later. We will send home a sheet of spellings (from the government's national curriculum), that pupils are expected to know for their year group - we suggest your child selects a few and practices them at home, really focusing on the words they can't spell. In school we are having a much greater emphasis on spelling accuracy with more work around spelling rules, games around words and different spelling approaches. We will take feedback in our parent and pupil questionnaire and see if this approach can help improve spelling accuracy throughout their work.



Behaviour/Attitudes to learning

One of our pilot projects last year was around rewarding Dojo points to children for good attitudes to learning and also using these as sanctions. Year 6 used this system; parents could also see what rewards and sanctions their child received. It proved popular with very positive feedback from both parents and children so we are now rolling it out across KS1 and KS2. You will receive a letter from your child's class teacher explaining how it works and how you can log on for this immediate communication next week. We hope you find it useful and again we will ask for feedback in our autumn questionnaires.



School Attendance

School attendance is extremely important. Days off mean learning opportunities are lost and we can never have that time back again. We work hard in school to promote good attendance and reward good and excellent attendance.

Persistent attendance classification is any attendance below 90%. Attendance below 90% means children will have missed nearly 4 weeks off in a school year. It is really important that children do not fall below the 90%. Last year we had 51 children who were persistently absent and had attendance below 90%, so this is clearly an area we need to improve upon and we need parents/carers help to do this.

If you have any queries or problems regarding attendance do come and talk to Mrs Heath or Miss Leech so we can work together. If a child is clearly unwell and needs to stay off just let us know - if they have a minor complaint and you are uncertain please bring them to school – we can always contact you if they become worse but its best to try and come wherever possible!

We no longer have the statutory powers to authorise holidays. Exceptional Circumstances forms are available from the school office in the South building.

Premises updates

We strive to provide high quality learning for all our children and constantly try to make improvements to our environment. We are really proud of how the school looks and work hard to maintain this. We have continued our painting programme and some classrooms in the North building have new carpets. A huge thank you to our Premises manager and Caretaker as they have been busy building enhancements for the classrooms to support learning including - boats, castles and Roman forts!

South building – rebuild or refurbish?

This has been scheduled for 2019/20 so we have nothing to report until we get nearer to this date.

Erasmus

Many parents may well remember from previous newsletters work we have done with partner schools from around Europe as part of a Comenius project. These funded projects are now called Erasmus and Mrs Wright has been successful in having a new European project funded for Withernsea Primary School so we can work with several schools from around Europe. We will get the chance to visit other schools and look at their approach to teaching and learning and they will also visit us. The project is called 'Learning beyond the classroom walls' and will look at how learning can be developed outside in more creative ways. We will work with schools from Belgium, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Tenerife, Italy and Romania and share good practice. We hope to host teachers from our partner schools for the first time later this term. Children will be involved in the project sharing work and experiences and also developing communication with children from other cultures and backgrounds. As it is European money that funds these projects, we feel fortunate to have our project accepted and it will be the last opportunity to work in this way as Brexit may well mean we will not be able to access European money for this again! We will share updates regularly.

Out of School Child Care

We have a newly opened Kids club for before school care from 7.45 – 8.45 am and after school care 3.20 to 5.45 pm. This does need to be financially viable and run independently of the school budget. We have opened this for September to October half term to see if there is a need and to support our parents. However, if parents do not wish to use it and it is not viable it will close at the October half term. If parents wish to book places please contact the main school office to complete relevant paperwork and book the sessions you require. It is open to F2 children and upwards. If parents want and need this facility we do need you to use it!

For parents who have already booked places it is crucial you ensure we have up-to-date contact information. A current email address is important as this will be the main method of communication regarding payments.



Dropping off and picking children up

Foundation children, Year 1 and Year 2 children must be collected from school by an adult or a person 16 years and over.

If parents have children in both buildings, the oldest child should be dropped off and collected first. Y1 and Foundation Stage teachers are aware of these arrangements; we will keep children until parents arrive – thank you.

Year 1 and Year 2 teachers request that they bring children out and check they are handed over to an adult – please be patient as this takes a couple of minutes but we want to keep them safe.

Year 3 upwards – as they are a bit older they come out of their nearest pupil entrance - please make your end of day expectations clear to your child/ren so they know who is meeting them and where to meet them. We tell children to report to the staff on duty on the playground or return to their teacher if whoever is meeting them is not where they expect them to be.

Healthy Schools Page

School dinners

Menus have gone out for the start of term. You can order dinners on a daily basis; please ensure they are paid for each day. The cost of school meals are £2.10 per day / £10.50 per week. (Please make cheques payable to Withernsea Primary School) – thank you.



Site regulations

To support Health and Safety and keeping children safe, parents are reminded the school is a no smoking site (this includes e cigarettes); also please do not bring dogs, (except guide dogs), or other animals on to the school site – thank you for helping with this.



Water bottles

We have cooled water for children available all day. Y3 – Y6 children are able to purchase water bottles from the school at a cost of 30p, or if they prefer they can bring one from home. Foundation Stage – Y2; class teachers make provision for the children.

Please, no other liquids – just water.



‘Good Diabetes Care in School’ award

Towards the end of last term, we were notified that Withernsea Primary School were awarded the ‘Good Diabetes Care in School’ award in recognition of the school’s commitment to providing appropriate care and support to children with Type 1 diabetes, ensuring the children with Type 1 diabetes are not held back from reaching their potential because of their condition. The school received a framed certificate and trophy to display.

Headlice reminder

Back to school usually means headlice return as well. If all parents are vigilant and adopt our ‘Once a week - take a peek’ and treat as necessary, it helps keeps this problem down to a minimum. However in order to be effective, **everyone** needs to do this.

Please ensure one night each week you have a look and a check so we avoid getting lots of headlice problems.



Staff updates

We welcome Mr Welbourn and Miss Brown as new teachers to our school; we also welcome Mrs Weekes to our Finance and Administration team. We welcome Miss Bennett, Mrs Allen, Ms Crick and Miss Hanlon to our learning support team. We are delighted to welcome them all to Withernsea Primary School and hope everyone makes them feel very welcome.

We are also working as partners to the Wolds Teaching School Alliance and Hull University and have a School Direct teaching placement student – Miss Holtby.

Miss Holtby will be with us for the academic year 2016 - 2017 and we hope she has an excellent experience at our Primary School.



Pokemon Go

Pokemon Go is a game where you collect and trade cute creatures called Pokemon (Pocket Monsters). It is one of the first popular games to use 'augmented reality' – a kind of cross between real life and an online world. The game makes it look like Pokemon appear in real life places by using the GPS and camera on your phone.

Although there are a lot of positive things about the game, the NSPCC highlight the following risks that parents/carers and children/young people need to be aware of:

- Meeting people you don't know face to face. The game is designed to bring people together – usually strangers.
- There is a physical risk. It is easy to forget to look where you are going with this game. There are already stories of people being lured to places that are not safe for children.
- It can cost a lot of money. There are in-app purchases and other incentives.
- Access to personal information such as your child's date of birth and email address.

The NSPCC's top tips for staying safe are:

- Explore together
- Set some ground rules
- Turn off in-app purchasing
- Protect your child's personal data.

For more information, visit the NSPCC website – [NSPCC – Pokemon Go Parent's Guide](#)

STAY SAFE

Internet safety

We teach the children how to use the internet safely. However, it is good to work together so we have included the internet safety rules that you could discuss with your child and also keep near the home computer so children get a consistent message about internet safety.

My internet safety rules



We all have the right to feel safe all the time - and that includes when we are in cyberspace. Just listen to my friends for some sensible advice...



I will not tell anyone things such as my address/telephone number, parents' work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents' or guardians' permission.



I will tell a trusted adult right away if I come across anything that makes me feel uncomfortable.



I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents. If my parents agree, I will be sure that it is in a public place and bring my mother or father or guardian along.



I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents or guardian.



I will not respond to any messages that are mean or make me feel uncomfortable. If I receive a message like that, I will tell my parents or guardian right away so that they can contact the online service.



I will talk with my parents or guardian so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not break these rules or access other areas without their permission.



I will not download anything from anyone I don't know.

missdorothy.com

www.missdorothy.com



Keeping children safe

At our school we recognise that your child is our responsibility and concern.

We want to work in partnership with you and discuss with you any concerns we may have, or that you may have. It is a priority to inform and involve you at every stage in your child's time at the school.

Since the first priority is your child's welfare, there may be rare occasions when our concern about your child means that we have to consult other agencies even before we contact you. The East Riding Safeguarding Children Board has laid down the procedures we follow, and the school has adopted a Child Protection Policy in line with this for the safety of all.

If you want to know more about our procedures, or the policy, please contact Mrs Heath, Home-School Liaison.

Mr Sutherland is the designated Child Protection Co-ordinator.

Mrs Harper is the Deputy Child Protection Co-ordinator.

Mrs Medlicott is Safeguarding Support

Mrs V Taylor is the named Governor for Child Protection.

Keeping children safe is all our responsibility. If parents have their own concerns or concerns outside school they need to telephone the East Riding Council switchboard who will then pass them on to trained advisors who can listen to their concerns and provide appropriate advice and/or action.

Forthcoming dates for your diary

Individual school photographs – Tuesday 13 September

Parents' Evenings - 27 and 29 September - (More details to follow)

Term Dates – Academic Year 2016/2017

Autumn Term 2016

School closed on Friday 7 October – Training day (Before & After school clubs closed)

Close for half term - Friday 21 October

Re-open - Monday 31 October

Close - Friday 16 December at **2.20 pm**

Spring Term 2017

Re-open – Wednesday 4 January

Close for half term – Friday 17 February

Re-open Monday 27 February

Close Friday 7 April at **2.20 pm**

Please note the school will be closed in the afternoon to F1 (pm) children on Friday 7 April.



Summer Term 2017

Open - Tuesday 25 April

Close for May Day - Monday 1 May

Close for half term - Friday 26 May

Re-open - Monday 5 June

Close - Tuesday 25 July at **2.20 pm**

Please note the school will be closed in the afternoon to F1 (pm) children on Tuesday 25 July.

Blogs

You can now follow our main blog updates via twitter. Just search for @wps_academy or Withernsea Primary. We will put children's work on our year group blogs please look at what they have been doing and enjoy their work.

Main school blog - <http://withernseaprimarblog.blogspot.com/>

Foundation stage blog –
<http://wpsfoundationblog.blogspot.com>

Year 1 blog - <http://wpsyear1blog.blogspot.com/>

Year 2 blog - <http://wpsyear2blog.blogspot.com/>

Year 3 blog - <http://wpsyear3blog.blogspot.com/>

Year 4 blog - <http://wpsyear4blog.blogspot.com/>

Year 5 blog - <http://wpsyear5blog.blogspot.com/>

Year 6 blog – <http://wpsyear6blog.blogspot.com/>

