

Winhills Primary Academy

Part of The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust
Established in the Queen's Jubilee Year 2012

Off Duck Lane, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 2DX
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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Susannah Connell BSc MA (Ed Mgt) NPQH

September 2014

Head of School: Mrs Diane Mitchell BA Ed (Hons)

Dear Parents

I hope you all enjoyed the summer break and are ready for the routine of school again. We have started the new school year with creative weeks. Many fun, learning activities have been planned across the school so that the children can get used to their new class, get to know their class teacher and start their new topics.

This week has been exceptionally busy with gymnastics, singing, drumming, visits to museums, street dance, zumba and games. Years 2, 3 and 4 had a fabulous day yesterday learning all about their new topic, 'The Tudors'. The children did sewing, candle making, soap making and made bookmarks. The children finished the day with a banquet, looked fantastic in their costumes and were very well behaved.

Over the last year the number of children starting at Winhills has increased and we have an extra Reception and Year 1 class. Class names have been given to all classes this year. As you know, we aspire to be Diamond learners showing exemplary behaviour and learning. We wanted to keep to the precious gems theme and have therefore named our classes after stones.

Class Names

- Little Gems is our preschool for 2 to 3 year olds which is managed by Mrs Keech
- Gems Nursery class is taught by Mrs Hawkings. Please use the Brampton Gardens entrance for dropping off your child and picking up as other school gates will be locked by 8:55am
- Topaz Class is Reception and is taught by Mrs Fitzsimmons
- Opal Class is Reception/Year 1 and is taught by Miss Knox and Mrs Pearce
- Emerald Class is Year 1 and is taught by Mrs Barnes
- Sunstone Class is Year 2 and is taught by Miss Holloway
- Moonstone Class is Year 3 and is taught by Miss Brock
- Amethyst Class is Year 4 and is taught by Miss Larbey
- Turquoise Class is Year 5 and is taught by Mrs Rimmer
- Quartz Class is Year 6 and is taught by Miss Smith and Mrs Wright

The school website will show the new class names soon and will show updates from your child's teacher regularly.

Attendance

We have been concentrating on improving the children's attendance over the past year as historically the school has always been lower than the national average of 95.2%. The average attendance for Winhills last academic year was 94.76% so we still have a little way to go but with your support we can make these improvements. It is so important for the children to be here everyday so they are not missing out on valuable learning time.

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We will continue to provide a tea party to celebrate those children with 100% for each term. The party for the Summer Term again had to be done in two stages as we had 55 children who had achieved 100% attendance. I hope that we will have even more children for the end of this Autumn term.

Lates

We have noticed that a few of our children are often late to school. As you know, punctuality is an important life skill for everyone and it starts here at school. Children must be in their classrooms and ready to learn by 8.55am. Any child coming in late will miss important notices, early bird work and phonics which all start at that time. Late arrival can also disrupt other children's learning and can cause embarrassment – imagine how you would feel arriving late when everyone is ready and waiting. So please make sure that your child is on time.

Term time holidays

Following Government Guidance, we as a Trust do not authorise leave during term time unless there are extra ordinary circumstances, which are judged on an individual basis. As a result of this we will apply to the Local Authority for a penalty notice if you take a child out of school for any unauthorised leave of more than 5 days.

Friends of Winhills School Association

Friends of Winhills School Association meet regularly, the next meeting of Friends of Winhills School Association will be on Wednesday 17th September at 6.00pm for approx 1 hour. All are welcome to attend and support our hardworking committee.

School Photos

Date for your diaries

- Friday 3rd October individual and family groups

School Uniform

Children need to have their PE kit and a pair of wellies in school at all times.

As a reminder, the standard uniform consists of:

- White or blue polo shirts (plain)
- Grey trousers/skirt/pinafore with the length of skirt to be no shorter than just above the knee
- Grey or white socks, royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan (available from school with the school emblem)
- Royal blue pullover or cardigan.
- **Black footwear, shoes (not trainers)**

Hair – all long hair to be tied back, so that your child's vision is not impaired. Girls and boys may wear gel, ponytails or hair bands, but no extreme fashion hairstyles please. **Please name every item of your child's school uniform.**

PE Kit

The children need a plain white t-shirt and plain blue/navy or black shorts. Please avoid strappy tops for the girls.

If your child comes to school without the appropriate items or kit a letter will be sent home with them indicating the missing item or appropriate school wear.

Uniform points will not be given out to pupils if they do not have the correct kit. If children do not gain enough points over the term they will need to come to school in their uniform on reward day.

School Dinners

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school dinner from September.

The cost of a meal at school for children in Year 3, 4 5 & 6 is £2.15 and for children in Nursery the cost is £1.90 per child from September. Adult meals are charged at £3.00 per adult. Payment can now be made online. Your child should have come home with a letter regarding online payments, however, if this has not been received or you need help with setting this up please contact the office. You may order lunches on a daily basis but according to Local Authority's policy, all school lunches must be paid for in advance or on the day taken. School is not allowed to give more than one day's credit per child. As you know, any parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle can book to have a dinner with a child in the school any day of the week but we do require at least one day's notice where possible.

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2014

3 rd September	Staff Training Day
4 th September	Term Starts
27 th – 31 st October	Half Term
3 rd November	Staff Training Day
19 th December	Term ends

Spring Term 2015

5 th and 6 th January	Staff Training Days
7 th January	Term Starts
16 th – 20 th February	Half Term
27 th March	Term ends

Summer Term 2015

13 th April	Term Starts
4 th May	May Day Holiday
25 th – 29 th May	Half Term
1 st June	Staff Training
22 nd July	Term Ends

Yours sincerely



Mrs Diane Mitchell
Head of School
On behalf of Winhills Primary Academy (part of TDLPT)

We welcome any comments you may have below:

To: Mrs Diane Mitchell, Head of School, Winhills Primary Academy, Off Duck Lane, St Neots, PE19 2DX

Child's name:

Comment: