

Winhills Primary Academy Newsletter

DECEMBER 2016

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

Happy New Year 2017!

Dear Families, Colleagues and Friends,

Happy New Year 2017!

I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas Holiday.

Welcome to the Spring Term 2017, another busy term is planned which will engage, enthuse and inspire our students to be the best they can be. With a positive, determined approach to both their schoolwork and homework, coupled with a joyful spirit and respectful nature, Winhills' students can, and will, succeed. The staff and I look forward to working with you and your child(ren) throughout the term, and to celebrating their progress and achievements.

Who are we? **We are Winhills.**

What are we? **We are wonderful.**

Thank you for joining us at the various year group Christmas activities which included:

The Nursery student's 'Christmas Stay and Make' sessions; the Key Stage 1 Nativity Play and the Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert. They were all superb. During the performances a sense of pride prevailed, the students and staff worked hard to prepare for the events and the many positive comments made by families as they departed were all kindly received.

This term we shall continue to focus on Winhills Primary Academy School's aim:

To enable every child to reach their potential in an environment that fosters learning, respect, responsibility, laughter and friendship.

We shall continue to inform you of diary dates, events, developments, achievements and successes in letters and flyers (which we shall endeavour to send home on Fridays, unless there is a pertinent need to send one on a different day), in the fortnightly year group newsletters, on Facebook, on the school website and in the Head of School's monthly newsletter.

I wish you all a great weekend and hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. I look forward to seeing you both at school and within the local community, and to welcoming you to forthcoming events.

Kindest regards,

Susan Jaques
Head of School

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Christmas Events

On Christmas Eve 2016, a selection of Christmas production photos and articles were published in the Hunts Post newspaper. We are delighted to inform you that Winhills Primary Academy School was featured, along with several other schools in the region. Congratulations Winhills, we look forward to reading many more articles about your achievements and successes.

Reception

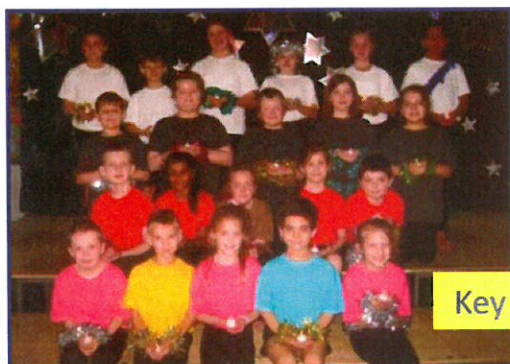


At Winhills Primary Academy, the Reception classes performed 'The Perfect Nativity'. They created their own beginning in the style of the classic children's book 'Funny Bones'.

Key Stage 1



The Key Stage One student's performance of 'Shine Star Shine' was fantastic. The students learnt their lines and their songs really well.



Key Stage 2

The students in Key Stage Two performed dances, readings and carols during their concert, 'Christmas by Candlelight'. Particular highlights included the song 'Rudolf the Red-nosed Reindeer' which the students sang in French, some impressive street dancing and a grand finale which involved all 120 students on stage singing 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'.

Reward Day and Carol Service

On Monday 19th December, the students enjoyed Reward Day. The Reception and Key Stage 1 students loved the magic show. The Key Stage 2 students thought their reward was a trip to the museum but actually they had a special treat — a trip to Cineworld to watch The BFG, complete with grazing snack boxes and drinks.

On the final day of term, Tuesday 20th December, the Key Stage 2 (KS2) students and staff walked to St. Mary's church for a carol service. They were joined by the KS2 students from the other schools in the Trust.

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Attendance and Punctuality

Did you know that 90% attendance is the same as missing a day per fortnight?

Winhills Primary Academy gives high priority to improving attendance and punctuality. It has come to our attention that many of our children are regularly missing school which is having an impact on their academic achievement as well as their friendship groups and confidence. I am sure that you will agree that your children deserve the best education for a good start to their life. Together, we can give that to them.

The expected average attendance for primary schools is 96.1%. The current attendance here at Winhills is currently 95.59% which is 0.5% below where it should be. We are aware that this is the time of year for coughs and colds but we are trying to encourage resilience in our students by asking them to come into school when they are a bit under the weather, as often being in school and taking part in the different activities can usually be a great distraction.

We understand that everyone is genuinely ill at some point and this may lead students to miss a day or two of school, which is permissible, but that should be a rare occurrence and not the norm.

Please may I remind you that if your child is absent for any reason you should call or visit the school office, first thing in the morning, to explain the reason for your child's absence.

Sarah Horn (Executive Attendance Lead)

School Council

This term, each class elected new school councillors. They voted for the children whom they thought would best represent their views about our school. The voting process helped the children learn about democracy. In the first round of votes, four nominees from each class were selected. Each candidate was asked to produce a short presentation explaining what they thought the qualities of a good councillor included, as well as detailing any ideas they had for ways in which to help improve our school. The presentations helped each class decide who would be best-suited to be chosen as their councillor. The final vote saw two councillors elected per class.

Since the elections, the councillors have met periodically with Miss Grisby to discuss their roles and expectations. So far, the school councilors have taken on the responsibility of collecting the recycling materials and they have started to canvass classes about how we might work together as a school to save water and electricity, from the spring term 2017 onwards. The school councillors will also be in charge of ordering new playground equipment and demonstrating safe use of the resources purchased. Over the next academic year, the school councillors are planning to involve the school in raising money for charity and they are keen to gather the views of their classmates about ways to further develop our school in order to make it an even better place for engaging learning activities and events to take place.

Miss Grisby (Deputy Head Teacher)

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Gardening Projects within the Locality

This academic year, Year 3 and Year 4 students will be taking trips out of school into the local community to help with small gardening projects. We are currently working on obtaining our Level 5 award for the Royal Horticultural Society and one way we can achieve this is by passing on our gardening skills to the wider community.

The first project commenced on Tuesday 6th December 2016. Eight students, accompanied by Miss Scott and Mrs Wood, thoroughly enjoyed practising their gardening skills at Sudbury Meadow, a small conservation site in Eaton Ford, St. Neots.

Different groups of students will participate in various projects throughout the Spring and Summer Terms 2017. We look forward to hearing about their outings and to seeing the fruits of their labour.

Miss Scott (Year 4 teacher and Outdoor Learning Lead)

Miss Brock (Year 3 teacher and Arts / DT Coordinator)

Online Safety

During the spring and summer terms we shall continue to discuss online safety and ways in which we can keep ourselves safe. When used appropriately and with respect for ourselves and others, the internet can supply interesting information and facts which aid research for homework tasks, answers to school-based topics and fun ways in which to learn, for example, Maths-Whizz and Accelerated Reader.

In January, in addition to class discussions and activities, we shall welcome our local police community support officer (PCSO) and the school liaison officer to Winhills. They will meet with the students and staff and conduct workshops regarding online safety, websites, social media and responsibility. Later in the term, a representative from The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) will be invited to talk to the students about online safety.

Websites such as the following provide information, guidance and tips (including numerous resources and downloadable leaflets, available in various languages) about how to keep your child(ren) safe online:

<http://www.ccc-esafety.org.uk/website/parents>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk>

<http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

Together, we shall help to keep your child(ren) healthy, happy and safe online.

Parking Safely

THANK YOU to all families, colleagues and friends who drive and park with safety at the forefront of their minds, and with respect for the local residents. Your responsible attitudes and actions help to keep our students safe and our school well-renowned within community.

I should like to politely remind all that the school car park is not a designated drop off zone, nor a pick up point. Vehicles should be safely parked outside of the school grounds. Vehicles should not be parked in front of the school gates. Clear access at all times is paramount for the safety of our students.

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Achievements and Awards

Many congratulations to all students who have received stickers, badges and awards so far this term, both inside and outside of school. Throughout the last few months, I have delighted in congratulating many students for their positive attitudes, behaviours and enthusiasm shown towards their studies, clubs and interactions.

Well done to all; participation, perseverance, pride and positive attitudes will continue to prevail.

Achievements and Awards Received:

Achievement Awards: James, Bethany Dennis, Olivia, Joshua, Tayla, Lilly, Hollie-Grace, Huw, Carmen, Caden, Santhosh Liam.

Winhills RRR Reward: Summer and Mia
(Respectful, Responsible, Reliable)

Winhills Achievement Cup: Cameron and Emily

Winhills Arts Award: Keira and Lacey Rose

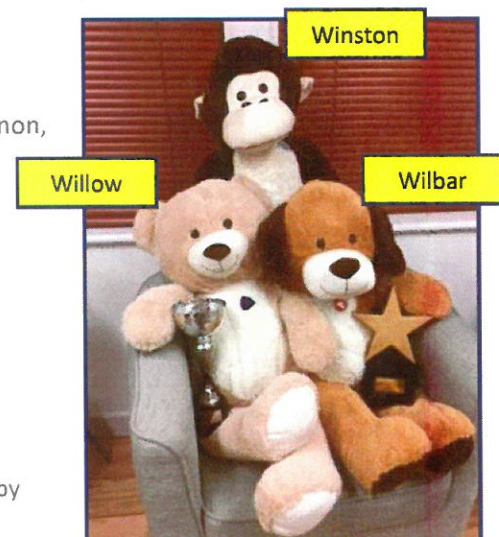
Accelerated Reading Awards: Joshua, Kieron, Samuel, Elif, Ella, Cayden, Chloe, Frederick, Ines, Shannon, Maisie, Jack.

Reading Millionaires Awards: Jack and Ines

Christmas Tree Decoration Competition Winners:
Jack, Kitty, Tulah, Elliot, Jacob, Scarlet, Sara, Chloe and Bobby

The Naming of Winhills' Award Mascots

With pleasure, I should like to introduce you to:



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The School Sports Organising Crew (SSOC)

The School Sports Organising Crew (SSOC) is a group of enthusiastic Year 6 students who will develop their leadership roles by supporting and encouraging physical activity throughout the school. The SSOC is highly focussed on pupil voice which means students can share their ideas and work together to improve the sporting activities across the school. The aims of the SSOC are to encourage students to participate in school sports, to help organise school competitions and sports days, to organise PE equipment and have control over sporting media. The SSOC have already begun to encourage KS1 students to take part in sporting events at lunchtime by leading and officiating games, and they are beginning to develop the media to introduce and promote the SSOC. Throughout the year, we hope to lead a rich PE curriculum where all students have an opportunity to take part in a wide range of physical activity and sport.

Miss Wanless (Year 1 and Year 2 class and PE coordinator)

Winhills Needs You

I should like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to parents and carers who have already expressed an interest in volunteering, a member of staff will be in contact with you soon in order to make the necessary arrangements.

If you would like to visit school during the spring term to talk to / work with a small group of students about your work or interests, please complete Sections 1, 2 and 3 on page 9 of this newsletter. In the comments section, write what you would like to talk about / share with the students. At Winhills, we love to celebrate the skills, interests, abilities, joys and accomplishments of all within our school community.

For example: Teach a small group of pupils how to knit / crochet / sew; help create a garden in one of the raised beds around the school site; paint and / or create a mural on a wall (indoors / outdoors); read a story; talk about how you help people, or play a musical instrument / sport / board game, etc.

We look forward to hearing from you, and to making arrangements in the near future. Thank you.

Links with the Local Community

It was with great pride and pleasure that I received a letter from Tesco's Community Champion at the end of the Autumn Term.

Mr. Williams-Gick stated, '...how much of a pleasure it was to have your school in. Their behaviour was excellent and they are a credit to the school'. The letter was sent following the Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 'From Farm to Fork' visits to the Tesco Express store, St. Neots, which were enjoyed during the Autumn Term 2016. Mr. Williams-Gick also thanked all of the students for sending beautifully handwritten thank you letters.

In his letter, Mr. Williams-Gick also thanked Winhills' families for the kind donations and Christmas cards sent for the 'Little Boxes' Tesco Christmas project. All boxes and cards were gratefully received by local elderly residents.

Congratulations to all Winhills' students and staff - keep up the high standards of conduct, kindness and behaviour.

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Winhills' PTA Christmas Fair



The Winhills PTA Christmas Fair was a HUGE success.

It was fabulous to welcome so many families and friends to join us in the festivities throughout the afternoon on Thursday 1st December 2016. Activities and stalls included: decorating Christmas tree baubles, tombola and raffle stalls, decorating biscuits, face painting, hair braiding, handmade crafts stall, refreshments, snowball pitch, lollipop lucky dip, Christmas bran tub and Santa's Grotto.

I should like to thank the PTA, staff, parents and helpers who organised the fabulously festive event. Thank you to all who visited, you made the occasion truly joyful and memorable.

Christmas Lights

On Thursday 1st December, we invited Mrs. Connell (Lead Executive Headteacher and Chief Executive Officer, The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust) to help us wish on Winhills' Christmas lights in the main hall. There was much laughter, many smiles and lots of glitter to mark the occasion. Thank you to all the students who made Christmas tree decorations at home. It was a pleasure looking at them all as each child carefully positioned their fabulous festive creation on the Christmas tree.

Afterwards, Miss Jaques and the Early Years Foundation Stage students and staff wished on the Christmas tree lights in the small hall. After much wishing and a sprinkling of fairy dust and the lights came on. 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' was sung sweetly as the students placed their beautiful homemade decorations on the Christmas tree.

Christmas Lunch

On Thursday 15th December, the students and staff enjoyed a scrumptious Christmas lunch together. Christmas music filled the air with festive cheer as the staff served the Christmas lunch to the students. Thank you to Winhills' PTA for providing crackers for all of the students, they thoroughly enjoyed wearing the Christmas hats, reading the jokes and playing with their cracker prizes. Thank you to all staff who helped to serve and make the lunch time memorable.

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Diary Dates

The calendar may also be accessed via the school website at:
<http://www.winhills-cambs.co.uk/diary/list/>

<u>January 2017</u>	
Wednesday 4th January	First Day of the Spring Term 2017
Monday 9th January	First day for the new Nursery intake (2 year olds), January 2017 Year 1 and Year 2: Castles Day (History Off the Page)
Thursday 19th January	DLPT Year 6: 'Young Voices' at the O2, London

<u>February 2017</u>	
Friday 10th February	Last Day of Spring Term 1
Monday 13th February — Friday 17th February	Half Term
Monday 20th February	First Day of Spring Term 2

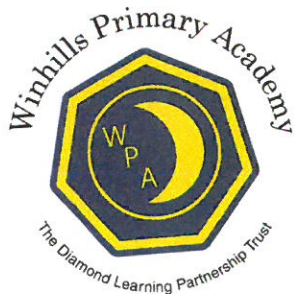
<u>March 2017</u>	
Wednesday 8th March	SEND Parents' Evening 3.30pm — 6.00pm
Wednesday 15th March	Parents' Evening 3.30pm — 7.00pm
Thursday 16th March	Parents' Evening 3.30pm — 6.00pm
Friday 17th March	'The Jungle Book' workshop and performance for students and staff (pm)
Friday 31st March	Last Day of the Spring Term 2017 Spring Term Reward Day Reports to Parents / Carers

<u>April 2017</u>	
Tuesday 18th April	First Day of the Summer Term 2017

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Contact Details

You are always welcome to visit school or meet with me, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

Executive Headteacher: Mrs. S. Connell

Head of School: Miss. S. Jaques

Winhills Primary Academy School

Off Duck Lane,

St. Neots

Cambridgeshire

PE19 2DX

Telephone: (01480) 211626

Fax: 01480 479869

Email: office@winhills.cambs.sch.uk



Challenge Your Child



English:

Happy New Year!

Use the letters in the phrase above (Happy New Year!), to write as many words as you can.

For example: wear, pan, paper, etc.

You may only use each letter once per word, unless there are two of the same letters to begin with (e.g. 'a', 'e' and 'p').

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Make a Positive Comment or Suggestion and / or Get Involved as a Volunteer

If you wish to make a positive comment / suggestion, please complete section 1 and section 2 below, then return this page to: Miss Jaques, Head of School, Winhills Primary Academy, Off Duck Lane, St. Neots, PE19 2DX
Thank you for those already received.

Section 1:

Name: _____ Phone No: _____

Email: _____

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Section 2:

Positive comment / suggestion: _____

Get Involved as a Volunteer:

If you are interested in helping, please complete section 1 above and section 3 below, then return this page to: Miss Jaques, Head of School, Winhills Primary Academy, Off Duck Lane, St. Neots, PE19 2DX

Section 3:

There is a requirement for schools to carry out a Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check for all staff and volunteers who have regular contact with students. All schools need to hold a register of the checks undertaken. In order for you to work in school as a volunteer, you will need to complete a DBS form. Please be assured that all information will be treated in the strictest confidence and that these checks are done only in the best interests and safety of our students.

Further information about volunteering within a school setting will be shared in the next few weeks.

☐ I would love to help; I would happily attend a meeting about volunteering within a school setting and complete a DBS form.

☐ Please tick both circles to confirm you have read and accept the information above.

Thank you

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