

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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C.E.O Mrs Susannah Connell BSc MA (Ed Mgt) NPQH
Headteacher: Mrs Roxanne d'Arcy BA (Hons)

4th September 2024

Dear parent and carers,

Welcome Back to the Start of a New School Year.

I hope you and your family had a wonderful summer break! As we begin this new academic year, I am excited to welcome you and your children back to Winhills Primary Academy.

The school day starts at 8:40am with the gates closing and registration happening at 8.50am, the end of the school day is 3:20pm and gates will be opened 5/10 minutes earlier.

The Nursery gates will open at 9:00am and the end of the Nursery school day will be 3pm, we are aware that you may drop the children off slightly earlier to help with the school run.

School Uniform

Please ensure that your children come to school in the correct uniform, including appropriate shoes and bags. You can find our [uniform policy on the school website] or request a printed copy from the school office.

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. Children may wear gel, ponytails, or hair bands, but no extreme fashion hairstyles please. **Please name every item of your child's school uniform.**

It is The Diamond Learning Partnership Trusts policy that earrings must not be worn for PE, and your child must be able to remove them if they wear them to school on PE days. Earrings should be small studs.

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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 be given out to children if they do not have the correct kit or have a missing uniform item. If children gain 5 or more points over the term, they will need to come to school in their uniform on reward day.

Staffing Updates

We are delighted to introduce some new staff members who have joined our team:

- Paul Thorn - Our new caretaker. Paul brings a wealth of experience in maintenance and is dedicated to ensuring our school environment is safe and well-maintained for all our children and staff.
- Laura Sharpe - One of our new midday supervisors. Laura is part of our PTA and enthusiastic about supporting our children during their lunchtime break, ensuring they have a positive and enjoyable experience.
- Hazel Chalkley - Another new midday supervisor. Hazel shares Laura's commitment and is eager to contribute to the wellbeing and happiness of our pupils during lunchtime.
- Becky Cox- A new Teaching Assistant working within Nursery and Reception. Becky has years of experience working within the Early Years setting in other local schools. Her experience and expertise will be welcomed.

I would also like to inform you that Helen Spencer, our Teaching Assistant for Year 3/4, will be leaving Winhills Primary Academy at the end of this month. Mrs Spencer has been a valued member of our team, and we are grateful for her dedication and hard work.

Mr. Nelson will be stepping in as the interim SENDCO during Mrs. Myers' maternity leave, which will commence in October. Mrs. Booler has returned after her wedding over the summer. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to her on her marriage; she was a stunning bride! We have some wonderful news to share with you: Mrs. Smith is expecting her second baby in February. We wish her all the best during this special 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 3 days.

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2024

Tuesday 3 rd September	Training Day
Wednesday 4 th September	Autumn Term Starts
Monday 28 th – Friday 1 st November	October Half Term
Monday 4 th November	Training Day
Tuesday 5 th November	Autumn Term continues
Friday 20 th December	Term Ends
Monday 23 rd December – Friday 3 rd January	Christmas Holidays

All dates are on the website under the calendar section: <http://www.winhills-cambs.co.uk/diary/list/>

Breakfast and Afterschool Club

Please can I remind you that all bookings and cancellations should be made via the Breakfast and Afterschool Club email address: BAASC@winhills.cambs.sch.uk. 24 hours' notice must be given if your child cannot attend a session to avoid being charged. Breakfast is between 7.30am and 8.30am. Please let the staff know if your child has not had breakfast at home. Children attending after school club sessions from 4.30pm onwards will be provided with tea. Please speak to staff if you wish to see the menu.

School Lunches

The cost of a meal at school for children in Year 3, 4 5 & 6 is £2.60, meals for nursery children are £2.41. **Payment can now be made online**, please ask the office staff for more information. You may order lunches daily 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.**

The voucher scheme is in place for those entitled to Free School Meals. This does not include Universal Free School Meals (All Reception and KS1 children). Some parents in KS1 and Reception will still get these though as they are entitled to it.

Some parents may have one child that is getting it and another who is not. This will be because your circumstances may have changed.

If you are unsure and think you may be entitled, please look at the following website:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>.

Please can I also remind you that we are a Nut Free school, please do not send your child in with any nut or snacks that may contain nuts, e.g. cereal bars, chocolate bars, chocolate spreads. There are several children in our school with severe allergies, therefore it is essential we adhere to this rule throughout the school.

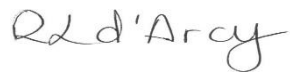
At Winhills Primary Academy, we always strive to "Work hard and be the best we can be." We encourage all our children to embody this motto in their daily activities and learning.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Once again, welcome back! We are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead filled with learning, growth, and exciting opportunities.

Warm regards,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R d'Arcy'.

Mrs Roxanne d'Arcy

Headteacher

On behalf of Winhills Primary Academy (Part of the DLPT)