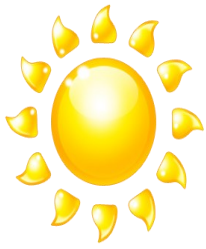


**DATE**  
**July 2023**



**Dates for your Diary.....**

Our INSET days for the new academic year are as follows: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024  
School will also be closed on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May as Dudley have directed our school building to be used for voting in the Local elections.

October Half Term - 30th October - 3rd November  
Christmas - 22nd December (last day of term) - 5th January  
February Half Term - 12th February - 16th February  
Easter - 22nd March - 5th April  
6th May - Bank Holiday  
Whitsun - 27th May– 31st May

WITHYMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

# School Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the summer holidays, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you have given school over the last year. It has been the first academic year, for what seems like ages, that Covid hasn't impacted schools, and it is amazing to think that for many pupils – not just Reception children - this year is the first full year that they have experienced at school.

Our children work so hard and are so resilient. It was wonderful to read their reports – I hope you are as impressed as I am with their achievements and attitudes to learning. I would also like to thank our amazing team of staff who work so hard to support our pupils.

**September**

For those pupils who will be returning to Withymoor in September, we look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September (Years 1 – 6). New Reception children will have a 'staggered start'.

Please have a look at our school website for Powerpoints that contain information about your child's new year group. These can be found in <https://withymoor-primary-school.secure-primariesite.net/transition-powerpoints-and-year-group-expectations/>

**Uniform**

Please ensure your child comes to school in Withymoor uniform. The top/jumper does not have to have our Withymoor logo, but should be as follows:

- Grey skirt or trousers
- White blouse/plain white polo shirt/maroon polo
- Maroon cardigan or sweatshirt
- White or grey socks
- Black shoes (no trainers, unless a PE day) with low heels
- Maroon fleece, if required
- Pink and white school dress when warm/in the summer

**Please remember to label all items of clothing**

**Attendance**

Please avoid booking holidays during term time as school is unable to authorise these unless there are exceptional circumstances. Our current Attendance Policy states that unauthorised absences of 5 days or more will be referred to the Local Authority and these referrals usually result in fines. 'Exceptional circumstances' unfortunately does not cover reasons such as restrictions to leave made by employers or the reduced cost of holidays during term time.

**Update on Hales Valley Trust**

We are still waiting to be given a date for our school to join Hales Valley Trust. We had hoped academisation would take place in September, but I understand it is likely now to be January 2024. We will update you when we have any further information.



## Friends of Withymoor

### Friends of Withymoor

A massive thank you to Mrs Hill and the parents and carers who run Friends of Withymoor. Without them we wouldn't have school discos, Christmas and Summer fairs, or the additional money for our children that these events raise. The summer fair alone made a whopping £2800 for school funds. Thank you too to the staff who give up their time to support discos, after school and evening and overnight events.



### Arrangements for PE:

On PE days, children can continue to come into school in their PE kits. However, clothes worn **MUST** comply with school uniform. Football shirts, crop tops, rugby tops, T-shirts and tops with logos are **NOT** part of our uniform.

Withymoor PE uniform is as follows:

- Black shorts or plain black track suit bottoms
- Plain white T-shirt or we will allow a plain dark T-shirt, such as one that is maroon
- Black pumps or black trainers

**Jewellery, including earrings, cannot be worn for PE or after school clubs.** If your child is due to have their ears pierced, please arrange for this to take place at the start of the summer holidays so that they are able to remove their earrings for PE in September. Children cannot wear plasters over their earrings.

For health and safety reasons, please do not send your child to school with a large bag as we have very limited storage space in school.

Please do not send your child to school with an unhealthy snack, fizzy drink **or anything containing nuts.** If your child brings in juice or similar, this can be drunk at lunchtime only. Fresh water is freely available at school and is the only drink allowed during lessons.

If a school meal is required, please remember to order online by midnight, the day before.



### Farewell



It is now time to say 'goodbye' to our wonderful Year 6 pupils who are moving on to secondary school in September.

Year 6 children have certainly ended their last year at Withymoor in style with very pleasing SATs results, a brilliant production that was enjoyed by everyone and a successful residential trip during which they made a great job of representing Withymoor. Very impressive!

We are so proud of all of you and wish you the very best for the future. Thank you for being our pupils! We will really miss you but know that you will all be successful at your new schools. Thank you, too, to the Year 6 families for whom this year will be the end of their connection with Withymoor.

We also say goodbye to some of our teachers: Mrs Hadley - who has decided to retire following a long illness; Mrs Plant and Mrs Cox – who are moving to new roles in different schools; Mrs Crumpton – who has decided to take more time off to care for her little boy; Mr Anderson – who has taught and looked after our Year 6 children so well over the last 18 months. We will miss you all as teachers and colleagues. Good luck for the future!



Attendance from 3rd September 2022-24th July 2023			Year 4	60	93.99%
Group	No. of Pupils	% Attendance	Year 5	59	91.91%
Reception	60	92.05%	Year 6	60	94.84%
Year 1	60	92.92%	Totals	421	93.55%
Year 2	60	94.61%	Target 22/23		97%
Year 3	62	94.50%			



Have a lovely Summer everyone!

