

May
2023



WITHYMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Newsletter



Thank you to everyone who attended our Coronation Picnic earlier this month. We were so lucky with the weather! Everyone appeared to enjoy the afternoon and it was wonderful to have the opportunity to see families enjoying the sun and good company. Many thanks, as always, to Friends of Withymoor and our lovely kitchen staff for their support with this event and to one of our parents - Mrs Shaw - who, once again, provided an eye-catching red, white and blue balloon display to set off the event. I am pleased to inform you that ice cream sales raised £516.15 for Mary Stevens Hospice and over £80 was raised for school through sales of food.



A big well done to our Year 6 pupils who endured a week of SATs tests earlier this month. We are so proud of their attitude and their ability to keep smiling throughout the week! I believe the tasty breakfasts provided by our hard-working kitchen staff may have helped, but it was mainly down to our fabulous children and the support received from parents/carers and the Withymoor family. You have probably seen on the news how many teachers and other educationalists are of the view that this year's tests were particularly hard; however, all of our pupils tried their best and impressed us by reflecting throughout the week our school values of: friendship, team spirit, positivity and resilience.



Well done also to our super Year 2 pupils who have also been sitting assessments at school. We know this can be a worrying time as children want to do their best, but we are really proud of their hard work and positive attitude.



We are also immensely impressed with the singing talent of Year 5 pupils who performed a medley of songs for parents a couple of weeks ago in our hall. Their singing was beautiful and sounded so professional with flawless harmony and tone. A combination of children's talent, determination, practice and excellent teaching from Mrs Watson, our singing teacher, produced a wonderful, moving show. Just brilliant, Year 5!

Update on our academy conversion – following the consultation with parents and staff in the autumn term, a decision has been made by Governors to join Hales Valley Trust. We had expected the process to be completed by this Autumn term, but there has been a delay and we are now expecting conversion to take place in the Spring term 2024. I will update you again when I have any further news.

Water bottles an increasing number of children have been asking for paper cups for drinking water in school. Whilst we want to encourage children to drink lots of water during the school day, we would be grateful if you could ensure your child has a water bottle in school that can be refilled from one of the water fountains in school. Many thanks.



School Uniform please label all school uniform with your child's name. Please also remember that we welcome any uniform that is in good condition but no longer needed. Please bring it to the school office, preferably in a bag. Before the end of term we will then arrange for unwanted uniform to be available on the playground to view and swap at home time.

Dates for the diary

Monday 5th June - School reopens after half term holiday
w/c 5th & 12th June - Year 4 to complete multiplication checks
w/c 12th June - Year 1 phonics screening
Wednesday 21st June - Sports Day (weather permitting)
Monday 26th June - Year 6 Pioneer Parents meeting
Friday 7th July - Summer Fayre
Thursday 13th July - Year 6 Production - 6pm
Friday 14th July - Year 6 Production - 9.15am
Monday 24th July - Reserve date for Sports Day
Monday 24th July - Year 6 Presentation evening - 5pm
Tuesday 25th July - end of term - children break up for the summer

INSET days for September will be Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th September and there will be 4 further INSET days allocated during the new academic year and it is likely we will be required to close for voting in May 2024.

Class DoJo Messaging/Contacting school

Class DoJo is a great way to share information about activities in school and for quick messages to and from teachers. However, we request that parents and carers do not use Class DoJo to send messages that are urgent, are related to safeguarding, or if a quick response is needed. Staff do not have time in the school day to view messages regularly so may therefore not see an urgent message in time. If you do need to send an urgent message or a concern relating to safeguarding, please call the school office rather than use Class DoJo. Alternatively, an email can be sent to info@withymoor.dudley.sch.uk. Emails are checked regularly during the school day between 8am – 3.45pm. If your child is absent due to illness, please inform school by telephone before 9am. Please do not use Class DoJo to message about a child's absence as the message may not be picked up by 9am.



Safeguarding in School

Nothing is more important to us than the safety and welfare of our pupils. We take rigorous steps to ensure that children stay safe and do not come to any harm. We work closely with parents / carers and a range of professional external agencies in order to secure this. If you have any concerns, no matter how small they may seem, about the safety or welfare of any child, please contact the school's Designated Lead for Child Protection or a member of the Senior Leadership Team by telephone or email info@withymoor.dudley.sch.uk.



Attendance

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Research shows that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn. Children are expected to attend punctually on the days that the school is open. Whilst there are a number of unavoidable reasons why a pupil might be away from school (illness, etc) the legislation is clear that any avoidable absence may only be authorised by a school if there are exceptional circumstances. If the school does not authorise the absence and the child is still taken out of school, this will be recorded as unauthorised absence and you may receive a fine from the Local Authority. Please note that where parents/carers can only take their annual leave at certain times, this will not be classed as 'exceptional circumstances'. If you would like to request an absence for your child during term time, please collect an Absence Request Form from the school office and complete and return it at least 20 days in advance of the absence.

Our School attendance from September to May 93.69%
National average attendance for Primary Schools 93.9%

I wish you all a wonderful half term break that is blessed with sunshine.
We look forward to welcoming children and families back to school on Monday 5th June.

Alison Wootton
Headteacher

