

December
2022



WITHYMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Newsletter

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 14th December – children's Christmas dinner in school

Thursday 15th December – children's parties - (Reception children please see a separate letter for details of this day.)

Please note: children can come in Christmas clothes/party clothes

Friday 16th December – last day of school before Christmas.

Please join us for carols on the Year 3/4 playground from 2.30pm.

Children can wear Christmas clothes/MUFTI and bring in non-electric toys/games if they wish.

Monday 2nd January 2023 – Bank Holiday

Tuesday 3rd January 2023 – INSET – school closed to children

Wednesday 4th January – first day of term

Monday 27th February—INSET— school closed to children

Monday 1st May— Bank Holiday

Thursday 4th May— Voting-school closed to children

Bank Holiday Monday 8th May – school closed

Due to the additional Bank Holiday, SATs week for Year 6 will now be

Tuesday 9th May – Friday 12th May (instead of Monday – Thursday)

please don't book any family holidays during this week if your child is in Year 6

Friday 26th May— INSET— school closed to children



Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the Christmas holidays, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable time with your families and friends. I am so proud to be Headteacher of a school in such an amazing community and look forward very much to seeing you all in January for the new term.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !

Alison Wootton

Headteacher

Hales Valley Trust

Following our consultation with parents, staff and other stakeholders, Governors have made the decision to apply to become part of the Hales Valley Trust academy. The process for the conversion has now started, but it will take a few months for the conversion to be finalised. I will update you in the future when we have further information. Thank you to those parents and carers who responded to the consultation and/or attended the meeting a few weeks ago.



Toys in school

There has been a recent increase in the number of toys being brought into school by children and this has led to some fall outs and upset between friends because of items being lost or argued about. It is for this reason that we ask that toys are not brought into school unless it is a 'toy day' (such as on the last day of term before Christmas) or if it has been agreed with a member of staff. This includes playing cards (such as Pokemon cards, football cards etc). Thank you for your help with this.



Goodbye to Mrs Fowler

One of our Teaching Assistants, Mrs Fowler, left at half term to take up a new career. She has been supporting pupils at Withymoor for nearly four years and her hard work and dedication to our pupils is much appreciated. Mrs Fowler will be missed by pupils and colleagues, but we would like to wish her the best of luck in her new job.



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Parent consultations and feedback

Thank you to everyone who attended our parent/carer consultations earlier this term. It was so much better for everyone to be able to have face-to-face meetings again and give you the opportunity to be inside school and see children's work.

Thank you also to those families who responded to our parent/carer questionnaire. We are always looking for ways to improve as a school and, although we were thrilled to read the many positive responses received, there are areas that we will review as a school, following some of your feedback.

In the new year, we would like to invite into school a small number of parents and carers who are willing to participate in two or three focus groups in school. We plan for this to involve groups of around 8-10 parents who are willing to share honest but constructive feedback with senior members of staff during discussion about aspects of school. If you feel you might be able to support us with this, please email school on info@withymoor.dudley.sch.uk by Friday 13th January 2023 to let us know. These small focus groups will either be during the school day or between 3.45 – 5.30 after school, depending on parent availability. The aim is for us to enhance our partnership with parents and carers in order to improve and build on the many good features of our school. If we have a large number of volunteers, it may be that we involve only a few parents/carers initially in the Spring term, and then hold further sessions at a later date.

Fundraising in school

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported school recently by donating prizes, buying raffle tickets, Christmas cards, school photographs, and attending events in school. We appreciate that we have been asking for your help with lots of different things, (and asking for money for school trips and charities in addition to this!) and would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generosity, especially during these times of financial hardship with high energy and food bills. The Christmas Fayre, in particular, was a great success. A whopping £3500 has been raised, which is so fantastic given that everyone is under so much financial pressure at the moment. We are sure you will want to join us in thanking Friends of Withymoor for all their hard work this term in organising events to raise money for our children. Following the pandemic, it is great to have different activities and fund raising in school again. The parents who are part of Friends of Withymoor have invested a lot of their own time into arranging events and activities – we couldn't have done it without them! It is much appreciated - thank you!!

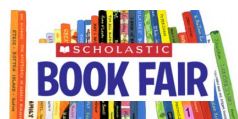
This is what we have raised at Withymoor

Poppy Day-£270.33

Children in Need-£389.15

Book Fair-Actual takings £611.05 Profit for school-£305.53

School Christmas Fayre-£3500



Parking around school

Parking is an issue for many schools nationally. When dropping off and collecting by car, please park responsibly and avoid parking on the yellow lines/zig zags outside school or on the kerb opposite our school gate. We have had complaints recently about parking, including parking across people's drives, and have been informed by the local Council that parking wardens will be patrolling around our school.

Thank you for your co-operation.



Parent Governor Nominations



Parents and carers still have until Friday 16th December to put their name forward to be a Parent Governor at Withymoor. If you are interested in becoming a Parent Governor, but have missed or mislaid the information that was sent out about this, please contact the school office in the first instance.

VOTE ✗