

December  
2024



WITHYMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

# School Newsletter



## *A letter from Mrs Wootton*



*Dear Parents/Carers and families*



*As the festive season approaches and I head towards my final day at Withymoor, I find myself reflecting on the last seven years as Headteacher at this wonderful school. It has been an incredible journey, and I am filled with a sense of gratitude and pride as I write this letter.*



*Firstly, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the families who have supported me and the school throughout the years. Your encouragement and involvement have been invaluable, and I am deeply appreciative of the trust you have placed in me and my team.*



*I must also express my immense gratitude to the fabulous Mrs Tong and all the hardworking staff with whom I have worked during my time at Withymoor - the teachers, senior leaders, teaching assistants, office staff, dinner supervisors, site managers and cleaners, cooks and all other support staff. Their dedication and passion for our school have made a significant impact on the lives of our pupils and it has been a privilege to work alongside so many talented and committed individuals.*



*To all the Governors who have generously volunteered their time and expertise to our school - thank you. Prior to academisation, your unwavering support and guidance were instrumental in the school's success and growth. I would particularly like to mention and thank Heather Hughes, who served on the Governing Body for so long and who helped to appoint me to the role of Headteacher - you can all blame her!*



*Then more recently, since being a Trust partner and then officially joining Hales Valley Trust earlier this year, we have benefited as a school greatly from the collaboration and support of our Trust colleagues. Their assistance has been vital in helping us to navigate new challenges and seize new opportunities. Thank you for being such wonderful partners.*



*Finally, and most importantly, I want to thank all the incredible children of Withymoor School - those who are pupils now and those I have had the joy of watching grow and move on to new adventures. They are the heart of our school, and they are why we are here; it has been an honour to be a part of their educational journey. Their curiosity, enthusiasm, and resilience have been a constant source of inspiration. They are just the best and I will miss them all so much!*



*Being part of this fantastic community has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. I have enjoyed every moment and am so proud of all that we have achieved together.*



*As I move on to the next chapter of my life, I carry with me wonderful memories and the knowledge that Withymoor School will continue to grow, thrive and inspire in the months and years to come. Thank you all for making my time here so special.*



*Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
With warmest regards*

*Alison Wootton  
Headteacher*



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## Dates for your Diary

**Wednesday 18th December** – children's Christmas dinner-Christmas jumper day

**Thursday 19th December** – children's parties

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

**Friday 22nd December** – last day of school before Christmas.

Please join us for carols on the Year 3/4 playground from 1.15pm.

**Please note School closes at 2pm for children**

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

**Monday 6th January** - first day of term

**Friday 14th February** - INSET - school closed to children

**Monday 17th - Friday 21st February** - Half term

**Friday 11th April**-Last day of term– Break for Easter

**Monday 28th April** - first day of term

**Thursday 1st May** - Voting-school closed to children

**Monday 5th May** - Bank Holiday- school closed

**Monday 26th - Friday 30th May** - Whitsun

**Friday 18th July** - Last day of term School closes at 2pm for children

## Goodbye to staff

At the end of this term, we say goodbye to the following staff who are moving on to new roles:

Miss Bothwell who has taught at Withymoor for 18 years and Mrs Luckins who has worked at Withymoor for 19 years, firstly as a Teaching Assistant and, more recently, as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant and Mrs Halford, who has taught in Nursery for 8 years.

We are so sad to say goodbye and would like to thank them for their hard work and commitment to Withymoor Primary School over many years.

Good luck to you all in your new careers!



## Nativity Plays

Well done to all the Nursery, Reception and Key Stage One children for their superb Nativity performances!

We are so proud of you all! It has put us all in the Christmas mood!

Thankyou to all the mums, dads, nans, grandads, and other family members who came along to support the shows, and thank you, too, to all the Early Years and Key Stage One staff who worked hard to plan, rehearse and organise the shows.



## 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.



## Christmas Fayre

Thank you to Mrs Hill and our fantastic Friends of Withymoor who did a brilliant job of organising the Christmas Fayre. Thank you also to everyone who attended, and to the staff who volunteered their own time to run stalls. We are delighted to learn that £2300 was raised!

With any event like this, there is lots to do in preparation and we rely heavily on the goodwill and hard work of a number of people. Friends of Withymoor would welcome any extra support for the future, so if you feel you could spare some time to help raise money for our school, please contact Mrs Hill by email on [friendsofwithymoor@outlook.com](mailto:friendsofwithymoor@outlook.com) (Friends of Withymoor email)



We would all like to wish you a very Merry Christmas  
and a peaceful and Happy New Year!  
Alison Wootton, Mrs Tong and the rest of the Withymoor team.

