



Newsletter

October 2021



Harvest Appeal



During assemblies this week, we have been talking about Harvest time; being thankful to farmers and all those involved in the food supply chain, and also thinking about those who need support to feed themselves and their families.

This Harvest, we are collecting donations for the Durham Foodbank, who help local people in crisis. If you would like to help, please send in items from the list below, by Wednesday 20th October.

URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

Tinned ham
Small Christmas Cake (slab)
Crackers
Long life fruit juice
Long life milk
Sponge puddings
Toiletries



OTHER ITEMS NEEDED

Rice
Tinned fish
Tinned fruit
Tinned vegetables
Jam
Biscuits or snack bars
Sugar
Pasta sauces
Tinned tomatoes
Rice pudding/Custard
Tea bags/Instant coffee

Witton Gilbert Food Bank

We wanted to let families know that there is now a Witton Gilbert Food Bank, where donations are generously building up.

If you, or someone you know, is in need of a food parcel, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Jon Reynolds (CHAD) by email, directly through Facebook or through the Witton Facebook page. The email address is: reynoldsjon29@gmail.com

If you would like school to contact Jon Reynolds on your behalf, we are more than happy to do that. School could also be used as a collection point if preferred.

We would encourage anyone who needs a little support to get in touch.

COVID Update

There have been 4 cases of COVID 19 since our return to school, across 3 different classes. It is now the responsibility of Test and Trace to identify close contacts. (Please see the letter from Durham County Council.) Parents of confirmed cases will be asked for details of close contacts by Test and Trace. Due to GDPR, we are unable to provide names of close contacts to parents. As yet, we have no experience of Test and Trace contacting school for details of close contacts, but we will continue to monitor COVID cases carefully and keep you informed of any updated advice.



Pantomime – Gala Theatre 8th December 10am

We have booked a whole school visit to the Gala theatre on 8th December, to watch this year's pantomime, 'The Adventures of Robin Hood'. We're looking forward to watching the 10am performance and being together as a whole school. Afterwards, we will return to school for a slightly later lunch. In order to fund this visit, we request a £10 contribution per child, which can be paid via ParentPay. More details about the visit will follow closer to the time.



School Photograph Day – Tuesday 19th October

The photographer will be in school on Tuesday 19th October to take the annual school photographs of children.

- Every child will have an individual photograph taken. Siblings who are currently in school will also have a photograph taken together.
- Unfortunately, younger, pre-school siblings **cannot** be brought into school for photographs.

Leave of Absence Forms

Just a reminder that a Leave of Absence form **must** be completed if parents plan to take children out of school for reasons such as a holiday. Although absence cannot be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances, we still need a completed form, which can be obtained from the school office. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Parents' Evening

We plan to hold parents' evenings on 9th and 10th November via 'School Cloud'. This is a video link where parents and teachers can hold virtual meetings. More details will follow later.

School Lunches and Packed Lunch

Thank you for your support of our packed lunch policy. Many children who bring a packed lunch are eating a healthy, balanced meal at lunchtimes. Please remember to avoid packets of crisps and consider the amount of sugar, salt and fats in foods, particularly processed food.

Children who have a school lunch are working really hard on using their knives and forks to eat their lunch and are making great progress! Thank you for your support at home.

Christmas Performances

We are hoping to invite parents and carers of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to a Christmas performance or open afternoon this year and wanted to give prior notice of dates.

In order to reduce numbers of children and adults in the school hall, each class will create their own separate performance. Only one date will be available for each class with a maximum of 2 tickets per child so that we can ensure space between seats.

Reception	Monday 6 th December 2pm-3pm	Open afternoon with Christmas song and dance
Year 1	Tuesday 7 th December 2pm-3pm	Nativity
Year 2	Friday 10 th December 10am-11am	Nativity



Please be aware that this is subject to change if schools receive updated government guidance that prevents us inviting parents into school. If this happens, we will share a video of each class.

School holidays 2021-2022

Holiday	Closing date	Date re-open for teaching purposes
Autumn half term 2021	Friday 22 nd October 2021	Monday 1 st November 2021
Training Days Fri 26 th November 2021 Monday 29 th November 2021	Thursday 25 th November 2021	Tuesday 30 th November 2021
Christmas 2021	Friday 17 th December 2021	Wednesday 5 th January 2022
Spring half term 2022	Friday 18 th February 2022	Monday 28 th February 2022
Easter 2022	Friday 8 th April 2022	Monday 25 th April 2022
May Day 2022	Friday 29 th April 2022	Tuesday 3 rd May 2022
Summer half-term 2022	Friday 27 th May 2022	Tuesday 7 th June 2022
Summer 2022	Thursday 21 st July	To be confirmed