



Friday 18th September 2026

Note from the Head...

We have enjoyed a week of Hooks all over the school. Children have been brimming with excitement about their new learning experiences and what they entail. We have welcomed 20 preschool children to our first Rhyme Time session with Mrs Gibson yesterday, which is open to any preschool aged child at 10am on the first Thursday of the month. If you wish to join us, you and your friends from other schools are most welcome; it is not just for families that attend our school. (See flyer at the end of the newsletter) Those who attended loved singing, playing games and enjoying some stories and tales. It was truly gleeful.

I am aware that the news of my departure from the school, at Christmas time, will have been a shock to many. It has not been an easy decision to make; 17 years is a long time to invest in a school and community that has become a significant part of my being. Thank you to those who have come up and spoken with me about the news and I am sorry for the uncertainty this type of change gives a school community. Whilst the Governors work hard, with the Local Authority, to appoint a new headteacher, Mrs Clifton will be excellent in sustaining and continuing the school's development over the interim period of a term or two. She will be on the playground at the end of school next week to allow you to put a name to a face should you not be aware of who she is. Her excellent leadership as Deputy Head alongside her 14 years of service to the school as Year 5/6 team leader and teacher prior to this – makes her a knowledgeable and established interim leader for the school.

It has been lovely to welcome our new EYFS children for full days and see them settle, as well as those who have joined in other year groups. Seeing them all arriving with growing confidence and meeting their new friends

each morning demonstrates how successful their induction to the school has been. Thank you to our established children for welcoming and supporting our new children this week. It is always a difficult time settling in to a new school. We are thrilled you are all with us.

As stated last week, we have so much planned for this term and we are all looking forward to celebrating the learning and the wonderful children we have in our school as they continue to develop over the year.

Best wishes

Graeme Wilson
Headteacher

Attendance – 97.4%

Huge thanks to all who have helped us finish the week with this fantastic attendance; it's great to walk around the school and see all children so happy and enjoying school. Please read the attendance letter that accompanies this newsletter and help us continue this amazing level of attendance each week.



Appointments

Wherever possible, please try to arrange appointments outside of school hours. If this is not possible, please can we ask for advance notice of appointments and proof of these, so we can authorise the absence and keep registers updated. All appointments without this will be marked as unauthorised absences.

Reading Reminder



Pupils will have been set up with a reading book. In EYFS and KS1, whilst on phonic books, they are to read it three times to an adult then it will be changed. First read – decoding letters and words, second read familiarisation/fluency and third read comprehension – questions asked about the text. For older readers, listening for these three

Respect – Success – Resilience – Team Work – Independence – Creativity – Challenge



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areas whilst reading a higher level text is just as vital. Books are selected from the library and the child should sound fluent whilst reading at home. Higher more challenging texts are used in school to develop their reading ability. Reading should be a joyful experience, not laboured – hence children should be reading a comfortable read at home. Whilst teachers are getting to know their new class as readers, please help them support the children when selecting a book from the library. If you notice they are having to sound out words a lot whilst they are reading, encourage them to talk to the teacher and ask for help in selecting a book that is more accessible. Write a note in the reading record or email the office. Reading is meant to be fun and enjoyable so let's make it so!

Year 6 Swimming

Year 6 Swimming starts Friday 25th Sept. Swimming is part of the National Curriculum and children are required to take part in this lesson; it is an important life skill. We understand that the odd child will have a medical reason to not swim on occasions. Please can parents remember swimming takes place on a Friday afternoon and send children into school with their swimming kits.



PTA Meeting – Monday 21st Sept 7pm – Fireworks

In a change to previously advertised, the PTA will now be holding their AGM in November. **Excitingly**, the meeting on **Monday 21st evening in the school hall at 7pm** will be

planning our fantastic **Firework's** evening, happening on 6th Nov. The firework spectacular is set to be our biggest event yet so we would love extra people to help with this event and make it a success for us and the town. We look forward to meeting anyone interested in

supporting the fund raising for the school and working with this amazing team for the benefit of all our children. We look forward to seeing you there.

PTA Non-uniform Day – Fri 25th Sept

Please bring in donations as below in return for wearing non-uniform (own clothes) for the day, ready for **PTA BINGO**

Reception - Create and craft (stationary and craft)

Year 1 - Sugar rush (sweets)

Year 2 - Chocoholics' dream (chocolates)

Year 3 - Savoury selection (cheese twists, crackers, olives, chutneys etc)

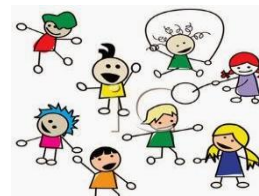
Year 4 - Pamper night (toiletries, face masks, candles etc)

Year 5 - Afternoon tea (tea, biscuits, jam etc)

Year 6 - Something to sip (bottles)

After School Clubs

All clubs will start next week from **Mon 21st Sept** and are available to book from Fri 18th Sept 8pm. ParentMail will automatically shut the booking when all places have been filled, so if you manage to book a space then your child is booked in. As we are a big school and spaces are limited, we do ask that you only book 2 clubs for your child. Thank you for your help with this.



EV5 forms (short trip consent forms)

This year we are trialling sending our EV5 forms out electronically. The EV5 form is a short trip consent form which gives permission for children to take part in any local events or walks that may happen throughout the academic year, for example walking to the carol services. Year 6 will receive the forms first and any constructive feedback would be welcomed.

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Medals

- **Thea** in Earth Class for a great start to Year 1.
- **Ella** in Venus Class for being so engaged and knowledgeable in our Hook this term! Great sharing Ella.
- **Lily-Mae** in Mars Class for settling into Year 2 really well! You have done amazing especially in Phonics.
- **Raeya** in Neptune Class for a truly fantastic and positive start to Year 2. Keep up the wonderful work, and keep shining!
- **Skyla** in Jupiter Class for demonstrating amazing independence in your learning and being a responsible member of Jupiter Class. Keep it up!
- **Tommy** in Saturn Class for his positive attitude and wonderful start in his new school.
- **Harper** in Sun Class for consistently meeting all expectations and being a fantastic role model.
- **Scarlett** in Moon Class for working really hard in all lessons and being an excellent role model to others.
- **Lilly** in Apollo Class for an amazingly positive attitude to her learning and all things school related!
- **Summer** in Asteroid Class for settling in so well to the new class and writing a beautiful setting description using expanded noun phrases!
- **Joshua** in Galaxy Class for making such an EXCELLENT start to Year 6! You show an incredibly positive attitude to your learning, are fully engaged in all lessons and are a source of amazing general knowledge. What a treat to teach you!
- **Emilia** in Milky Way Class for a positive learning attitude – brilliant start to Year 6! Well done, keep it up!

Diary Dates

Autumn Term	
21 st September	EYFS Parents phonic workshop
21 st September	PTA AGM 7PM
24 th September	Yr4 Camp Meeting for parents
25 th September	Year 6 swimming starts
25 th September	Non uniform day for Autumn Bingo
2 nd October	PTA Autumn Bingo
5 th October	EYFS Maths workshop for parents
5 th October	Harvest festival Assembly
13 th and 15 th October	Parents evenings 3.30pm – 6pm
21 st – 23 rd October	Y4 Camp – Hooke Court
26 th October – 30 th October	HALF TERM
6 th November	PTA Firework event
9 th November	Individual school photos
10 th November	Sibling photos
13 th November	Children in Need
18 th November – 24 th November	Book fair
1 st December	EYFS/Year 1/2 Xmas Dinner
2 nd December	Year 3/4 Xmas Dinner
3 rd December	Year 5/6 Xmas Dinner
11 th December	I-Rock concert 10.45am
15 th December	EYFS Nativity – 9.15am
16 th December	EYFS Nativity – 9.15am
17 th December	Class Christmas parties – pm
18 th December	Carol Service 11am – KS1 1.45pm – KS2
18 th December	End of Term

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Wincanton Primary School
Calling all Pre-School Children
Join us for

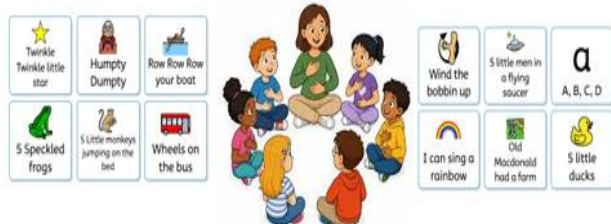


Rhyme Time

First Thursday of the month

Giving children the foundations of early reading, for when they start their school in September

(This is for all pre-school children – no matter which school they will attend)



"Nursery rhymes are extremely valuable to support early language and communication development, build confidence and prepare children for reading and writing as they get older"

Literacy Trust

- Open to all 3 and 4 year old children in our local community.
- Welcome with families or with pre-school settings.
- Stories, songs, rhymes and phase 1 phonics games to support early reading in the year before starting school.
- Led by staff from Wincanton Primary School.



"The school is ambitious to meet the needs of every child in its community." Ofsted, 2025

Come and join us

Thursday :
17th September
1st October
5th November
3rd December
7th January
4th February
4th March
15th April
6th May
10th June
1st July

45 minute sessions from 10am

CASH GAME £2

RAFFLE AND TOMBOLA

WINCANTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
PTA PRESENT

AUTUMN BINGO

FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER

Wincanton Memorial Hall

DOORS OPEN 18:45
EYES DOWN 19:15

6 GAMES PLUS SPECIAL ONLY £10

CASH ONLY EVENT!

APPROX FINISH TIME 21:00

REFRESHMENTS AND DABBERS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE

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