



WITHAM OAKS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

w/C 15th September 2025



Messages from Mr. Sheehan and Mrs. Harrington

A very warm welcome back to the new school year. We hope you all had a wonderful summer break and are returning rested and ready for an exciting year ahead at Witham Oaks Academy.

It has been a real pleasure to see how well the children have settled in. Over the first few days of term, they have been busy building connections and forming new relationships with their teachers and peers in the classroom. A special welcome goes to our new families, including our new Year 3 pupils who are beginning their junior journey with us—we are delighted you are part of our school community.

We are also very excited to share some wonderful news. Over the summer, we have been busy developing our outdoor environment, and this year outdoor learning will become a core part of our curriculum offer. Children will have the opportunity to learn, explore and grow in our newly designed woodland area, which now includes a Tipi canopy and a fire pit to support a wide range of outdoor experiences. To help children make the most of this provision, we ask that each child brings a pair of wellies to school that can be kept here for outdoor learning sessions.

This term, we are also proud to introduce our refreshed school values, which will guide everything we do and support our children in becoming caring, resilient and curious learners. Our values are:

- **Love and Kindness**
- **Bravery and Honesty**
- **Exploring and Learning**
- **Teamwork and Friendship**
- **Love of Life and Our World**

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are very excited for the year ahead and look forward to working together to ensure your children have the best possible start to the new academic year.



KEY DATES

17/9/25	Year 6 Live Performance "During the War"
17/9/25	Lift Maltings Open Evening 5.00pm-8.00pm
18/9/25	Year 2 Parent Tour – 10am
18/9/25	Lift New Rickstones Academy Open Evening 6.00pm-8.00pm
22/9/25	Individual Photographs
23/9/25	Flu Immunisations
23/9/25	3 Argentina Class Lunch
25/9/25	Year 2 Parent Tour - 2.30pm
30/9/25	Year 5 Space VR Day
8/10/25	Year 5 Autumn Assembly 2.30pm & 5.30pm
9/10/25	3 Brazil Class Lunch



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This Week's Awards



Stars of the Week

Each week, children will be celebrated for demonstrating one or more of the five key character strengths



Caia – 5S
Kaiden – 4K
Woody-Blu - 3A



Ruby – 6 J
Danny – 5K
Holly – 5T
Annabelle – 6I
Aya - 3B

Hattie – 6C
Katie – 3P
Alphons – 4Z
Summer-Grace – 4E



Week 3
w/b 15/09/2025

Sports Personality of the Week

Bobby S



Celebration Corner

We love to celebrate the amazing things our students accomplish both in and out of school! Please send us photographs and a brief description of their achievement, so we can feature it in here in our **Celebration Corner**. It's a great way to celebrate their hard work and dedication, and to share their success with our school community!

You can email your photos and information to adminwoa@inspiresmat.co.uk

In Other News...



Parent/Carer Survey

In our bid to both highlight the schools success and continually improve, we would like as many of you as possible to complete the attached survey. These questions are ones which would be provided by Ofsted during an inspection and will inform our school development plan.



There is an option for you to add your child's name if you would like to do so.

PE DAYS

Children need to come into school on PE days in their PE kit. Children will need an outdoor PE kit i.e., plain black tracksuit bottoms (or shorts in warmer weather), white T-shirt and a plain black hoodie. No cycling shorts please.

3 Argentina 	Monday & Tuesday
3 Brazil 	Tuesday & Wednesday
3 Peru 	Tuesday & Wednesday
4 Egypt 	Tuesday & Wednesday
4 Kenya 	Wednesday & Thursday
4 Zimbabwe 	Wednesday & Thursday

5 Korea 	Monday & Friday
5 Singapore 	Monday & Friday
5 Thailand 	Monday & Friday
6 China 	Thursday & Friday
6 India 	Thursday & Friday
6 Japan 	Tuesday & Thursday

As part of Essex County Council's Health and Safety policy, all jewellery must be removed for PE, including earrings. Children must not wear earrings or other jewellery during the school day, unless for religious reasons.

- **Sleeper studs must be removed before PE/Games – they can no longer be covered with tape or plasters.**
 - **To help, please ensure earrings are removed before school on PE days.**
- Thank you for supporting us to keep children safe.**

CURRICULUM OVERVIEWS

You should have received a copy of our curriculum overviews for this year, which outline the key themes and topics your child will be learning in each subject. We hope this provides a clear insight into your child's learning journey.

If you have any questions about the curriculum, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.



In Other News...



Autumn Dates 2025-26

17/9/25	Year 6 Live Performance "During the War"
17/9/25	Lift Maltings Open Evening 5.00pm-8.00pm
18/9/25	Year 2 Parent Tour 10am
18/9/25	Lift New Rickstones Open Evening 6.00pm-8.00pm
22/9/25	Individual Photographs
23/9/25	Flu Immunisations
23/9/25	3 Argentina Class Lunch
25/9/25	Year 2 Parent Tour 2.30pm
30/9/25	Year 5 Space VR Day
8/10/25	Year 5 Autumn Assemnbly 2.30pm & 5.30pm
9/10/25	3 Brazil Class Lunch
16/10/25	Non-Uniform Day for Cereal
16/10/25	SEND Coffee Afternoon 2.15pm - 3.15pm
20/10/25	PTA Pumpkin Competition – Judging Day (£1 Donation)
21/10/25	Parent Consultation Evening 3.30pm-5.30pm
23/10/25	Parent Consultation Evening .30pm-7.00pm
24/10/25	NON-PUPIL DAY
27/10/25 - 31/10/25	– HALF TERM
4/11/25	3 Peru Class Lunch
5/11/25	Year 2 Parent Tour – 2.30pm
6/11/25	Yr 4 Trip Museum of Power
14/11/25	Children in Need – Wear Something spotty (£1 Donation)
25/11/25	4 Egypt Class Lunch
27/11/25	Winter Fayre – 3.45pm
9/12/25	Dick Whittington Pantomime
10/12/25	Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day
16/12/25	Year 3 Christmas Assembly – 2.30pm and 5.30pm
18/12/25	PTA Christmas Character Dress Up (£1 Donation)
22/12/25–2/12/25	– CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS



Term Dates:

Please see term dates for the remainder of the school year listed below. Ensure any holidays are booked during the period of times highlighted in red:

Autumn 1	2/9/25	23/10/25
Autumn Half Term	27/10/25	31/10/25
Autumn 2	3/11/25	19/12/25
Christmas Holiday	22/12/26	2/1/26
Spring 1	6/1/26	13/2/26
Spring Half Term	16/2/26	20/2/26
Spring 2	23/2/26	27/3/26
Easter Holiday	30/3/26	10/4/26
Summer 1	13/4/26	22/5/26
Summer Half term	25/5/26	29/5/26
Summer 2	2/6/25	17/7/26

Inset Days

1/9/25 24/10/25 5/1/26 1/6/26
20/7/26

Please may we remind you that we do not authorise any holiday during term time.

In Other News...



Spring Dates 2025-26

5/1/26	NON-PUPIL DAY
12/1/26	Year 3 Barleylands Trip
21/1/26	Young Voices at the O2
27/1/26	4 Zimbabwe Class Lunch
5/2/26	6 China Class Lunch
6/2/26	Number Day - £1 donation
11/2/26	Valentine Disco
	Years 3 & 4 4-5.30pm
	Years 5 & 6 6-7.30pm
16/2/26 – 20/2/26	- HALF TERM
24/2/26	6 Japan Class Lunch
24/2/26	Parent Consultation Evening
	3.30pm – 5.30pm
26/2/26	Parent Consultation Evening
	3.30pm – 7.00pm
3/3/26	6 India Class Lunch
5/3/26	World Book day
16/3/26	Class Photographs
17/3/26	Ladies Day Lunch
24/3/26	Year 4 Easter Assembly
26/6/26	PTA Easter Trail
	£2 Entry (3.30pm)
30/3/26 – 10/4/26	- EASTER HOLIDAYS



Summer Dates 2025-26

14/4/26	Non-uniform Day for Cereal
4/5/26	BANK HOLIDAY
19/5/26	5 Korea Class Lunch
25/5/26 – 29/5/26	- HALF TERM
1/6/26	NON-PUPIL DAY
1/6/26-12/6/26	- Year 4 Multiplication checks
9/6/26	5 Singapore Class Lunch
16/6/26	Year 3 & 4 Sports Day (AM)
16/6/26	5 Thailand Class Lunch
17/6/26	Year 5 & 6 Sports Day (AM)
18/6/26	Gentleman's Day Lunch
25/6/26	Year 6 Lift Maltings & Lift New Rickstones Academy
	Induction Day
25/6/26	Year 2 Transition Visit (all day) & Parent Picnic
25/6/26	Year 2 Parent Meetings 1.30pm & 5pm
3/7/26	Summer Fete 2.30pm
6/7/26-8/7/26	Year 6 Residential
9/7/26	End of Year Disco
	Years 3 & 4 4-5.30pm
	Years 5 & 6 6-7.30pm
10/7/26	Year 6 Play Dress Rehearsal
15/7/26	Annual Progress Reports sent out
15/7/26	Year 6 Performance to Parents 1.30pm & 5.30pm
16/7/26	Year 6 Leaver's Lunch
17/7/26	Year 6 Leaver's Ceremony (details to be confirmed)

Year 6 to 7 admissions

Applications for Year 7 children starting in September 2026 opened on Friday 12th September. To apply for a place please visit www.essex.gov.uk/admissions
The closing date for applications is Friday 31st October 2025.