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WITHAM OAKS ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

Part of the Inspires MAT
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MAT

ISSUE 4

w/C 10th November 2025



Messages from Mr. Sheehan and Mrs. Harrington

KEY DATES

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 – 9.30am in School
10/12/25	Christmas Lunch & Jumper day
16/12/25	Year 3 Christmas Assembly – 2.30pm & 5.30pm
18/12/25	PTA Christmas Character Dress Up Day - £1 donation
22/12/25 – 02/01/26	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
05/01/26	NON PUPIL DAY



It has been a wonderful first week back in school with so many rich learning experiences taking place across the year groups. Year 6 have produced some truly striking LS Lowry-inspired paintings. The children demonstrated real focus in capturing Lowry's distinctive industrial landscapes and we have all been incredibly impressed by the quality of their artwork. Year 5 have also impressed us with an outstanding collection of 3D home-learning projects focused on architecture and aerial viewpoints. The creativity, attention to detail and knowledge shown has been wonderful to see.

Year 6 also visited Braintree Museum this week to take part in a Victorian experience, while Year 4 enjoyed their trip to the Museum of Power, deepening their understanding of electricity through hands-on exploration. Photos from both visits have been shared on Class Dojo. If you have not yet joined your child's class page, please speak with your child's class teacher who will be happy to help you get set up.

Our Year 3 pupils have begun rehearsals for their winter performance and have taken their first steps onto the stage with growing confidence. We are very proud of them and look forward to welcoming families to watch the performance on Tuesday 16th December, with shows at 2.30pm and 5.30pm.

Finally, to mark Remembrance Day and to honour those who have fallen, every child in the school has contributed to a collaborative art installation.

Using recycled plastic bottle bases, the children have painted poppies which are now displayed around the tree at the front of the school. This has created a thoughtful and reflective focal point for our community. Our sincere thanks go to the pupils for their care and creativity, and to our staff for supporting and guiding this meaningful Remembrance display.



Spa Road ● Witham ● CM8 1NA
Co-Headteachers ● Mrs M Harrington, Mr D Sheehan
Telephone ● 01376 513322
Email ● adminwoa@inspiresmat.co.uk

www.withamoaksacademy.co.uk



This Week's Attendance



Attendance Cake

6 China

3 Argentina



Attendance Update

Regular attendance is crucial for academic and social success. Missing school can disrupt learning and make it difficult to catch up. Some children are missing out on part of their education by arriving late to school. The gates are open from 8:35am. Please make sure your child arrives before 8.45am when the gates close. We are monitoring punctuality very closely and may contact you if we have a concern.

Attendance League

WITHAM OAKS ATTENDANCE LEAGUE			
POSITION		Pts	
1	6 China	35	
2	4 Zimbabwe	23	
3	6 India	21	
4	5 Thailand	21	
5	5 Korea	21	
6	4 Kenya	20	
7	4 Argentina	19	
8	5 Singapore	18	
9	4 Peru	16	
10	4 Brazil	15	
11	3 Egypt	11	
12	5 Japan	12	

House Team Competition/Update

	Attenborough	2320		THUNBERG	2454
	RASHFORD	2333		Yousafzai	2054

RECENT LETTERS- AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE

All communication will be sent through ParentMail. Please ensure that you have given us a current email address.

Issues with ParentMail communication should be emailed to adminwoa@inspiresmat.co.uk

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

TEAMWORK & FRIENDSHIP

Dylan – 6J
Rogue – 3B
Teddy – 5T
Heavenly – 3P
Evie – 6C

EXPLORING & LEARNING

Jacob – 3P
Liam – 6C
Kensi – 4E
Leo – 4Z
Freya – 3B
Dylan – 6J
Teddy – 3A William – 4K
Freya – 6I Eleise – 4E
Izaak – 5T Maria – 4Z

BRAVERY & HONESTY

Lillian – 3A

LOVE & KINDNESS

Bethany -5K
Ronnie 4K
Dava – 5S

LOVE OF LIFE AND OUR WORLD

Autumn-Lili – 6I
Elsie – 5S



Week 1
w/b 03/11/25

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.

Hot Dinners

School dinners cost £2.30 per day and should be paid in advance via Parentmail or at the school office. If your account falls into arrears, we will request that you provide a packed lunch for your child. Please ensure payment is made as soon as possible.



WITHAM OAKS ACADEMY

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Thursday 27th November 2025 at 3.45 pm

Our Christmas Fayre is nearly upon us again and we look forward to welcoming everyone who would like to attend.

We are having our usual raffle with vouchers and prizes. Local shops and business premises have been generous again. Adult tickets are £1 per strip – available at the school reception and on the day.

There will be a variety of stalls; our usual jar tombola, hot drinks, raffle and lots more.

We would ask the children to fill and decorate jars for our stall and they will be given a free raffle ticket for each jar they bring in

These can be brought in to school from Monday 24th November. We would also welcome any raffle prize donations.

We hope you will come and support us and we look forward to seeing you all there!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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
13/1/26	4 Kenya Class Lunch
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 2 to 3 admissions

Applications for Year 3 children starting in September 2026 opens on Monday 10th November.
To apply for a place please visit www.essex.gov.uk/admissions
The closing date for applications is
Thursday 15th January 2026.