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WITHAM OAKS ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 8

adminwoa@inspiresmat.co.uk

www.withamoaksacademy.co.uk

Part of the Inspires MAT
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MAT

w/c: 9th February 2026



Messages from Mr. Sheehan and Mrs. Harrington

KEY DATES

11/02/26	Valentine Disco Yrs 3 & 4 4- 5.30pm Yrs 5&6 6-7.30pm
16/02/26- 20/02/26	HALF TERM
24/02/26	6 Japan Class Lunch
24/02/26	Parent Consultation Evening 3.30pm-5.30pm
26/02/26	Parent Consultation Evening 3.30pm-7.00pm
03/03/26	6 India Class Lunch
05/03/26	World Book Day – Dress up as book character
16/03/26	Class Photographs

It has been a wonderful week across the school, full of exciting learning experiences and opportunities to come together as a community.

We would like to thank all parents and carers who were able to visit us on Friday 6th February in support of NSPCC Number Day. The children thoroughly enjoyed sharing their learning, taking part in number-based activities, and celebrating maths in such a positive and purposeful way. Your support helped make the day feel extra special for them.

Across the curriculum, pupils have been deeply engaged in their learning. In Year 5, children have been exploring reversible and irreversible changes in science, including a memorable experiment involving Coca-Cola and Mentos, which sparked plenty of curiosity, excitement, and scientific discussion. Meanwhile, Year 4 pupils have been developing their artistic skills by creating triadic colour prints inspired by Andy Warhol, producing some bold and vibrant artwork that we are very proud of.

We would also like to remind parents about the Internet Safety event delivered by The 2 Johns, taking place this week. The joining link has been shared via ParentMail. Online safety is a vital partnership between home and school, and this session offers valuable, up-to-date guidance.

Finally, we are looking forward to the Valentine's Disco on Wednesday 11th February, which promises to be a fun and joyful event for the children.

As always, thank you to staff and families for your continued support in making these experiences possible.



Spa Road ● Witham ● CM8 1NA

Co-Headteachers ● Mrs M Harrington, Mr D Sheehan

Telephone ● 01376 513322

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



Wynter – 4K
Elaine – 6C
Liam – 3P
James – 5S
William – 4K
Zack - 4K



Lia – 3A
Jasmine – 4Z
Harper-Rose – 5K
Charlie – 6I
Charlie – 6J
Robin – 6J
Savannah – 4Z
Egypt Class
Olivia – 3B
Benjamin – 4K
Ava - 6C



Luca – 3B
Brooke – 3P
Cassius – 4E
Harry – 5S
Donnie – 4E
Orion - 3A



Argentina Class
Evie - 5T



Isabelle – 5T



Week 1
w/b 09/02/2026



Sports Personality of the Week

Kade
Bethany

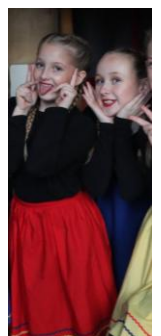


Celebration Corner



Well done to Macie & Elsie who took part in the amazing Silverend panto “Dick Whittington”.

The endless rehearsals, long days and nights paid off. Brilliant performances by all.



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.



Internet Safety Workshop

On Wednesday 11th February, parents and carers have access to an online internet workshop led by the 2Johns. This will take place from 20:00 - 21:30.

This is a vital online sessions to attend to upskill you in up-to-date online safety advice to ensure your children are safe whilst using the internet/ online gaming.

Please use the link below to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86536198942>



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.**

Please ensure your child has a pair of wellington boots or an old pair of trainers in school for outdoor learning. These can be kept on site for children to change into when needed. We are committed to supporting learning in all weathers, particularly during the wetter months, and having appropriate footwear helps keep children comfortable and safe when outdoors.



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
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
26/3/26	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.