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WITHAM OAKS ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 9

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www.withamoaksacademy.co.uk

Part of the Inspires MAT
Inspires
MAT

w/c: 2nd March 2026



Welcome back – we hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half term break.

It has been a pleasure to see the enthusiasm with which pupils have returned to school. Across the academy, there has already been some exciting learning taking place. We are continually impressed by their engagement and the way they are embracing challenge.

Over the past week, we have had a particular focus on behaviour and attitudes. We held a whole-school assembly to revisit our Code of Conduct:



Be Safe Be Respectful Be Ready to Learn Be Responsible

During the assembly, we also shared our graduated response to behaviour with pupils so they understand clearly how we support them to make positive choices. A copy of this will be shared with you this week.

Within classrooms, we have introduced **Regulation Stations** and **Concentration Aids**. Regulation Stations are designated areas within classrooms that provide pupils with access to simple, planned sensory supports to help them regulate and refocus.

We are also very much looking forward to **World Book Day on Thursday 4th March**. This year, we are linking our celebration of reading with science, which promises to be an exciting combination of imagination and discovery. We cannot wait to see all of the wonderful costumes and to celebrate books and learning together.

Warm Wishes
Mr Sheehan and Mrs Harrington

KEY DATES

03/03/26	6 India Class Lunch
05/03/26	World Book Day – Dress up as book character
09/03/26	Year 6 SATs Parents Meeting 3.30pm
16/03/26	Class Photographs
17/03/26	Ladies Day Lunch
24/03/26	Year 4 Easter Assembly
26/03/26	PTA Easter Trail £2 Entry – 3.30pm
30/03/26 – 10/04/26	Easter Holidays
14/04/26	Non Uniform Day for Cereal



Spa Road ● Witham ● CM8 1NA

Co-Headteachers ● Mrs M Harrington, Mr D Sheehan

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This Week's Attendance



Attendance Cake

6 China

4 Kenya



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	131	
2	5 Korea	91	
3	4 Peru	86	
4	4 Kenya	67	
5	6 India	69	
6	4 Zimbabwe	58	
7	5 Japan	55	
8	5 Singapore	54	
9	5 Thailand	43	
10	4 Argentina	41	
11	4 Brazil	41	
12	3 Egypt	31	

House Team Competition/Update

	Attenborough	4828		THUNBERG	5004
	RASHFORD	4817		Yousafzai	4086

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



Bilel – 5S
Brooke - 3P

Milak – 6J
Lily-Rose – 6J
Alex – 6I
Elijah – 4E
Amarni-Rae – 4Z
Bayo – 4Z
Freya – 3B
Mileena – 3A
Kharys - 5K

Sifeng – 6C
Kayson - 4K

Lara Glynnis - 5T



Week 3
w/b 02/03/2026



Sports Personality of the Week



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.



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.

In Other News...



Celebration Corner



A big well done to Millie who competed in her first county level gymnastics competition, coming 3rd overall in her category and the highest score of the gymnasts from the club she attends. The smiles make the daily strength training and conditioning all worth it!



Congratulations to Andrew who was awarded player of the match for Witham rugby team

Well done to Mason who on Sunday 22nd February attended an Under 11s Darts Competition at The Railway Club in Clacton. 32 players entered (5 players for the Academy he attends at Spring Lodge). All his hard work & practice paid off as he made it to the final! He came runner up to another Spring Lodge player & they both displayed amazing sportsmanship & should be very proud of their conduct. Not only did Mason make it to the Final but they had retired professional darts caller 'Russ Bray' there to call their final match (a once in a lifetime opportunity) & also managed to hit 180 in an earlier match.



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

Outdoor Learning

Please can we ask for donations of old wellington boots or old pairs of trainers for outdoor learning. These will be kept on site for children to use if 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...



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.

Vacancies:

We currently have two vacancies at Witham Oaks Academy:

For more information and to apply use the links below:

Learning Support Assistant – 15 hours per week (8:45am – 12:00pm)

<https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=117003>

Learning Support Assistant – Autism Provision – 26.25 hours per week (8:45am – 3:15pm, Monday–Friday)

<https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=117105>

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	India Class Lunch
5/3/26	World Book day
9/3/26	Year 6 SATs Parents Meeting 3.30pm
16/3/26	Class Photographs
17/3/26	Ladies Day Lunch
20/3/26	Red Nose Day
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.