



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

Our vision is to inspire all with a life-long love of learning.

Mrs Moore would like to say.....

Dear parents and carers

Welcome back! I hope that you have had a good break and that you are energised and looking forward to the year ahead. I am certainly brimming with New Year's resolutions and ideas; I feel this year is going to be an exciting one and one in which we have to push ahead and not dwell on the setbacks we have encountered over the last few years.

As you are aware, one of our priorities this year is parental engagement and we have put a lot in place to support this.

Community Café Event

The school staged a Community Cafe event at the beginning of the year - sadly, it was not well attended and so we need to go back to the drawing board with this idea - those who did go were very complimentary and felt that they understood more about the school as a result and were able to share their thoughts. Possibly, an online version of this maybe an option.

Retune

Parents and carers were invited to take part in a Retune session last term. Windhill21 use Retune to support pupils in years 4 - 6 to be more resilient and develop strategies to support their own well-being. The event was designed for parents and carers to understand the principles behind the programme and tap into some of the strategies so that they can help their child and even themselves.

Parent Network

This initiative has been successful is now becoming well-established. Parent Network meetings are half termly, and they have been fruitful and constructive. One of the 'hot topics' has been homework - this has always been a contentious issue in education in general and ignites many opposing views in the parent community, a bit of a marmite situation. Research is not clear as to its benefits, but it cannot be ignored that it is a 'discipline' ready for the expectations for secondary school and a chance to practise and embed what has been learned in school rather

[SCHOOL CALENDAR](#)[CURRICULUM](#)[LUNCH MONEY](#)[GALLERY](#)[RESOURCES](#)

Windhill21, Windhill, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 2NE

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than 'new learning'. The SLT are reviewing the homework policy and will let you know our agreed outcomes before half term. In the meantime, please keep up with the work set for your child so that they are supported to achieve their best.

Questionnaire

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who gave of their time willingly to fill in our parent questionnaire. There were many positives regarding communication and engagement but the two areas that were identified for improvement were:

1. **Communication**- there was too much. This topic is a tricky one as there is a fine balance between too much and too little communication. I will discuss this with the parent reps at the meeting this half term. If there are any suggestions, you wish to put forward then please let the reps know. Please be mindful that the next meeting is on the 24th January.
2. **Curriculum** - parents were keen to understand more. In order to support this, we have decided that each year group will hold an online Curriculum update meeting on Google Classroom this term. Please see the dates below.

Please see below the Curriculum update meeting with parents (on Google Classroom) for year 1 – 6. Nursery and Reception will be combining theirs with the Celebration of Learning event on Thursday 26th.

Year 1	Monday 16th January	4.30pm
Year 2	Tuesday 17th January	4.30pm
Year 3	Tuesday 24th January	4pm
Year 4	Monday 23rd January	4:30pm
Year 5	Monday 16th January	4pm
Year 6	Tuesday 24th January	4:30pm

Celebration of Learning Event

Years 1 – 6: Thursday January 19th 3pm - 4:30pm

Nursery: Thursday 26th January 8.30am and 2.30pm

Reception: Thursday January 26th at 2.30pm

Your child's classroom will be open for you to visit so you can look at the learning environment along with your child's work. Hopefully the slot will be long enough if you have more than one child in the school.

Please note that the EYFS environment has had a refurbishment and we are keen to show you our new outstanding environments and explain how the learning is delivered to your child.

I really hope that this helps explain how we are striving to improve the opportunities and the quality of engagement for you all. If you have any further suggestions, please pass them to your parent rep and they can be discussed at our meetings.

All the very best,
Philippa Moore

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For your information.....

PE Days

Confirmation of your child's PE days are as follows:-

Reception

Armstrong - Wednesday
Jemison - Wednesday

Year 1

Seacole - Tuesday and Thursday
Nightingale - Tuesday and Thursday

Year 2

Greta - Tuesday and Thursday
Attenborough - Tuesday and Thursday

Year 3

Handel - Monday and Friday
Beatles - Monday and Friday

Year 4

Shakespeare - Wednesday (Swimming until half term and PE after half term) and Thursday.
Rowling - Wednesday (PE until half term and Swimming to replace PE after half term - details to be sent) and Thursday

Year 5

Malala - Tuesdays and Wednesday
Mandela - Tuesdays and Thursday

Year 6

Kahlo - Monday
Da Vinci - Monday

School Photographs

For any parents yet to purchase photos from last term, Pret-a-Portrait would like to extend the discount until Tuesday 31st January!

Head to their website www.pret-a-portrait.net and enter your sitting ID and the 25% discount will automatically be applied.

If you have misplaced your sitting ID, please contact Pret-a-Portrait directly on 0800 021 7626 or customerservice@pret-a-portrait.net

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No Nuts Policy

A reminder that as a school we have a **strict no nuts policy**. Within school there are a number of children who suffer from severe nut allergies and are at risk of anaphylactic shock should they have any contact at all with nuts. It is therefore imperative that **no products containing nuts** are brought onto the school site or included within pack lunches or snack items. Thank you for your continued support with this.



Dates for your Diary*		
Date	Event	Action
JANUARY 2023		
Monday 9 th January 2023	TERM STARTS	
Monday 9 th January 2023 – Friday 20 th January 2023	Extreme Weather Week In the Eye of the Storm.... Are You Ready....?	
Monday 16 th January 2023	Year 6 Young Voices at O2	Child places confirmed. Parent/Carer tickets available from Arbor school shop until 9am 15.10.22
Monday 16th January 2023	Year 5 Curriculum update meeting 4.00pm	Virtual meeting on Google Classroom.
Monday 16th January 2023	Year 1 Curriculum update meeting 4.30pm	Virtual meeting on Google Classroom.
Tuesday 17th January 2023	Year 2 Curriculum update meeting 4.30pm	Virtual meeting on Google Classroom.
Thursday 19 th January 2023	Celebration of Learning Event 3pm – 4.30pm Year 1 – Year 6	More information to follow
Monday 23rd January 2023	Year 4 Curriculum update meeting 4.30pm	Virtual meeting on Google Classroom.
Tuesday 24th January 2023	Year 3 Curriculum update meeting 4.00pm	Virtual meeting on Google Classroom.
Tuesday 24th January 2023	Year 6 Curriculum update meeting 4.30pm	Virtual meeting on Google Classroom.
Thursday 26th January 2023	EYFS Celebration of the new learning environment	Nursery and Reception parents invited to school

	<p>Nursery: 8.30 and 2.30 (depending on sessions your child attends)</p> <p>Reception: 2.30pm</p>	<p>to take a look at the new learning environment in EYFS and to understand how your child's learning is delivered.</p>
Friday 27 th January 2023	Open Morning for Nursey September 2023 Intake	Bookings are now open to attend the open day. Please contact the school office to book your space.
FEBRUARY 2023		
Thursday 9 th February 2023	Mrs Moore's Tea Party	Selected Children by Invitation Only
Monday 13 th February 2023 – Friday 17 th February 2023	HALF TERM	
Thursday 23 rd February 2023	Open Morning for Nursery September 2023 Intake	Bookings are now open to attend the open day. Please contact the school office to book your space.
MARCH 2023		
Tuesday 14 th March 2023	Year 6 Big Bang Science Fair at Herts & Essex	More information to follow
Monday 20 th March 2023 – Wednesday 22 nd March 2023	Year 4 Residential to East Mersea	Instalment payments to be made on Arbor. Final two on: 15/01 and 15/02
Thursday 30 th March 2023	Mrs Moore's Tea Party	Selected Children by Invitation Only
Friday 31 st March 2023	TERM ENDS at 1.15pm	
APRIL 2023		
Monday 3 rd April 2023 – Friday 14 th April 2023	Easter Holidays	
Monday 17 th April 2023	TERM STARTS	
MAY 2023		
Monday 1 st May 2023	May Bank Holiday – School Closed	
Monday 8 th May 2023	Extra Bank Holiday for the King's Coronation – School Closed	
Thursday 19 th May 2023	Year 6 Crucial Crew	More information to follow
Monday 29 th May 2023 – Friday 2 nd June 2023	HALF TERM	

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JULY 2023		
Thursday 20 th July 2023	TERM ENDS	
SEPTEMBER 2023		
Friday 1 st September 2023	INSET DAY	
Monday 4 th September 2023	INSET DAY	
Tuesday 5 th September 2023	TERM STARTS	
Monday 11 th September 2023 – Friday 15 th September 2023	Year 6 France Residential (Current Year 5)	Instalment payments to be made on Arbor. Three instalments remaining - Payments to be made on: 15/02, 15/03 and 15/04
OCTOBER 2023		
Monday 23 rd October 2023 – Friday 27 th October 2023	HALF TERM	
Monday 30 th October 2023	INSET DAY	
Tuesday 31 st October 2023	TERM STARTS	
DECEMBER 2023		
Thursday 21 st December 2023	TERM ENDS at 1.15pm	
JANUARY 2024		
Thursday 4 th January 2024	INSET DAY	
Friday 5 th January 2024	INSET DAY	
Monday 8 th January 2024	TERM STARTS	
<p>* In Bold – Added new this week.</p> <p>* Please check the school website for updates www.windhill.herts.sch.uk</p>		

A world of possibilities

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