



# WINTHORPE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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*learning together - growing together*

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## Whole School Newsletter, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Parking

Unfortunately, poor and inconsiderate parking at drop off and pick up times has become an issue again recently. I am having to regularly deal with complaints from villagers, comments from parents in disbelief at how selfishly people have parked, and, most worryingly of all, reports of near misses where a child has been very close to being involved in a significant incident.

I have been working alongside the Parish Council to try to improve the situation, and I am attending a village meeting next month to try to look proactively at options to deal with the situation. Many of you will have seen the traffic wardens who were on patrol earlier in the week and this will now be a regular occurrence.

When people park on the double yellow lines around Thoroughfare Lane it dramatically reduces visibility around the junction. I'm aware that people with a 'Blue Badge' are sometimes permitted to park on double yellow lines, but my understanding is that this should not be the case around Thoroughfare Lane as you would be parking unsafely and too close to a junction. However, whatever your interpretation of the Highway Code, it does not feel an unreasonable request for the school to ask you not to park there, especially when they are trying to improve the safety of the children.

Can everyone please try and follow the guidelines set out below:

Please....	Why?
<b>Don't park on the double yellow lines</b>	It makes the junction dangerous and reduces visibility making small children particularly difficult to see
<b>Don't use Thoroughfare Lane for drop off or pick up</b>	Due to the often inaccessible footpath and the proximity to school, Thoroughfare Lane is used as a footpath for many families. This makes it unsafe to have vehicles down the Lane at drop off and pick up times. In addition, there is no safe turning place.
<b>Only park on the school side of Gainsborough Road</b>	This allows traffic to enter and leave the village freely. Children also do not need to cross the road, reducing risk of incidents
<b>Don't do 3-point turns on Gainsborough Road or in Thoroughfare Lane, use the turning circle outside the pub instead</b>	It will take approximately one minute longer and entirely eliminates the risk of you hitting a child mid manoeuvre on the footpath or the road.
<b>Park considerately</b>	Maintain positive relationships with our neighbours, and reduce anxiety and stress levels.

I hope I can count on the support of everyone to help make drop off and pick up times safe for everyone.

## **Running Club tomorrow**

There is a weather warning in place for tomorrow with a storm and gale force winds predicted. I'm not a fan of cancelling events 'just in case', but there is a good chance that we may not be able to run tomorrow morning. If conditions are bad, running club will be cancelled and any children present will be supervised in the classroom instead. We will obviously understand if you look out of the window and decide to give running club a miss with this in mind!

## **Water Leaks**

We currently have an issue at the front of school which has caused a large soggy area inconveniently at the front of school outside the Offices. Whilst we try to get this sorted, we will try to reduce the footfall using the front entrance, which given the location is easier said than done!

**In the short term, Breakfast Club and After-School Club drop off and collection, and Gold Book entry tomorrow will be through the kitchen classroom entrance, by the bins.**

## **Gold Book**

Gold Book is on tomorrow, but unfortunately won't be on next week (Friday 31<sup>st</sup>) due to Class 3 being on a trip to Cresswell Crags and a sporting event taking place.

## **School Management System Change to Arbor**

As we start to get to grips with Arbor, we're ready to start trialling a couple of features over the forthcoming weeks. Our first test is to try and send emails out through Arbor successfully. We've started to test this today, and hopefully you will have received two emails from Hannah this morning saying that initially we had issues with the phone, and then secondly that the issues had been resolved.

I'm going to send this newsletter out through Arbor, and will also be sending it out through Outlook, as normal, so hopefully you should receive two copies of the newsletter this week. If you don't, and you don't think you received this morning's telephone emails, can you please let me or Hannah know and we'll try to sort out why.

## **Mid-Day Supervisor**

We are still looking to recruit a new Mid-Day Supervisor to support the lunchtime team. The role involves a combination of supervising the children with their lunches and then outside on the playground. The hours are 7.5 hours per week, Monday – Friday, term time only, 11:45am – 1:15pm. Full training will be provided and a DBS check will be required. If you are interested in the role yourself, or know someone who might be interested, please do let either myself or Hannah in the office know.

Thanks for your support,

Mr Rob Cook  
Headteacher

You are Invited to



## The MHST's PARENT WEBINARS

Scan the QR codes below to join the Teams Meeting or contact the MHST on 0115 8760167.

Children's Emotional Health & Wellbeing  
18<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 1:00-2:30pm



Meeting ID: 387 503 574 253

Passcode: z2rrpV



WINTHORPE  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

2024/25 - Opening Dates and Holidays

Weekends
Holidays
Training Days *
Bank Holiday **

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# ATTENDANCE

## WHAT THE NEW STATUTORY RULES MEAN FOR OUR FAMILIES

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes have come into force for all schools and academies from the 19th August 2024. You can find out more about these changes online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>. Thank you, as always for your support.

### WHAT IS IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE?

If your child is absent for 10 or more unauthorised sessions in a 10 week period, this is classed as irregular. Work with your academy to help understand and address the reasons for absence and any barriers.

### PENALTY NOTICES

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notices issued after 19th August 2024. Penalty Notices will continue to be issued by the Local Authority, they are not issued by the Trust or our Academies.

### WHAT IS A SESSION?

2 sessions is equal to 1 day! Attendance is recorded as AM and PM sessions daily.

#### 10 IN 10!

If your child is absent for 10 sessions in a 10 week period (5 days) and these are unauthorised, our academies have to consider referring for a Penalty Notice to be issued.

### PER PARENT PER CHILD

Penalty Notices will now be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent. Example: a penalty notice issued for 2x siblings resulting in both parents receiving 2 fines, one per child, 4 penalty notices in total for the family.

**THE FUNDS RAISED FROM FINES ARE PAID TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND NOT OUR ACADEMIES. IT CAN BE USED FOR ADMINISTRATION COSTS AND TOWARDS ATTENDANCE SUPPORT BY THE LA. ACADEMIES DO NOT DIRECTLY BENEFIT.**

### FIRST OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued the amount will be:

**£160 PER PARENT, PER CHILD  
REDUCED TO £80 PER PARENT PER CHILD IF PAID WITHIN 21 DAYS.**

What if I am a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week in term time?...

**YOUR REQUEST CAN NOT BE AUTHORISED FOR ANY CIRCUMSTANCES!  
A WEEK IS 10 SESSIONS THAT YOUR CHILD WILL MISS AND YOU WILL BE  
ISSUED A PENALTY NOTICE. THE FINE WILL BE £160 BUT REDUCE TO £80 IF  
PAID WITHIN 21 DAYS. HOLIDAY ABSENCES CAN NOT BE AUTHORISED.**

**WHAT IF (IN A PERIOD OF NOT MORE THAN 3 YEARS) YOUR CHILD HAS A 2ND AND 3RD  
LEAVE OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE OR PATTERN OF IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE?...**

### SECOND OFFENCE

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days. No Reduction.

### THIRD OFFENCE

#### AND OTHER FURTHER OFFENCES

(Within 3 years) A penalty notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

### ABSENCES REPORTED AS ILLNESS

All absences reported as illness will be monitored. All academies have to refer to the Local Authority, Nottinghamshire County Council once they total 15 days absence collectively. Please don't worry if your child is ill and please don't send them to school if they are not well enough, please do communicate openly with your academy to enable us to support and work together. Not sure if they are well enough for school? Check out <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



Our Trust wide updated Attendance Policy can be found at: [www.aspire-mat.co.uk/policies](http://www.aspire-mat.co.uk/policies)