



# SOUTH WITHAM ACADEMY NEWS

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024 and may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year! I hope that you all had a wonderful break during Christmas. The children have returned to school excited to continue their learning.

It has been a lovely start to term 3 with children being introduced to new topics and hitting the ground running. I popped into Little Hedgehogs to see the children investigating ice, into Woodlands, where the children were learning about plants and leaves outside, Otters, where the children are starting to learn about the Victorians and are looking forward to their trip next week and into Badgers where the children have been writing instructions about a new potion! All very exciting!

We have a very busy term ahead and I wanted to let you know about our term dates for February half term. Our half term at South Witham Academy is from Monday 19th February until Friday 23rd January, inline with the other schools in the Brooke Hill Academy trust. I have noticed that this is different to some other primary and secondary schools in Lincolnshire so I just wanted to make you aware. I hope you have a great weekend,

*Mr Atter*



## UPCOMING DIARY DATES

**9th Jan** - Otter trip to Oakham Castle

**24th Jan** - Young Voices YR 6

**16th Feb** - End of Term 3

**26th Feb** - Start of Term 4

We are looking to recruit parent / family helpers to come into school to listen to some readers. It is a lovely opportunity to get involved in school life and support our wonderful children.

If anyone feels they would like to offer some time, please contact Mrs Caucutt in the office and we will make arrangements to secure times and days.



## HOUSE POINT TOTALS

BURGHLEY

BELTON

WOOLSTHORPE

899

764

1049





# Little Hedgehogs 2024

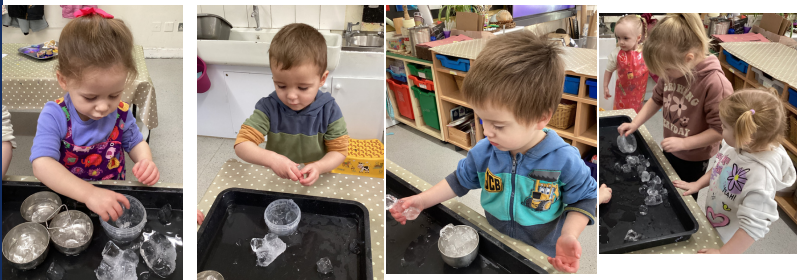
Happy New year.

Our Little Hedgehogs have come back into nursery settled and talking about what they got up to over the Christmas break.

We have explored ice and talked about what we could see in the ice “bubbles”, “lines” and that it makes us “shiver” when we hold it for too long.

Keep an eye out for this terms newsletter to see what we are going to get up to this term.

Quick reminder we do have the door open a lot due to lots of coughs and cold going around so please send in some warm layers.



# Woodlands



Happy New Year! The children have had a lovely first week back, we have been writing thank you letters to Santa this week to show him how grateful we are for our presents! The children have absolutely loved being back and being able to share with the rest of the class what they have been doing over the Christmas period.

This week we have been doing lots of outside learning and exploring, we had a look at what plants we could find and name, we looked at some new plants and worked in pairs to discover their names. The children loved being outside and demonstrated some great knowledge when identifying plants – we are super proud of them and their work!

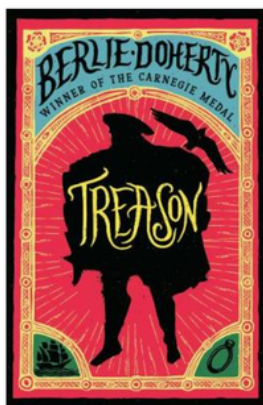
We have had a great first few days back and we look forward to seeing them for the full week next week!



# Badgers

Happy New Year to all our wonderful Badger children and their families!

We have made a promising start to 2024. The children have been busy writing independent instructions for a ‘New Year, New You!’ potion with some very creative ingredients. We have made predictions about our new class text ‘Treason’ and can’t wait to get started reading the historical story set in the Tudor times, our new topic.

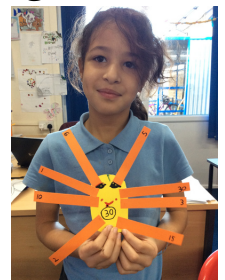
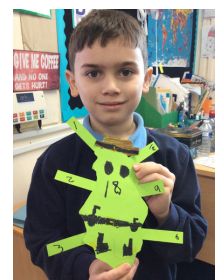
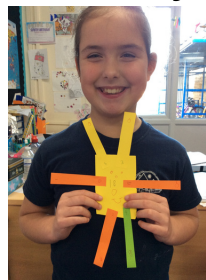


# Otters



Happy New Year from everyone in Otter Class!

We have had a busy start to the year, practising our times tables and creating factor bugs, showing the number of factors for different numbers. We have also started learning about our new topic, Inventions from the Victorian Age, and have learned a little bit about the life of Queen Victoria. We are looking forward to our trip on Tuesday to really start our learning off!



# PRIDE OF SOUTH WITHAM

Always Club

YAY!



## Readers of the Week!



Attendance Superstars  
 this week goes to  
**OTTERS**  
 with 96%

## CAREERS WEEK

Careers week is the first week in March and we would like to invite in anyone that would like to discuss their job with our classes.

Your job or career, can be anything. We would like you to give a talk to each class to explain what you do and how you got into the role. If you would like to volunteer for this, or know someone that would like to come in, please contact Mrs Caucutt in the office.

Attendance is something we celebrate each week in our Celebration Assembly on a Friday. We are required to collate and update the attendance figures for the local authority each week. Going forward we will be monitoring attendance closely to ensure that we are hitting the targets given to the school by the DFE.



The Wrap Club is only available from 3:15pm - 4.30pm until the end of January due to staff illness. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer a before school session.

Lincolnshire  
*Asking for a better future*

### Starting School?

Children born between  
**1 September 2019 and  
 31 August 2020** are due to start  
**Reception in September 2024**

You must apply for a school place  
 Before 12 noon, 15 January 2024  
 Apply online at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmission](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmission)  
 or telephone 01522 782039

Do you know where your local primary school is?  
 Go to [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmission](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmission)  
 or telephone 01522 782039



to this pair who celebrated their birthdays in the holidays.

## Top Tips for...

# MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

Buy Milk

### GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

### TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

### GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

### LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

### AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

### HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

### BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

### 'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

### SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

### TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

### SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

### WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

## Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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