

★★★ Last week's whole school attendance: 94.0% ★★★

# W WINNS WEEKLY

21.12.2023

Un week-end  
bun să aveți!

Romanian  
Have a good weekend!



Headteacher: Fiona Judge / The Winns Primary School, Fleeming Rd. E17 5ET  
020 8527 1872 / [www.thewinnsprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.thewinnsprimaryschool.co.uk) / [office@winns.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:office@winns.waltham.sch.uk)

## DATES FOR DIARIES W.B. 8.1.2024

Monday 8th January Staff INSET Day

Tuesday 9th January Children return

Wednesday 10th January Reception 2024 Parent Tour (appt. only, 9:30am)

Thursday 11th January Nursery Parent Tour (9:30am)

Please remember to subscribe to our online calendar so that you receive automatic updates into your own calendar.

### MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear families,

As we approach the end of term, I would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful Winns community for all your support over the Autumn term. It's been a long and busy term and we are definitely ready for the Christmas break. On behalf of everyone at The Winns, we would like to say how much we appreciate your support - so often I reflect on how lucky we are to be part of a great community school who support each other and are always willing to help out and reach out in so many different ways.

Our children have been amazing. They have worked hard, settled really well into new classes and make us smile every day. We saw how happy, confident and how full of the joys of life they all are when they sang their hearts out at our recent concerts. Who couldn't enjoy working at The Winns when we are surrounded everyday by so many wonderful children. (continues on page 2)



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## A HUGE THANK YOU TO FRIENDS OF THE WINNS!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved with Friends of The Winns' fundraising efforts this term. Whether you volunteered some of your time or simply came along to support the event, we are hugely thankful. Over the Festive period, FOTW have raised around £5400 for the school, which includes the Winter Fair, the Raffle, Christmas cards and the Movie Night. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated group of parents who are committed to getting the best for our children. Thank you!

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD (CONT.)

A special shout out to Friends of the Winns. What an amazing team you are - your tireless dedication to our school is incredible. Our Winter fair was a huge success. Everyone had a great day AND we raised some much needed funds for our school. Well done everyone - a great achievement. Over the Christmas holidays we will be installing a new kitchen in one of our learning spaces. Friends of the Winns have contributed to this and we are looking forward to having a space for our children to learn some cooking skills!

Over the Christmas holidays, please do encourage your child to continue reading and do monitor how much time they are spending on devices. We are becoming increasingly concerned by the number of hours some children are spending playing games on an X-Box, a PlayStation or on a phone. Saying no to our children can be difficult. However, it is important that you put in place strict rules about screen time and find other ways to engage them - all our children still love playing family board games, spending time outside, building Lego together or just spending time together as a family.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas break and are able to enjoy some quality family time together. Have a great Christmas everyone!

Warmest wishes,

*Fiona and all the staff team at The Winns*



## OUR VISION IN ACTION

**Belonging** - It was fabulous to see the kindness from all of our families to help put our class parties together this week. The children had a fantastic time dancing and playing games together - and they certainly didn't go hungry!

**Growing** - As we reach the end of the calendar year, we look back and reflect on the many ways in which the children have grown this year, not only academically, but socially and personally.



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## CHRISTMAS PARTIES

We celebrated the end of the Autumn term this week with class parties across the school. Children were able to dress up in their party clothes and spend time having fun together, playing party games, dancing and eating the wonderful selection of food that was brought in by our families. Thank you as always for your generous support!



## FOTW WINTER MOVIE NIGHT

Thank you to the parents who staged our first Movie Night in school for Y3 & 4. The children had a wonderful time and we raised around £100 for Friends of The Winns. Thank you for your support!



## THE LITTLEST CHRISTMAS ELF PRODUCTION

Our Reception and Nursery children received an early Christmas treat when they were visited by Pip the Elf for a fun-filled, interactive show!



## OUR VISION IN ACTION

**Exploring** - Our children have explored learning opportunities outside of the classroom throughout this term. Trips to Lloyd Park, Museum of Docklands and The British Museum, among many has made links to the learning that has taken place back in class.

**Achieving** - As we look back across the Autumn term, we recognise the huge amount of learning that has happened, how much the children have achieved and the effort that has been put in by the children and staff in school.



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Waltham Forest Town Hall, Fellowship Square, Forest Road, London E17 4JF

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parent,

**Re: Book your child for their free winter holiday club**

I am pleased to be writing to invite you to book your child onto the free Waltham Forest's Holiday Activity and Food Programme for Winter 2023.

These free holiday opportunities are funded through the government's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, which enables us to provide a holiday programme across the borough for primary and secondary school aged children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

From Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December you will be able to visit the website below where you will be able to book your child onto range of sessions from **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024**, at no cost to you. The sessions will include a variety of fun activities, including sports, music, arts and other exciting opportunities to learn and develop skills, alongside a nutritious meal each day.

- To find out more and the places available to book, please visit [www.walthamforest.gov.uk/holidays](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/holidays)
- To book a place you must enter your unique code: **TWIPSHAF23** for your child when asked for the 'FSM Code' at checkout.
- If you have any queries regarding the holiday activity programme, please email [wfholidayactivityprogramme@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:wfholidayactivityprogramme@walthamforest.gov.uk) or call 0208 496 3000.

In addition to this free programme, families who are eligible for Universal Credit may be able to claim back up to 85% of their childcare costs. Please visit <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/universal-credit> to find out more.

Yours faithfully,



**Lindsay Jackson**  
**Assistant Director Post 16 & School Operations**

## Attendance Leaflet for Parents/Carers

### Why is school attendance important?

Pupils with good attendance are more likely to do well at school. When pupils miss school, even if the time period is very short, it can lead to gaps in their learning which might make future lessons more difficult for them.

Regular attendance helps pupils to feel part of the school community and enables them to develop good relationships with their peers and other members of the school community. This can have a positive impact on their wellbeing and help them to feel more settled in school.

When a pupil attends school every day, it helps to establish good routines and habits for their later life.

### What does the law say?

It is a legal requirement for schools to keep a record of attendance and the reasons for any absences. There are clear guidelines set out by the government about how schools should manage attendance and schools are expected to follow these.

Only the headteacher can officially authorise an absence but, unless there is a concern, other staff will usually do this on their behalf. Parents and carers should provide reasons for absences to enable the school to decide whether or not to authorise the absence based on government guidelines.

Parents and carers must ensure that their child attends school regularly. Failure to do so, without good reason, is an offence, even if they are missing school without your knowledge. Parents and carers of children with unauthorised absences may be subject to a fixed penalty notice/legal action.

### What are the different types of absence?

There are two broad categories of absence:

**Authorised absence:** This is an absence that has been authorised by the school for a legitimate medical, emergency or unavoidable situation.

Typical examples of authorised absence include:

- illness that means a child is too unwell to come to school;
- following NHS advice regarding remaining off school following a period of illness (in the case of certain infectious illnesses);
- an emergency medical or dental appointment;
- the recent death of a close family member;
- religious observance, as long as certain conditions are met.

**Unauthorised absence:** This is where a pupil's absence is for a reason deemed to be unacceptable by the school or where the reason for a pupil's absence has not been provided and cannot be established.

Some examples of unauthorised absence include:

- looking after a younger sibling;
- time off for birthday celebrations;
- a family holiday (unless there are exceptional circumstances);
- oversleeping;
- shopping trips or days out;
- waiting in for a delivery.

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## Why is it important that my child is on time each day?

When children are late to school, they may initially feel unsettled and they might miss important information and activities.

Schools are required to record late arrivals. If pupils arrive after the start of the school day but when the register is still open, it will be recorded as a late mark. If pupils arrive after the register closes (which government guidelines state must be within 30 minutes of the register opening), then their morning mark will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, unless evidence can be provided that there are exceptional circumstances that led to the late arrival.

## How does occasional absence affect my child?

Missing occasional days from school may seem unimportant at the time; however, this can have a significant impact on your child in the long term:

% of attendance in a school year	Number of days absent	Weeks missed
98%	4	Less than 1 week
95%	9.5	Nearly 2 weeks
90%	19	Nearly 4 weeks
85%	28.5	Nearly 6 weeks

A pupil with 85% attendance is missing nearly half a term of learning time each school year.

Regular absences can result in poorer outcomes over time. Research shows that pupils who miss between 10% and 20% of school (which is between half and one day per week on average) stand only a 35% chance of achieving five or more good GCSEs, compared to 73% of those who miss fewer than 5% of school days.

Late arrivals also add up over time – being 10 minutes late each day adds up to two weeks of lost learning time over the whole school year.

## What about medical appointments?

We understand that pupils need to attend medical and dental appointments and that it is not always possible to arrange this outside of school time. However, we would request that any non-emergency appointments are made for outside of the school day as this keeps the disruption to a minimum and ensures that they do not miss important lessons.

## Why won't the school usually authorise absence for a family holiday?

We recognise that family vacations during the school holidays can be expensive and that booking a cheaper term-time holiday might be tempting. However, headteachers can only authorise leave during term time if there are exceptional circumstances, even if your child has an excellent attendance record or if you believe that the reason for the absence is justified.

Parents and carers should plan their holidays around school holidays and avoid asking for permission to take their children out of school unless it is absolutely unavoidable.

there are exceptional circumstances, then a request can be made to the school using our absence request form by clicking the link <https://tinyurl.com/yc6r989n> or contacting the school office.

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Requests for term-time absences should be made as soon as possible. However, we recognise that in some rare instances, this will not always be possible.

Requests for term-time absences will be considered on a case-by-case basis taking the facts, circumstances and any supporting evidence into consideration. Leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances is at the discretion of the headteacher. This includes the length of time that the leave will be granted for.

## What is school refusal?

If your child is refusing to go to school, this is known as 'school refusal'. There are a number of different reasons for school refusal, including general anxiety, worries about leaving home, problems with friends or peers, academic problems and depression. Sometimes, the cause can be a combination of different factors.

If your child is refusing to attend school, you should let us know immediately so that we can work together to put a plan in place to deal with any underlying issues and get your child back into school. The longer school refusal goes on, the more difficult it is to address.

## How do I request an absence in advance?

If you want to request authorisation for a planned absence, please use our absence request form which can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc6r989n>.

Paper copies of this form are also available from the school office.

Please submit any requests as early as possible as we may need to ask for additional information before we can consider your request. Please do not make any plans until you have been told the outcome of your request.

Please be aware that we can only approve absences that are for exceptional circumstances so will be unable to authorise family holidays in most cases.

## How do I report an unplanned absence to the school?

Unexpected absences should be reported to school by:

**Using the absence link <https://tinyurl.com/vmemsv6v> or you can call the school office. If there is no answer please leave a clear message stating your child's name, class and the reason for the absence.**

Please report any absences by **9am** or as soon as you become aware that your child will be absent.

In the case of illness, the absence will usually be authorised unless there are grounds for concern that the illness may not be genuine or that it might not be sufficient to require time off school. In these cases, the school may ask for additional evidence, such as a doctor's note, appointment card, hospital letter or medical report. The school will not ask for this additional evidence unnecessarily.

If you do not provide a reason for your child's absence, we will contact you to find out why they are not in school. Unexplained absences will be recorded as unauthorised.

## Who should I contact if I have any questions or concerns about my child's attendance?

Allison Tokeley

**[The information in this leaflet is based on our attendance policy which can be found on the school website or paper copies provided upon request.]**

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**OMEGA  
SPORTZ**



**Omega Sportz**

**Winter Activity Camp**

**@ Ainslie Wood Primary School**

140 Ainslie Wood Road

E4 9DD



**Waltham Forest**

Arts & Crafts

**Winter Fun for Children  
Aged 5-12**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Jan – 5<sup>th</sup> Jan**

Hot lunch Included



Animal Workshops

**ALL DAY: 9:00 – 16:00 £35**  
**AM: 9:00 – 13:00 £25 or free for FSM**  
**PM: 12:00 – 16:00 £25 or free for FSM**

Bouncy Castle

Science Experiments

**Free half-day spaces**

**for kids who qualify for Free School**

**Meals: Book Here**

Dance

Ball Sports

**Book Here for  
paid spaces**

Team Games

**And sooo MUCH MORE!!!**

**Site Phone: 07706254498 (Camp Only)**

**Head Office: 07444592073**

**www.omegasportz.com**

**info@omegasportz.com**

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