

WOODLEY

C of E Primary School

Issue: 8

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2017



IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM MR TIM PITFIELD, CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

As we approach the end of another school year I would like to thank all staff, governors, parents and especially the pupils for all their hard work and focus in support of their individual and school wide goals. During several visits around the school this year many governors have had the opportunity to observe a typical day at the school. We were certainly impressed by the professionalism of the staff and the enthusiasm of all the pupils to embrace the BRIGHT Learning strategy across the whole school. Personally, I was delighted to see that the wonderful ethos that underpins everything we do at this school was still very evident throughout. This was a something we were very keen to preserve and was a key objective during the Head Teacher recruitment last year. So THANK YOU to everyone here for their part in maintaining that caring and loving ethos at Woodley C of E school.

The leadership of all schools is becoming increasingly difficult in the current climate and our leadership team have had plenty of expected and some unexpected challenges throughout another busy school year. We remain fully committed to further develop the school and to deliver an improving and outstanding education here. We should consider that everyone plays their part in taking this school forward and it is not something that the staff can do alone. With that in mind I wanted to highlight a disappointing statistic that hit my radar in recent months.

The overall rate of persistent pupil absence in our school is 3.6%. It is important to remind everyone that attendance during term time is important and any absence must be approved by the Head Teacher in line with the school attendance policy. The governing body have asked the Head Teacher to refer any unauthorised absence to the local authority for their review and possible intervention. We would very much appreciate your support as we strive to make the required and very necessary improvement in this particular area.

I wish everyone a fantastic summer holiday and look forward to the start of another wonderful school year in September.

Tim Pitfield, Chair of Governing Body

SURVEY

Feedback is very important to us and to this end we would really like you to complete our survey. This is an initial survey and we will be following this up with more detailed surveys in the future. Please follow the link below and ensure you click done when completed.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MYXXHLH>



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Dear Parents

Transition and New Classes

This week, we will be starting the process of preparing the children for the transition to their new year groups. They will visit their new year group phase on Thursday 6th July and spend some time getting to know their Phase Leader. The Phase Leader is responsible for all classes in the phase. You will be receiving a letter on Monday 10th July informing you of your child's class teacher for next year. The teachers have worked really hard to place the children in the most suitable class for them. If you have any concerns, please contact your child's new Phase Leader in the first instance. Your child will then meet their new teacher on Thursday 13th July. Please note that we have decided to move our meet the teacher meetings to the Autumn Term. On this evening, you will be given our new Parent Pack, Curriculum Bulletin and our Home/School Agreement. This is a very important meeting, so please put the date in your diary now, Monday 11th September from 6.30 pm. Specific times for each phase to follow.

Attendance Policy

Please see the new Attendance Policy attached. It is a requirement that children attend school every day unless they are unwell or under exceptional circumstances. Please read the policy and the message from our Chair of Governors carefully.

Understand your Child's report.

As you are aware, with the New National Curriculum and the abolition of levels, the school introduced a new assessment system based on milestones. In an attempt to make this clearer to all parents. Mr Blakely and I will be running a session for parents entitled "Understanding your child's report." This will take place on Wednesday 12th July at 3.30 pm in Maple Class. There will be a crèche run by members of staff in Rowan Class for school age children. Under 5's are welcome to attend with you. We are sorry for the short notice but it has been difficult to find a date in the diary for this.

Apology.

Schools are very busy places and I think all schools are keen to improve communication. To this end, we sometimes get it wrong and I would like to apologise to the parents of the children in Mrs Poole's class for not informing them of the fact that Mrs Poole was going to Little Canada.

Reports.

Your child's report will be sent home to you on Friday 21st July and teachers will be available from 3.30pm on Monday 24th July if you have any queries with the report. We are assuming that most parents will not need to attend this session as the report will just confirm the on-going communication between teachers and parents.

And Finally.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Woodley Carnival and we were pleased to win the prize for best float again! I would like to thank Mrs Humphrey and the other staff members for all their hard work getting the float ready. I would also like to thank our children for a wonderful afternoon on the float. Best wishes Louisa Gurney



Curriculum News

Foundation Stage:

Foundation have had lots of fun over the past couple of weeks learning about the story of Jack and The Beanstalk. We have acted the story out where the children thoroughly enjoyed taking on the role of the characters. A highlight has been planting our own magic beans! We learnt about planting and what the beans will need to grow. It has been amazing watching some of the beans grow into beanstalks...we hope that there isn't a giant at the top though!



The children have also made their own Jack and The Beanstalk hand puppets where they learnt how to sew. It was lovely to see how proud they were of themselves.



Over the next few weeks, taking us up to the end of term, we will be learning about pirates and seas.

We have started preparing the children for our transition up to KS1. We can't believe that it is nearly the end of the school year! This week we will be welcoming our new children on their first transition visits to school and the following week will see the whole school transition day.



Miss Lord - EYFS Phase Leader

Key Stage 1 (Years 1&2):

In KS1, we have started our new topic 'Around the World'. The topic has a geography focus and the children are comparing life in Australia to life in England. We have spent time looking in atlases to find out about capital cities and continents. We have watched videos about Australian people, animals and landmarks. In English, we are studying stories from other cultures. The children have listened to many Dreamtime stories which are traditional tales in Australia. We have learned the story of Tiddalick and the children have had great fun filming each other telling the story.



In art, we are looking at Aboriginal paintings and pointillism. The children have created some wonderful pictures already and are working on their final piece. In science, we are working on classifying animals and discussing their features.

This half term, Show and Tell will be on Friday 21st of July. The children can bring in something special to them or something linked to our topic. We will begin our work on transition from Y1 to Y2 and Y2 to Y3 soon to help prepare your children for change. Where did the time go?!



Mrs Blakely, KS1 Phase Leader.



Curriculum News

Lower Key Stage 2: (Years 3&4)

Another busy month in the Lower Juniors and lots of strange things have happened. An alien landed in the playground who sent us a video asking us to explain where he had landed.

We decided, in order to complete this mission, we would need to learn everything there is to know about explanation texts. The children are now familiar with the key features of explanation texts and are gearing up to responding to the alien [who seems very friendly!]

In maths we have recapped fractions and decimals. The children are much more confident in finding the fractions of numbers. We are now applying our understanding of decimals and fractions to measure.

In ICT we are designing our own amusement park. The children have researched existing parks and have thought carefully about creating a park which will be popular and fun. We are making PowerPoint presentations to present our business ideas to our friends and teachers.

In RE, we have been floating along The River Ganges. We have had thoughtful discussions considering why the river is sacred to Hindu's.

Mrs Powell, Lower KS2 Phase Leader



Curriculum News

Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5&6)



What an eventful month Upper Juniors have had. There have been several highlights starting with a Skype with the author of our class story 'Sky Hawk' – Gill Lewis. Children had prepared some probing questions and she answered them all honestly and engagingly. This one was particularly interesting, 'What job did you want to do when you were younger and why?' *"I really wanted to be an explorer or wildlife photographer or vet. I did not think I would be allowed to be an author because my handwriting and spelling was so bad..... It taught me not to be worried by failure; I do not get so discouraged. I have learnt that it is the idea that counts and there are many creative ways to put this across."* The children were certainly inspired – here is a quote from a child's thankyou letter, *"My classmates and I were so privileged to have you on the big screen in our classroom talking to us. You are such a nice, kind and genuine woman and I hope you and our school stay in touch. When you connected the call, I felt I wanted to jump up and down with excitement. You had such a good understanding and gave open answers to all our questions."* Gill Lewis's comment on the event was 'I had a fab time' We will be sending her a book made up of the children's poems, artwork and creative writing from 'Sky Hawk' in the future. A great experience to treasure.



On to the float and Woodley Carnival, which as usual was a fantastic day and well attended by our local community. Mrs Humphrey came up with a challenging design based around 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'. The children enjoyed making flowers, 'Toot' sweets, clouds and painting the scenery. On Friday and Saturday, a team of volunteers put it all together. Winning first prize was brilliant, especially as Mrs Humphrey has decided to pass the baton to someone else now. A big thank you goes out to all the 'Humphrey' family, whose life is always on hold at this time of year. Year 6 children will remember being part of this traditional event and no doubt the songs!

Continued



Curriculum News

Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5&6)

The Year 6 residential weekend to Little Canada was another successful trip. Challenges and fears were overcome and new friendships made. There were also many firsts – first time away from home, first time on a ferry and first time for putting on a harness! The photos and videos on our website (thank you Mr Blakely), clearly show what a fantastic time everyone had.



Whilst Year 6 were away, the Year 5's took part in a recycling challenge. They came up with some imaginative uses for plastic carrier bags. They had a go at knitting with 'plarn' (plastics and yarn) and designed their own clothes. This culminated in a fashion show; they clearly had fun 'modelling' their plastic creations on the catwalk.



The 12 year 5's, chosen by their peers to be Peer Mediators, had a training morning with Mrs Sharman and Mrs Benham. The children took part in different activities and role-played possible scenarios. They are now confident in helping others to sort out their problems, and looking forward to putting the theory into practice in the Autumn term.

We are now busy rehearsing for our end of term production of 'Olivia'. Children are producing some super work based around this musical, making props and of course learning their lines and all the songs.

Mrs Sharman, Upper KS2 Phase Leader.



Sporting News

Another busy month on the sporting front with Quad kids and cricket matches which were fitted in around all the other events happening in school.

Our quad kid squad of 10 headed off to Palmer Park to compete against 10 other schools and the scores of 11 schools from the morning session. As always our children gave 100% and pushed themselves to achieve personal bests and good scores for the school team. Accompanied by Mr Clare and Mr Blakely the children had a great afternoon.

I look forward to seeing you at our annual Sports Day on Friday 7th July. Events will start at 11.30am. We will stop for a family picnic lunch at 12.30-1pm and then activities will continue through the afternoon.

Jane Poole - PE Co-ordinator



Reminders from the Office

Caterlink lunches -

from September 2017 the cost of a school lunch for junior children will increase from £1.95 to £2.00.

Lost property -

As we near the end of term please make sure you regularly check the lost property boxes located in each phase. Access to these is via the office at the end of the school day. Lost property will be displayed on the last day of term in the central area. Any unclaimed items will be sent to charity.

Long term medicines -

If your child/ren have any long term medicines in school i.e. piriton, please make sure this is all collected from the school office at the end of term. It is your responsibility to ensure that any necessary medicines are returned in September.

Term dates -

Term finishes on **Tuesday 25th July at 2.30pm** and school returns on **Tuesday 5th September at 8.40am**.

Family Friday - due to sports day Family Friday on Friday 7th July will be cancelled.



Dates

July

Friday 7th - Sports Day from 11.30am - picnic lunch from 12.30-1pm

Friday 7th - PTA Summer Fair 6-9pm

Tuesday 11th - Reserve sports day from 11.30am

Thursday 13th - Year 5 information evening for Little Canada September trip 6.30pm

Monday 10th - Final week for clubs (parents invited to watch)

Wednesday 12th - Understanding Your Child's report meeting - Maple Class 3.30pm

Thursday 13th - Whole school transition day

Monday 17th - Yr 5/6 performance 6.30pm

Tuesday 18th - Yr 5/6 performance 2.30pm

Wednesday 19th - Yr 5/6 performance 6.30pm

Friday 21st - reports home

Monday 24th - opportunity to discuss reports with teachers 3.30pm

Tuesday 25th - Yr 6 Leavers Assembly - parents welcome 1.30pm

Tuesday 25th - Term Ends 2.30pm

Tuesday 25th - Yr 6 Leavers party 5pm (more details to follow)

September

Tuesday 5th September - school returns 8.40am

Monday 11th September - Meet the teacher - more details to follow

Thursday 28th September - PTA AGM (time tbc)

