

# WOODLEY

## C of E Primary School

Issue: 1

October

2016



Dear Parents.

Welcome to our new style newsletter. I hope you like the format and find the information included useful. The aim is to let you know what is going on in school with a focus on what the children are doing. A newsletter will be sent to you on the last Friday of every month.

### Warm Welcome

Thank you to the parents who attended the coffee morning I held earlier in the term and the parents I have had the pleasure to meet in the playground. It will take me a while to get to know you all but please continue to come up and introduce yourself to me. It is not always easy to get into the playground as often as I might like especially as 8.00am meetings are a good time to meet parents, but I plan to be on the playground at least once a week welcoming the children into school.

### Harvest Festival

It was lovely to see so many of you at St. John's Church to share in our Harvest Festival. Thank you for your very generous donations and dropping your children off at the church in the morning. We have already received a thank you letter from the Foodbank which I have shared with the children.

### Cross Country

Well done to the children who have been selected for our very first cross country event and to the parents for providing transport. It is becoming more and more difficult to transport children to events as many school staff do not hold the correct insurance and school budgets do not allow for multiple members of staff to be released from the classroom to do this. Sometimes, we may have the option of using a min-bus but we really appreciate parents cooperating to take children when parents may be working etc. We will always try to do everything we can to get children to events as we really believe in the importance of a broad and balanced education.

### Parents in School

Thank you to you all for adhering to the new arrangements concerning the collection of children from clubs. Nothing is more important to us than the safeguarding of your children and we need to maintain a secure site at all times. To ensure that you still have the opportunity to see your children participating in clubs, the last week of clubs in every term will be open to parents to come and see what their children have been doing. This will only apply to after school clubs. Entry to the school will be through reception. We will also be resuming our very popular "Family Fridays" after half term as the teachers now feel that the children are settled into their new classes.

### PTA

I recently attended the PTA AGM and I would like to thank the parents attending for their warm welcome. In a time of tight school budgets, the fund raising events of the PTA are crucial in providing many of the resources that are important for your children. I know the events are well supported so thank you to everybody involved. PTA spending last academic year included theatre production, kindles, PA system for the bus and new cameras to name just a few. We have lots of ideas for future spending and I will let you know about all purchases made.

Best Wishes

Mrs Louisa Gurney  
Head Teacher



# Curriculum News

## Foundation Stage:

We can hardly believe that the children have been at school a month now! It is so lovely to see them settled into the school routine and enjoying being part of our community.

So far we have learnt almost 10 new phonic sounds. Perhaps your child can show you the actions or sing you the songs? We have also been focusing on number recognition, ordering and even the concept of adding. So it has been a busy half term! We also had a visit from a vegetable villain who was quite unkind to the other vegetables in the unit. Luckily the children made their own wanted posters and crime reports to send to Supertato. Unfortunately, Supertato was unable to visit us because he had to deal with the Evil Peas who had escaped from a nearby supermarket. Instead he sent a letter telling us how to make our own traps to catch our villain. Needless to say, from the efforts of our children, the Sly Sweetcorn was captured and sent back to the freezer. Much fun was had by everyone!



We have ended the term by learning about the festival of Diwali, as well as the story of Rama and Sita. The children decided to make their own lamps for the festival from salt dough and decorate them using paint and glitter.

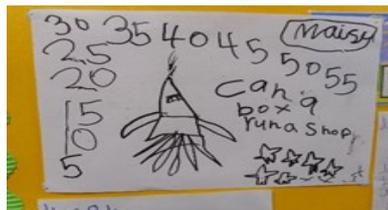
Miss Victoria Bond, Acting Phase Leader.

## Key Stage 1: (Years 1&2)

This half term, KS1 have enjoyed learning about our topic: Marvellous Me! In history, the children have made their own timelines and have explored how they have changed since they were born. In geography, they have learned about coastal places, cities, towns and the countryside. Using mixed media, they made some amazing abstract self-portraits in the style of Pablo Picasso and used their ICT skills to make 'Picassoheads' which they found very amusing! In RE, the children have learned about Creation and Christianity; the children have been very reflective about our world and how we should look after it.



We are very proud of how the children have settled into their new year groups and would like to thank parents for their support at home with homework and reading. We are amazed at the effort some of our children have been putting in with regards to completion of homework and we can really see the impact it is having on them in school. We have made a big effort to help all children to log on to Sumdog at school and hope the children can find some time to show you some of the games they like to play at home.



Mrs Emzy Blakely, Acting Phase Leader.



# Curriculum News

## Lower Key Stage 2: (Years 3&4)

The year in the Lower Juniors, started with a celebration of Roald Dahl's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. We thought about his characters and language and learnt more about the inspiration for his writing. We then moved on to our topic of water. We learnt about the importance of water to everyone and how the water cycle works, on both a small and large scale. The highlight of our topic was a visit to Slough Water Treatment Works, which we all found really interesting. We especially enjoyed building a filter to clean some really dirty water! We ended the term by learning about Diwali and celebrating the customs and practices associated with it.

Mrs Andrea Morton, Acting Phase Leader.



## Upper Key Stage 2: (Years 5&6)

This term the Upper Juniors have immersed themselves in their topic - Life 100 years ago, including WW1. We have written instructions and had a go at making some army biscuits, which were authentically hard!



With teamwork, we managed to put up a ridge tent and have written some moving diary entries based upon Michael Morpurgo's story, War Horse. Our research into trench warfare and the role that animals played during the war have enabled us to write some engaging and informative reports.

Finally, we have all been inspired by the abstract art work of Kandinsky and have created our own compositions – using music as a stimulus. Quote "Everything starts from a dot." (Wassily Kandinsky).



Mrs Alison Shaman, Acting Phase Leader.



# Sporting News

It may only be October but the Woodley boys Y5/6 football teams have already played 2 Wokingham league matches and have also taken part in a Wokingham District competition day at the Reading Madejski training ground. Although they lost their opening league match to Southlake (away) both the A and B teams had greater success when they visited Highwood (away). The A team won 5 – 0 and the B team won 7 – 0! Which was fantastic. Well done to Callum Pike, who scored a hat-trick, and to Archie Siveter who scored 5 goals in their games!

Mr Colin Blakely, Deputy Head  
Mrs Jane Poole, P.E Coordinator  
Mr Michael Clare, First For Sports Coach



## Sporting Fixture Dates

Thursday 4th November - 3.30pm - Football match home to Beechwood Primary School Year 5/6  
Monday 7th November - Year 3/4 Athletics - Bulmershe Leisure Centre - 3.30pm-5.15pm  
Friday 11th November - 3.30pm - Football match home to St Dominics Primary School Year 5/6  
Thursday 17th November - Cross Country event - Reddam House (formerly Bearwood College) - times tbc  
Monday 5th December - Year 5/6 Athletics - Bulmershe Leisure Centre - 3.30pm-5.15pm  
Friday 9th December - 3.30pm - Football match away to Rivermead Primary School Year 5/6

# Reminders from the Office

**Clubs:** School opens at 8am for clubs in the morning. Please don't arrive too early! As we enter the winter months it will be wet and cold so please use the outside canopy to keep dry and remember not to park in the staff car park. Please leave bikes/scooters at the front of school if your child is taking part in a club.

**Bikeability:** Year 6 pupils remember to complete your bike checks during half term to ensure your bike is road-worthy and the correct size. The instructors will not allow children to participate if the bikes are too small or large for the child.

**Flu Vaccinations** - Year 1, 2 and 3. If you haven't already sent in your consent form please do so as soon as possible.

**School dinners** - Please make sure money arrives in a named purse or sealed envelope. If your child is late to school please phone ahead and order dinners before 10am.

**Application to secondary school** - Year 6 reminder - Deadline for submitting an application to transfer to secondary school in 2017 is midnight on Monday 31st October.

**Notice of alteration to school day** - If your child has a medical appointment or you need to pick up early or drop late please can you write a note in the home school diary and also mention to the staff on the gate or in the office. This is so we can ensure your child has a correctly marked absence in the register.



# Dates

## October

Friday 21st - INSET day - school closed to pupils

Week 24th - 28th - HALF TERM

Sunday 30th - British Summer Time ends - clocks go back

Monday 31st - School returns / clubs start back (except Lego which has now finished)

## November

Wednesday 2nd - 9.30am - School nurse height and weight for year 6 pupils

7th - 10th - Bikeability for year 6 pupils (remember bikes !)

Monday 7th - 9am - Reading and Maths information meeting for Foundation parents

Thursday 10th - School nurse flu vaccinations for year 1, 2 and 3 pupils (time tbc)

Thursday 10th - PTA Shopping Evening - 7pm - 9.30 pm

Monday 21st - 3.30pm - 6pm - Parent consultations

Wednesday 23rd - 5pm - 8pm - Parent consultations

Friday 25th - PTA dress down for donations day

Wednesday 30th - 9am - EYFS/KS1 (Foundation/Yr 1/Yr 2) Christingle Service at school

Wednesday 30th - 9.30am - KS2 (Year 3 - 6) Christingle Service at school

Wednesday 30th - PTA wrapping evening - PTA Room - 7pm - 10pm

## December

Friday 2nd - evening - PTA set up for Christmas fair

Saturday 3rd - PTA Christmas fair - 11am - 2pm

Friday 9th - 2.30pm - Foundation tableau to parents

Monday 12th - all clubs finish this week

Tuesday 13th - 6pm - KS1 (Year 1 and 2) - Nativity

Wednesday 14th - 6pm - KS1 (Year 1 and 2) - Nativity

Thursday 15th - 2pm - KS1 (Year 1 and 2) -Nativity

Friday 16th - School Christmas dinner

Monday 19th - Spring term club forms come home / web site

Tuesday 20th - **Term ends at 2.30pm**

Wednesday 21st - Tuesday 3rd January - Christmas holiday

Wednesday 4th January - INSET day - school closed to pupils

Thursday 5th January - school returns

