

WOODLEY

C of E Primary School

Issue: 1

January

2017



Dear Parents,

Travelling to and from school - January has been a month of contrasts. We have experienced sunny days, ice and extreme fog. Travelling to school has been difficult for both parents and staff alike. I urge you to take great care, particularly on the road outside of our school. You may have heard there was an accident outside one of our Wokingham schools this week and all steps must be taken to keep our children safe. To this end, you will see members of staff on the gate. Can I remind you that the car park is for **staff use only** and must not be used by parents unless you have permission from the school as a disabled parent or child.

New laptops - One of the first things that was brought to my attention by the staff and children after I arrived at the school, was the need to update our laptops. The staff and children were delighted when the PTA agreed to buy laptops for the infants and lower juniors. Already IT lessons have been transformed. Children and staff are so excited about all the things they can now do. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the PTA, and also you as parents, for supporting events to enable large amounts of money to be raised. The children also presented me with this card that I will be passing on to the PTA.



Communication - Time moves on. We spend so much of our time on mobile phones and tablets making this a very easy way to communicate with parents. You must also be aware that educational funding is very low and as a Head Teacher I am always looking for ways to save money so that spending can be used for things that are directly used by the children. An example of this is the new reading books that have recently been purchased for the school. Therefore, we have now decided to communicate electronically with parents by text or email. We will only send out paper copies if you do not have an email address. **Please ensure that we have correct information for you.** You will need to print off permission slips at home to return to school. I have to do this as a parent and I know it can be an inconvenience, but it really ensures that all funds are used to benefit children. Of course, we are here to help you and if you need a paper copy of anything please call into the office. Can I thank you in advance for your support with this but remember any issues, please ask at the office. Have a lovely weekend and enjoy some precious family time.

Best Wishes

Louisa Gurney
Head Teacher



Curriculum News

Foundation Stage:

We all hope that you had a lovely Christmas break and are now back in to the full swing of things. Thank you for making me feel very welcome after returning from my maternity leave. I am currently working on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Please see Mrs Dunham or Miss Bond if you have any queries on a Monday. The children have settled back in to school well and are enjoying writing in their new green writing books every morning. We have seen some impressive progress already.

Over the past few weeks we have seen the children become very interested in role playing restaurants. They have had great fun making their own menus and using mathematical language when paying for their items and when measuring out ingredients. They even made some salt dough food to use in their restaurant! This week we have been learning about Chinese New Year and the children have thoroughly enjoyed tasting prawn crackers and noodles.

Please note that we are now changing reading books on a Monday and a Thursday so please ensure that you have signed the diary and that the books are in your child's book bag ready to be changed.

We are also very lucky to have secured an additional PE slot so your child will now be doing PE once a week with either Miss Bond or Mr Clare alternating either a Monday or Friday.

Thank you for your continued support with your child's reading at home. It will have an amazing impact on their learning.

Miss Lord, Phase Leader.



Key Stage 1 (Years 1&2):

In KS1, we have been learning about fairytales in our *Happily Ever After* topic. The children have enjoyed learning the story of the *Gingerbread Man* and have had fun role-playing in the *Gingerbread Bakery* in Fir, The *Fairytale Café* in Oak and the *Gingerbread House* in Ash! In science, we are learning about materials and their uses. We have designed our fairytale puppets in DT and got a little tangled when sewing them together! We have been thinking carefully about BRIGHT learners and what it means to be READY to learn. In RE, we have been listening to stories about Jesus and how he showed friendship. The children are getting excited about Show and Tell which is coming up on Friday 10th February 2017. Please bring in something linked to our topic or something special to talk about!

Mrs Blakely, Acting Phase Leader.



Curriculum News

Lower Key Stage 2: (Years 3&4)

We started the New Year reflecting on our Christmas holidays and thinking about the gifts we would like to give to others. We also began a new topic on 'Aviation and Space'. As part of this, we have been investigating 'Forces' and learning how they impact on us. We have tested how different surfaces cause different levels of friction and have also looked at the different forces involved when planes fly. In our English lessons, we have been looking at biographies and have written some ourselves. We have begun researching famous aviators such as Amelia Earhart and have been finding out lots of interesting facts about them. We have all worked very hard to improve our skills at telling the time in maths. We have revised addition, subtraction and multiplication and have been using co-ordinates to plot shapes on a grid. We are very excited that we have new laptops in school, thanks to the PTA, and have been using them to develop our coding skills.



Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3&4)

Mrs Morton, Acting Phase Leader

Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5&6)

We have come back to school with a positive attitude to our learning and made some thoughtful New Year's Resolutions. We have gone back in time, embraced our new topic of 'Ancient Greece' and already learnt many facts about the geographical features of this country and its fascinating past. In DT, we have investigated the strength of different structures and had fun creating pillars in the style of the Parthenon: one structure held up to 10 books. We were devastated to learn that our school field was being 'sold' to Tesco, and therefore wrote some very passionate letters to persuade the council to retract their decision. Our persuasive adverts and leaflets also included many exaggerated claims and catchy phrases. Maths has involved lots of place value work and applying this understanding to adding, subtracting, dividing and multiplying decimals – relating decimals to money seems to help! Recently, we have been reading different fables by Aesop and their morals. We have a better understanding of the meaning of 'The Boy Who Cries Wolf' now.



Mrs Sharman, Acting Phase Leader.



Sporting News

The weather put a hold on our first football match of the season , away to Southlake, with the match being cancelled due to an icy pitch. Our next scheduled match is on Friday 3rd February home to St Nicholas Primary School. Letters will follow shortly.

Our junior children, who represented the school at cross country this week, were absolute stars and braved the cold icy conditions. A big thank you to our parents that came to support and helped transport children to and from Maidenhead. Our next cross country event is scheduled for Thursday 23rd February lets hope for warmer weather.

PE - As we continue to experience such cold conditions, please ensure children have adequate clothing to wear for PE. Tracksuits, leggings, warm tops and gloves make outside PE a more enjoyable experience for the children. It is important that the children still enjoy PE outside even when the weather is so harsh. Please note that if conditions are hazardous then a risk assessment would take place and PE may have to take place indoors. Is is important to name all items of clothing that come into school.

Sporting Fixture Dates

Friday 3rd February - football match home to St Nicholas Primary School - 3.30pm KO

Thursday 9th February - football match away to Willow Bank Primary School - 3.30pm KO

Thursday 23rd February - Cross Country - Crosfields - times tbc

Monday 13rd March - High Five Netball competition - times and venue tbc

Thursday 2nd March - Cross Country - Reddam House - times tbc

Thursday 23rd March - Cross Country - Bulmershe - times tbc

Reminders from the Office

Site Safety - We have had reports of junior children failing to stay on the path that runs alongside the staff car park. The railings are there to protect them. Please ensure children, and adults, do not walk through the car park when entering or exiting the site.

Private Guitar Lessons - are proving popular. Please ask at the office if your child is interested and you would like further details.

Little Canada residential trip reminders - current year 6 children, final payments to be received by end of February and current year 5 children, £40 deposit due as soon as possible.

Core Values - Each term one child from each class is picked to go on the Core Value Tree. These children were chosen for showing either Love or Peace, our core values for last term. The leaves are presented in assembly by Mr Blakely and are displayed on the tree in the central area.



Dates

February

Wednesday 1st - Cedar Class visit to Aviation Museum (am) / Rowan Class (pm)

Thursday 2nd - WASMA rehearsal 4pm-5.30pm - Addington School

Friday 3rd - Football match home to St Nicholas Primary School - 3.30KO

Monday 6th - KS2 SATS Information Evening - 6.30pm - school hall.

Wednesday 8th - Maple Class visit to Aviation Museum (am)

Thursday 9th - Football match away to Willowbank Primary School - 3.30KO

13th - 17th - Half Term

Monday 20th - PTA Meeting 8pm

Thursday 23rd - Cross Country Event - Crosfields (times tbc)

Friday 24th - PTA Disco

March

Thursday 2nd - Cross Country Event - Reddam House (times tbc)

Thursday 9th - WASMA rehearsal 4pm-5.30pm - Addington School

Friday 10th - PTA Cake Sale 2.30pm

Monday 13th - High Five Netball competition (times/venue tbc)

Tuesday 14th - KS1 trip to Windsor Castle

Sunday 19th - WASMA Concert

Monday 20th - Foundation Stay and Play Afternoon - 2.30pm (details to follow)

Monday 20th - Parent Consultations 5-8pm

Wednesday 22nd - Parent Consultations 3.30-6.30pm

Thursday 23rd - Cross Country Event - Bulmershe (times tbc)

Friday 24th - Quiz Night (times tbc)

Monday 27th - LKS2 Evening performance 6.30pm

Tuesday 28th - LKS2 Afternoon performance 2pm

Wednesday 29th - Ministers Assembly and Coffee Morning KS1 9am / KS2 9.30am

Wednesday 29th - LKS2 Evening performance 6.30pm

Friday 31st - Term Ends 2.30pm

