

WOODLEY

C of E Primary School



Issue: 1

October

2018

Dear Parents,

We have been back at school for nearly a month now and it is nice to see all our new children settling in well.

Thank you to all the parents who attended our harvest festivals, MacMillian coffee morning and phonics morning this month. There is a great sense of community in our school and it is really important for children to see their parents at these events if at all possible.

Please read the message from the PTA below. As it currently stands, we do not have a PTA for this academic year and all forthcoming events have been cancelled. The PTA contribute so much to our school and as you will read below, the school will be struggling without the £12,000 that was raised last year. The current committee have served the school extremely well over a number of years and to thank them we have invited them to our school assembly on Monday. Please think about supporting your school by taking on roles within the PTA.

Mrs Poole

Unfortunately Mrs Poole is unwell and will not be in school until after half term. Mrs Emma Sanders, one of our regular supply teachers, has been teaching the class. Next week, Mr Blakely will be teaching in Maple.

Best wishes

Louisa Gurney Head Teacher.

PTA Update September 2018

Funds raised last academic year were £12,201.90 being split 60/40, 60% going towards the main hall refurbishment and 40% towards all other items school needs. The appointment has been booked for the company to come and fit the new sound system in our school hall, this is great news and means all of our children can soon start to benefit from it. This academic year the school would like to use some of the funds to finish the school hall and then to hopefully refurbish the toilets throughout the school.

URGENT—YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT IS NEEDED! Thank you to the few people that attended the PTA AGM earlier this week. Unfortunately, due to the meeting not being very well supported, we have been unable to recruit a whole new committee for this year. We have 4 parents committed to roles which is fantastic, 2 x secretary roles and 2 x treasurer roles. The positions that we are desperate to fill are that of Chairman and Vice Chair. Please, if you feel you might be able to step into one of these roles, do come and talk to the office and they will put you in touch with us for a chat or come along to a second AGM meeting on Wednesday 17th October at 8pm to find out in more detail what is involved.

Please remember that we will still be around and at the school to help and will fully support and hand over for each coming event. The roles are shared responsibility, you are a team.

As it stands all events are postponed/cancelled as they cannot run until the 2 remaining committee roles are filled.

Disco – cancelled

Bags 2 school – cancelled

Cake Sale – cancelled

Christmas Fair – cancelled

Next meeting: PTA 2nd AGM Wednesday 17th October at 8pm – Please come and support your childrens school

Many thanks and if you wish to email us with any ideas etc. please do so at: woodleycofe.pta@googlemail.com

Liz Sainsbury – PTA Chair, Taryn Parker – PTA Vice Chair, Gail Murray/Lindsey Claydon/Beverley Collett – PTA Secretaries, Rebecca Maddams – PTA Treasurer



Curriculum News

Foundation Stage:

All of the foundation staff have been very impressed with how well the children have settled in to school life at Woodley C of E! We have had a busy few weeks getting to know the children and finding out what their interests are. We noticed that the children were really engaged in making cakes and cookies with the playdough so decided to move their interest forward by making real cookies! The children loved looking through the recipe book to find one they liked. We looked at the ingredients that we would need and some children even wrote me a list to take to the shops! They were so excited when I brought the shopping back after lunch. We then had great fun making and decorating our biscuits. The children have been really interested in superhero play this week so we have making dens for our superheroes to live. The children have thoroughly enjoyed this and lots of great team work has been observed!



This week we have started our phonics sessions. We will be updating Tapestry each day with the sound that we have been learning. You can use the phonics cards that we gave out in the new parent meeting to support your child with their phonics at home. If you need any help with this then one of the foundation team would be very happy to help you.

Tapestry – Thank you to all of the parents that have returned their forms and activated their accounts. If you have not yet done so or are experiencing any problems then please come and speak to one of the foundation team who can help. It is really important that every parent has an active account that is viewed regularly as we will be posting updates on what we have been learning at school. Thank you to all of those parents that have added observations from home, we have loved reading through them all. PE – Willow and Chestnut will have PE on a Friday. Please ensure that your child's PE kit is in school on that day. Tissues and wet wipes – as the cold season is almost amongst us we would really appreciate any donations of tissues and wet wipes. Please can any items of clothing that have been borrowed from school be returned as soon as possible as we are running a bit low! Thank you for your support, Emma Luzolo – EYFS Phase Leader



Key Stage 1:

This half term, our topic in KS1 is 'Marvellous Me'. The children are learning about their own history and have already begun to make personal timelines of their lives. They have also looked at other timelines to help them to understand vocabulary such as 'a long time ago' or 'recently' etc. In geography, the children have been learning about Reading Town and comparing it to Bournemouth. They are learning vocabulary to do with coasts and other geographical features of these places. We will also be looking at cities and the countryside. Towards the end of half term, we will be looking at how humans look like their families in many features. For this we will need your family pictures in ASAP. Thank you to everyone who has already returned them.

In art, we are studying Picasso. The children have been adding white and black to make colours lighter and darker. We will soon make our abstract facial features to add on! In RE, we are learning about the Christian Creation story about how God created the world in seven days. The children will be thinking about our big question: Does God want Christians to look after the world? Plenty of opportunity for philosophical discussions!

Show and Tell is on the last Friday of each half term. As we have an INSET day on the last Friday before half term, Show and Tell will be on Friday 12th October. The children can bring something special to do with our topic or something which celebrates an achievement. They can bring a favourite book, photo or something they have made. They cannot bring in toys! Please help your child to prepare something which they want to say about their item.

We have all been pleased with how many parents are now signing their children's diaries five times a week. We feel very strongly that reading with our children encourages them to develop a life-long love of reading. We hope you will all join us for the home learning launch – some exciting changes are coming!

Mrs Emzy Blakely, Inclusion Manager



Curriculum News

Lower Key Stage 2: (Years 3&4)

The Lower Juniors have started the year very positively and we are impressed with how well the children have settled in. We spent the first week getting to know each other and learning or reminding ourselves of the expectations in the Lower Juniors. We have also been learning how we can help each other to have a Growth Mindset when we learn – if we change our words, we can change our mindset!

Our topic this term has a Geography theme of 'Water World' and we are exploring rivers of England, as well as focussing on the River Thames in topic, learning how to use Google maps and an atlas.

In English we have been exploring the story of Lila and the Secret of rain, re-telling the story with expression and intonation. We have re-acquainted ourselves with the Grammar Gang to help us understand nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. We have been challenging ourselves to use effective examples of these when developing our descriptive settings and characters, ready to write our own story. We've even created a conscious alley to help us 'feel' the atmosphere before we write.

Place value and addition have been our focus in Maths and we are challenging ourselves to be able to explain our answers or use our knowledge to solve problems. We have also enjoyed progressing through the addition challenge cards – we have a great sense of achievement when we change our mindset and get sums right we didn't think we could do!

In Art, we are practising how to sketch in readiness for creating a water scene, using Dinton Pastures as our inspiration. We are all looking forward to visiting the River and Rowing Museum in Henley in a couple of weeks to learn more about rivers.

Finally, thank you for the amazing effort in reading with your children. They are very excited to be getting a Class Dojo for every time they read – please remember to sign the diaries as often as you hear your child read!

Mrs Chrissy Boulton, LKS2 Phase Leader
Chrissy Boulton, LKS2 Phase Leader



Upper Key Stage 2: (Years 5&6)

From the start of the term, the Upper Juniors have immersed themselves in the autumn topic of 'Powers and Poppies' – a history focus on WW1. We have talked about how the Great War started and compared a map of Europe then with a map of Europe today.

In English, we are reading 'War Horse' by Michael Morpurgo. Our diary writing, letters and internal monologues have all been written from different points of view and centered on the moving events of Joey and his different owners.

In art, we have all been inspired by Kandinsky, one of the founders of abstract art. We enjoyed using the stimulus of music to create our own pieces – moving whilst painting was a new experience for some. ***"I could hear the hiss of the colours as they mingled."* Vassily Kandinsky.**

We developed our painting skills using water colours and other media and our final 'original' art work would look great in any gallery.

Science started the term with fun bubble investigations and has now moved on to exploring the different properties of materials. We thought about the conditions soldiers would have endured in the trenches and looked at materials best suited to make their equipment. We also investigated the best methods to make different materials waterproof and found wax to be very effective.

Hinduism is our focus in RE. We have discussed how Hindus show commitment to God and have looked at the different objects of the Puja, which was fascinating.

As well as all the above, we have looked at place value and some challenging calculations in maths, talked about our Bright learning focus for this term - being brave and our core value of Love.

It has been a busy start to the term – and Year 6 still have Little Canada to look forward to.....

Mrs Alison Shaman, UKS2 Phase Leader.



Sporting News

Another busy year ahead of us in sport, which kicked off last week with our first school games event a year 3 & 4 football tournament at Willowbank Junior School. The children played fantastic, winning 2, drawing 2 and only losing 1 game. We are looking forward to our first cross country event next Thursday 4th of October at Cantley Park.

Our year 5 & 6 girls and boys football squads started training this week and are looking forward to their opening match against Highwood on Friday 28th of October.

Finally, can I remind all parents and pupils that all PE kit should be in school Monday to Friday. After half term, we will be sending letters home if children do not have their kit. Kit should include trainers, jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt (without a hood) for outdoor activities as the weather becomes colder. Red shorts and white t shirt for all indoor and outdoor activities.

Mr Michael Clare, PE Co-ordinator



Reminders from the Office

Office hours: 8.00am - 4.25pm

Peak times: 8.45am - 9.15am / 3.00pm - 3.15pm

Absence:

If your child is unwell please phone the school office and select option 1. If you need to speak to someone regarding your child's absence, please mention this whilst leaving your message and someone will phone you back. Please make sure you phone and give a reason if your child is not in school. The Attendance Officer will make contact with anyone who has not phoned in to find out the reason why a child is not in school.

If your child arrives after the gates have shut please make sure you accompany them into the school office and sign them in. Even our older children need to be signed in by their parents.

Medication: Please make sure any medication, including inhalers and throat sweets, come into school clearly labelled with a completed medicine administration form, available on the website. Medicines should be presented to the member of staff on the gate entrance or handed into the office. Children should not have medication in their book bags.

Peak times:

Unless urgent, please avoid phoning the office during peak times. To avoid queues during our busy periods please post any forms or office correspondence in the post box on the main front door. This box will be emptied in the morning and at the end of the day.

Dogs:

A polite reminder that dogs are not allowed on the school site.

Water Bottles:

We have many children who keep forgetting their water bottles. Bottles may stay in school all week. The children have lots of opportunities to refresh their water.

General enquiries: To help reduce queues in the morning, you are more than welcome to email any questions or notices to



Airfield Club

Opening Times: 7.45am - 8.40am / 3.15pm—6.00pm

If you would like to use the Airfield Club to help with childcare support please fill in a registration form and return to the school office. Please allow 48 hours for your confirmation letter. This letter will enable you to go online and book sessions and make payments. Please remember the "48 Hour Rule" - 48 hours to book and 48 hours to cancel. Any queries please email TheAirfieldClub@woodley-pri.wokingham.sch.uk

You will still be charged if your child is sick or unable to attend club unless you have given 48 hours notice.

A reminder to please not park in the car park when dropping or picking up children. It makes it very difficult for staff to park first thing in the morning if spaces are taken up by parents.

Forms and hand book can be found on our website www.woodleyceprimary.co.uk under the parent tab.

Usborne Book Winners

Congratulations to our children who won the Usborne Book reading challenge organised by Mrs Dunham.



AUTUMN TERM 2018 DATES

OCTOBER

Tuesday 2nd - Netball match home to Shinfield 3.15pm

Thursday 4th - Cross Country event at Cantley Park, Wokingham 1.30pm

Friday 5th – PTA Disco (tbc) - cancelled

Thursday 8th – Home Learning Launch – (details to follow) - please note new date

Thursday 11th - Building a Better Future Day for all Year 6 pupils at Waingels (details to follow)

Thursday 11th - Netball match away to Westende (tbc)

Monday 15th – Year 6 residential visit to Little Canada, Isle of Wight

Wednesday 17th – F2 – Year 5 Nasal Flu Vaccinations

Wednesday 17th - PTA AGM 2 - 8.00pm

Thursday 18th – Year 6 return from Little Canada

Friday 19th – INSET Day school closed to pupils

Monday 22nd – Friday 26th – HALF TERM

Monday 29th – Head Teacher / Chair of Governors Parent Surgery 2.30-3.30pm

NOVEMBER

Thursday 1st - Year 5/6 girls football away at Goals (details to follow)

Wednesday 14th – F2 Stay and Play Afternoon – 2.00-2.45pm

Friday 16th – Children In Need (information to follow)

Monday 19th – Parent Consultations 3.30-6.00pm

Thursday 22nd – Parent Consultations 5.00-8.00pm

Friday 23rd – PTA Dress Down Day - cancelled until further notice

Wednesday 28th – Coffee from 8.30 in the Central Area followed by KS1 Christingle 9.00am KS2 Christingle 9.30am

DECEMBER

Saturday 1st – PTA Christmas Fair (tbc) - cancelled until further notice

Monday 3rd – Last week for clubs

Thursday 6th – KS1 Nativity – 6.30pm

Friday 7th – KS1 Nativity – 2.15pm

Monday 10th – KS1 Nativity – 6.30pm

Wednesday 12th – Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 12th – Dress Down Day

Thursday 13th – F2 Tableau performance to parents – 2.15pm

Monday 17th – KS2 Carol Service – St Johns Church – 9.00am (tbc)

Wednesday 19th – School finishes 2.30pm

