

WOODLEY

C of E Primary School

Issue: 3

January

2018



Dear Parents,

Thank you

I would like to thank you all for your support over the last year and a half regarding the situation with Andrew Cork. I have tried to keep you informed at all times giving you as much information as I could. PC Paul Reece, Investigating Officer, Thames Valley Police, has now said that I can confirm that there were no photographs of Woodley CofE children or children that did karate amongst the images. As a school, I would like us to draw a line under this and let the local community know about all the brilliant things we do here at Woodley CofE Primary School.

Lockdown

Like all other schools and establishments, Woodley CofE needs to have a lockdown policy to deal with emergencies. After half term, we will need to practice our procedure. Before we do this, I will be writing to you with a copy of the policy and explaining exactly what we will be saying to the children. For the first practice, you will know exactly when this is taking place and you will have the opportunity to talk to your child before hand, if you think that this is appropriate, or discuss afterwards. After the first practice, we will build this into our calendar of events, like our emergency procedures for fire and children will not know when they will happen.

School Crossing

As you are aware, Wokingham has decided to terminate staff for crossings at schools and will be putting alternatives in some time after this. Mrs Holmes our "lollipop lady" decided to reduce her hours and a decision was made by the council not to replace her. Therefore, on some days, our crossing is not manned. Please take great care when crossing on these days. Some vehicles are not very considerate and from my observations, are not very courteous to pedestrians.

Homework Survey

Following on from our last parent survey, we will be sending out another survey next half term asking your views about homework. The governors have recently asked the children about their homework and we will be taking into account the views of the staff. We will be using this work to formulate our homework policy and make any changes deemed necessary.

Parent Support

I have always said that the education of our children is a partnership between home and school. The children that make the most progress are the ones who are well supported at home. Thank you to all the parents who regularly read with their children and help their children complete all homework. Recently, some of my teachers have been disappointed in the amount of reading that is being completed at home. Reading is crucial to good learning and we ask that children read at least five times a week to an adult. Even when your child is a fluent reader, it is important that you listen to them read and ask questions about the text. At the end of Key Stage Two, in Year 6, it is comprehension that is tested not fluency. I know many parents are very busy, but ten minutes a night is all that is necessary.

I hope you and your children have a lovely half term break next week.

Best Wishes

Mrs Louisa Gurney, Head Teacher



Curriculum News

Foundation Stage:



What a busy January we have had! We have focussed our work this half term around the story of Cinderella. The children have had lots of fun acting out the story and using their questioning skills to hot-seat the characters. We have seen this theme extend into the children's child initiated play where they have been pretending to be characters from the story. The adults have been working hard to encourage the children to use writing for a purpose in their play, an example being making a shopping list for a princess. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning a new skill of printing and they used this new technique to make fabulous castle prints. All of the children are looking forward to our Cinderella Ball that we will be having on Friday afternoon and have been busy writing invitations. We have started practising our letter formation every afternoon and the children are really enjoying this. We are working really hard on helping the children to form the letters correctly. Please could you also re-inforce the correct formation at home.

Tapestry – Thank you to all of the parents that have been uploading observations to your child's Tapestry account, they really are a valuable addition to your child's learning journey and we love reading through them; however we have noticed that quite a few parents are yet to upload their first observation or even access their child's account at all. We upload lots of observations of activities that we have been doing at school so we really would like all parents to be accessing it. We would love to see observations of any special days out, work that your child does at home e.g. reading, writing, numbers etc. achievements from extra-curricular clubs, helping out around the house, cooking etc. If you require any support with using Tapestry then please do come and speak to a member of staff as we would be more than happy to help! Finally, thank you to everyone that purchased a cake in the Foundation cake sale and to the PTA for organising it. We have just put in an order for some bats, balls, beanbags etc. for the children to use in our outdoor area! The children are very excited to receive our new equipment!

Mrs Luzolo – EYFS Phase Leader



Key Stage 1:

This half term, the children have been learning about toy and games. We have investigated new and old toys in history and reflected on how designs have changed over the years. In science we have learned about forces which make toys work e.g. pushes, pulls and magnets. In design and technology, the children have been making their own moving toys using drills, saws and glue guns!

In English, we wrote invitations to our teddies and invited them into school for a party! The children were learning about verbs and in Y2 we have been thinking about past and present tense. The children also wrote thank you letters from their toys who had a wonderful time at the party eating biscuits and drinking juice. We are currently making our own grammar board games which will come complete with instructions and adverts!



Friday 9th of February is Show and Tell. For this topic, the children are allowed to bring in a toy or game (hooray!) to share with the class. If you haven't returned your permission slip and money for our visit after half term, please do so ASAP.

Mrs Emzy Blakely, KS1 Phase Leader



Curriculum News

Lower Key Stage 2: (Years 3&4) We have started the new year with a new topic.

'Gadgets and Gizmos' has been a big hit with the children who are thoroughly enjoying looking at a range of weird and wonderful gadgets. Thank you to everyone who has kindly loaned us their gadgets; we are continuing our topic after half term so we would appreciate any more contributions. 'Operation Gadget man' by Malorie Blackman has inspired some suspense writing in English. The children have been practising using adventurous vocabulary as well as creating tension which they are about to transfer into their own adventure stories. This half term we have been looking closely at measuring and working out the area and perimeter of shapes. If you are redecorating, feel free to ask your child to help calculate how much new carpet you will need! We have been learning about sound in science. The children have had lots of opportunities to test out their own theories relating to how sound works. We have been making sound proof boxes out of different materials- which material do you think was the most successful? Heath Robinson has been the inspiration for our art and computing projects. The children have created their own machines in art where they have applied their new skills; hatching and cross hatching to add texture to their designs. Mr Blakely has worked with the



children on their Scratch projects; it has been lovely to hear the amount of children who have continued to create projects at home. Although next half term is short, it is very busy for the LJ's. We are working towards our Lower Junior 'Gadgets and Gizmos' exhibition where we will be sharing all of our hard work from the term.

Mrs Lucy Powell , LKS2 Phase Leader



Upper Key Stage 2: (Years 5&6)

New year – new exciting topic 'Extreme Earth'. Upper Juniors have already immersed themselves into this topic, finding out about: world geography, extreme conditions, volcanoes and earthquakes. We have been fascinated by the earth's core and how far man has travelled – down! Recently, we have looked at extreme weather, which has also been quite topical. We are currently making our own Scratch project showing a volcano erupting and including links for explanations. Cinquains and Haiku have been our focus in English – the children have thoroughly enjoyed making up their own poems following a set syllabic format. The Blue Planet also generated some amazing poems about life in the depths of our oceans, we even managed to use rhyming couplets! It was hard to single out a few as they were all so good.....

Tsunamis can kill
With dangerous crashing waves
That flood all land
By Katie Ransom

Extreme
Beautiful sights,
Horrible disasters
Volcanoes to avalanches
Our Earth
By Zaylie Lambert

In art we have recreated our own 3D version of Hokusai's iconic work 'The Great Wave' layering card and paper. We are now using shading techniques and tones to show the movements of a tornado - the results of both are very effective. Science has linked with our topic and we became a human model of the earth orbiting the sun. We looked at the different phases of the moon and now understand what a 'waning gibbous' is. In Maths, we have been thinking about units of measurement, including time, and ways to show data. It has been an awesome way to start the New Year. Mrs Alison Shaman, UKS2 Phase Leader.

Sporting News

A great start to the year with our first cross-country race at Maidenhead in January. The children came well prepared for the cold and after walking the course with Mr Blakely were keen to run. Unfortunately, due to illness we were down on numbers in both children and staff but our overall performance reflected the children's determination and enthusiasm well, particularly as this event involved both divisions so there was double the number. A special mention should go to Molly Barnes and Sam Weeks who came 47th and 17th in their events respectively. Thank you to all the parents who supported on the day.



League football kicked off last week with a league game and a friendly at Willow bank



School. A very competitive game was played in the league game with Willow bank eventually emerging winners 4 -2. The friendly resulted in a 1 – 0 win to Woodley and was equally competitive. Again a big thank you to the parents who supported the school on a very cold February afternoon.

We entered a new competition in January taking a KS1 team to play in a football tournament at Piggott School. A great time was had by all and the team won all of their games much to their delight. Mrs Jane Poole, PE Co-ordinator

Reminders from the Office



Peak times - 8.45-9.15 / 3.00-3.30

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.

General enquiries: To help reduce queues in the morning, you are more than welcome to email any questions or notices to admin@woodley-pri.wokingham.sch.uk

Online Payments: Following the launch of our online payment system for school dinners we have listened to feedback from parents and have amended our procedures accordingly. A copy of our updated procedures is attached with this email and copies are available from the school office. In particular may I draw your attention to point 6.

'If a child is absent from school due to sickness or other reason it is the responsibility of the parent to phone the school office answer machine before 9am stating the child's name, reason for absence and instruction to cancel the pre-booked meal. After this time the kitchen will start to prepare the meal and if your child is in KS2 you will be charged.'

Water Bottles: We have an increasing amount of children coming to school without a water bottle. Please make sure your child brings a bottle into school everyday.

Half term next week. School closes normal time this Friday and reopens as normal on Monday 19th February.



PTA News

PTA News

A massive thank you from the PTA to everyone that helped make the Christmas Fair a great success by either helping make it happen or by bringing your families along on the day. We raised a grand total of £4203, which I hope you will agree is a great total and we couldn't have done it without you.

Since then we have also raised an amazing £230 from the KS1 cake sale, which will be used to buy an MP3 player and speakers for Years 1 and 2 and the Adults Retro Disco was another great success. Thank you to DJ Groove shack as well as all the parents that came and danced the night away.

Again another plea for any parents out there that may work for a company that offers matched giving, this is such a great easy opportunity to bump up our fund raising massively.

Money raised is currently going towards refurbishing the school hall and buying a new sound system. We are awaiting a target amount, as soon as we have this we will put the Fundraising Thermometer outside the office so that you are all able to keep track on how close we are getting to reaching this target.

Forthcoming events are:

Friday 2nd March - School Disco

The next PTA meeting will be on Thursday 22nd February at 8pm in the PTA building (Conker Room, Junior playground), please come along if you are able to as we need all the help we can get to run all the events planned.

You can email ideas to: Woodleycofe.pta@gmail.com.

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



Dates

February

Monday 12th - 16th - HALF TERM

Wednesday 21st - Monday 26th - Book Fair from 3.15pm

Thursday 22nd - Dinosaurs Workshop KS1 - am

Thursday 22nd - Cross Country Competition - Reddam House (times tbc)

Thursday 22nd - WASMA rehearsal - Addington School 3.30-5.30pm

Thursday 22nd - PTA Meeting 8.00pm

Friday 26th - Yr 3/4 Badminton (times/venue tbc)

Wednesday 28th - Yr 5/6 Girls Football Tournament - Goals (times tbc)

March

Thursday 1st - Foundation Stay and Play afternoon 2pm (letter to follow)

Friday 2nd - PTA School Disco (letter to follow)

Monday 5th - WASMA rehearsal - Addington School 4.00-5.45pm

Thursday 8th - Football match v Shinfield - home (details tbc)

Friday 9th - Music performance to parents (more details to follow)

Friday 9th - Yr 3/4 Mixed Badminton (times/venues tbc)

Sunday 11th March - WASMA Concert

Monday 19th - Parent Consultations 3.30-6.00pm

Thursday 22nd - Parent Consultations 5.00-8.00pm

Monday 26th - LJ Performance - 6.00pm

Tuesday 27th - LJ Performance - 2.00pm

Wednesday 28th - LJ Performance - 6.00pm

Thursday 29th - term ends 2.30pm

Easter holidays Friday 30th March - Friday 13th April

April

Monday 16th April - INSET day school closed to pupils

School returns Tuesday 17th April 2018 normal time

Dates still outstanding for this term:

Yr 6 SATS information evening for parents - date to follow

PTA Junior cake sales

