



Woodmancote School  
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# Newsletter

www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk

## Newsletter 1. Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Welcome back to a new academic year. We hope that your children have settled in over the last few days and we look forward to working with you in 2017-18.

### Year 6 Camp

The Year 6 camp was a great success this year, despite the weather. The children had a fantastic night under canvas and should be commended for their exemplary behaviour, showing great thought to our neighbours. We are now looking forward to our Year 3 camp next Thursday.

### Pre School Building

Apologies for the closure of Britannia Way at very short notice. Pod Space arrived on site 3 days ahead of schedule and gave us very little time to inform you of the new access arrangements. We recognise that this coincided with the work being undertaken on Station Road and we are aware that this has posed a few logistical issues for some families.

### Mrs McCormack and Shanghai

Mrs McCormack will be flying to Shanghai next weekend as part of her involvement with the Maths Hub based at Balcarras School. She will be travelling with over 70 teachers from across the country, learning a little more about their approach to the teaching of maths. Woodmancote will then host two Chinese teachers later in the term and our staff will have the opportunity to work alongside them over two weeks. We are hoping that there will be the opportunity for parents to come into school and watch what is happening in the classrooms as well. This is an exciting opportunity for both Mrs McCormack as a Maths Mastery Specialist and for the school.

### NEST (Nurturing and Emotional Support Team)

We are delighted to welcome Mrs McNamee (originally Phipps) back to Woodmancote. She will join the NEST, along with Mrs Greening and Mrs Baxter when she returns from maternity. Mrs Lee will also be a part of the team, but will be responsible for Medical issues alone.

There will be someone from the NEST available each day of the week and they are there to support individuals and families with a range of issues ranging from anxiety, medical needs, bereavement and Special Educational Needs. If you would like support, please do contact either Mrs McNamee, Mrs Lee or Mrs Greening this term.

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[elee@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:elee@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk)

Parents can refer themselves to the NEST or members of staff may refer individual children. Each child or family will be allocated a key worker from the team, following a meeting each Wednesday.

Monday	Mrs McNamee
Tuesday	Mrs Greening
Wednesday	Mrs Greening, Mrs McNamee and Mrs Baxter
Thursday	Mrs Baxter and Mrs Greening
Friday	Mrs McNamee

### Information Evening for Year 6 Parents

Parents will have the opportunity to meet and listen to the Headteachers from Winchcombe and Cleeve next Tuesday. The evening will start at 6pm with the Headteacher from Cleeve, followed by the Headteacher from Winchcombe. We hope that parents will come along.



### **Clubs**

A Clubs list will be coming out on Tuesday of next week. They will be emailed out, but hard copies will be available from the school office.

### **Oak Class**

We hope that everyone has settled into school life. As you are probably aware, Oak class is taught by Mrs Pearman on Monday and Tuesday and Mrs Meredith-Smyth on Thursday and Friday. Originally Mrs Meredith-Smyth was going to be teaching on Wednesday as well, but will now be joining Mr Williams studying for a Postgraduate Certificate in Early Years Education. This was only confirmed a short while ago. The class will be taken on Wednesday by Mrs Dodwell, an experienced Early Years member of staff. Can I reassure those parents who may be a little concerned by this that the Early Years team work together to ensure continuity across the two classes and between teachers. We are confident that all the children will have a very positive experience with the adults who have responsibility for them.

A huge well done to all the boys and girls starting Reception this week. We are very proud of you. A little reminder for parents regarding drop off and pick ups.

AM drop off - In the play ground/pick up - at the locked gate

PM drop off at the locked gate/pick up in the play ground.

We look forward to the weeks to come.

Miss Simcock (Early Years Lead)

### **Taking School holidays in term time**

The number of parents taking their children out of school for holidays during term time has increased this year to 71 children, taking on average 10 sessions ( a week). For 60% of these children this has meant that their overall attendance rate falls below the school average of 96% and for 10% they fall under 90%.

DfES information has calculated that 90% attendance = 4 weeks missed per year whilst 80% attendance = more than half a term missed per year or 2 full years missed over the course of their school career

The county guidelines towards holidays in term time are as follows:

You have to get permission from the head teacher if you want to take your child out of school during term time.

You can only do this if:

- you make an application to the head teacher in advance (as a parent the child normally lives with)
- there are exceptional circumstances

It's up to the head teacher how many days your child can be away from school if leave is granted.

### **Special Diets Legislation**

Due to Caterlinks' updated policies, it is now essential that for all children requiring a special dietary meal, we must be provided a doctors letter confirming this, together with the previous requirement of an up to date Special Diet/Allergy form and photograph. A doctor's note is not required for a Nut Free allergy due to Caterlink Nut Policy



### School Meals Payment Policy

With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September, the cost of a school lunch is £2.28.

Woodmancote School has adopted a strict NO DEBT policy relating to the school meal service.

If debts are incurred, then the school budget has to pay for them. This means that money which should be spent on the children's education is used to pay for debts incurred by parents.

Children will not be provided with a school lunch unless it is paid for, except those that are entitled to free school meals. If a parent genuinely forgets to pay in advance, the school may grant a debt allowance of 1 meal. However this debt must be paid next day and future meals must be paid in advance before any meal is provided.

If the debt is not cleared, parents must either provide a packed lunch or take the child home for lunch. In a case when a debt payment is not received nor a packed lunch provided, the head teacher/school office will phone the parent to ask them to come to school with the money or ask them to pay online immediately. Otherwise they must provide sandwiches before lunch time or arrange to take their child home for lunch.

You will find the full School Meals Payment Policy attached with this newsletter.

### Prayer Group

A prayer group, open to Christians of all denominations, governors, staff and parents, meets regularly to pray for the school. The first meeting for this term was today and the next will be on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October. The group meets in the Activity Room of the Year 6 block from 8.45am until approximately 9.30am. Whether or not able to come along

to the group, there is the opportunity for anyone to ask the group to pray about something - a worry, a concern or perhaps something to give thanks for. There is a box in Reception for this purpose and, if you want to put in a prayer request, this can be done anonymously or with your contact details if you would like someone to get back to you - that is entirely up to you. If you would like more information about the group, please contact Andrew Hiscock either by email: [arhiscock@gmail.com](mailto:arhiscock@gmail.com) or by telephone: 07926093738. Dates of the meetings for the remainder of this school year will be published in the next newsletter. The group is supported by the Cheltenham Prayer for Schools Network, part of Pray for Schools about which more information is available on [www.prayforschools.org](http://www.prayforschools.org)

### Dogs on site

Dogs are not permitted on the school site. Please refrain from bringing any into school. Thank you.

### Diary Dates

12 <sup>th</sup>	Cleeve and Winchcombe Schools information evening for Yr 6 Parents 6pm
14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Camp In
21 <sup>st</sup> September	Open Afternoon for Prospective Parents (1.30)
26 <sup>th</sup> September	European Day of Languages
12 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Morning for Prospective parents (9.30-10.30)
13 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festivals Infants at 9am Juniors at 2.15
17 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Consultations (3.30-6.30)
19 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Consultations (4.30-7.30pm)
20 <sup>th</sup> October	Last day of Term 1
30 <sup>th</sup> October	First day of Term 2
Week	Reception Nativity (TBC)



beginning 11 <sup>th</sup> December	
18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Parties

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