



Woodmancote School
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Newsletter

www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk

Newsletter 1 Friday 4th September 2015

Welcome back to what promises to be a very busy year! Many of you have already seen plans for the proposed development at the school and it is now hoped that plans will be approved in time for work to begin in January 2016, ready for September of that year.

These are exciting times for Woodmancote School and we wish to thank all those parents who have chosen this school for their children and who support us so tremendously on a weekly basis.

Class organisation

A little reminder if you had forgotten or if you are new to the school.

Reception

Ash Miss A Waters

Oak Mrs S Trigg

Year 1

Beech Mrs Z Meredith-Smyth

Maple Mrs S Badham (Head of Infants)

Year 2

Willow Mrs L Holding

Cedar Mrs R Hoyle

Year 3

Lime Miss S Perkins

Holly Mrs N Howard

Year 4

Fir Mrs C McCormack

Pine Mr N Carter

Year 5

Hazel Mr R Evans (Head of Juniors)

Yew Mr M Williams

Year 6

Sycamore Mr A Clark

Rowan Miss J Chandler

Mr DeGruchy Deputy Headteacher

Mrs A Greening SENCo

Spellings

Thank you to all those parents who continue to support their children with spellings. In line with the Government's changes to the National Curriculum and year group expectations, we have had to review how spellings are taught and delivered across the school. From Year 2 upwards each week your child will be taught a spelling rule with some example spellings. This rule will be introduced to the whole year group and throughout the week these rules will be highlighted through classroom display. If you find any examples with your child when reading, they may add them to their spelling records so that they can add these to the classroom display. Knowledge of the spelling rule will be assessed in the form of a dictated passage.

School Meals

These are now provided by Caterlink, who won the County contract in the summer. Children are once again given a choice of what they would like to eat, with all children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2** provided with a free hot meal.

We run a 'Family Service' at lunchtime with children sat together on tables, with the older children acting as servers. Children are encouraged to hold their knives and forks correctly and to try food that they may be unfamiliar with. Swede provided quite a stir on Wednesday!



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We have two sittings, with Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 having lunch between 12 and 1 and Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 between 12.15 and 1.15. Lunchtime consists of half an hour play and half an hour eating lunch either in the Hall (Hot meals) or in the classroom (sandwiches).

Haircuts

We have had several children return to school with 'unconventional' haircuts. We would urge all parents to consider the appropriateness of Mohicans and heads shaved with shapes, etc for primary aged children.

Side Gate by Reception classes

As of the 28th September this gate will not provide access to the Reception area and the playground beyond. Please use the Britannia Way entrance and the other front gate by the Junior Classrooms. This is because we need to increase our security on this side of the school as we have some new children with some specific needs.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Clubs

Clubs will start week beginning 14th September. There is a club letter with this newsletter. We will be trying something different this term and 'Sign up' sheets will be available before school on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th September in the playground. If you are unable to come into school, children are allowed to sign up themselves with the understanding that you have given them permission.

We do expect children to commit to clubs and to inform the member of staff if they are unable to attend for any reason. If children do not do this, valuable club time can be taken up with teachers having to phone parents asking where their children are.

We will always try to ensure that parents know in plenty of time if a club is to be cancelled. Unfortunately we sometimes need to do this on the day if a member of staff is ill and other staff cannot cover. A text will be sent out, so please ensure the office has your most up to date phone number and email address.

New Shoes!

Thank you to all those parents who send their children to school in the appropriate uniform. New shoes form an integral part of this, but if your child has new shoes and they are rubbing, can we please ask that you send them in with plasters that they can put on if needed? We have had to provide quite a few this week and would really appreciate your support.

Communication

We believe that Woodmancote School has a very open door policy and works hard to ensure that all parents are made to feel welcome and able to approach any member of the school community. We have several avenues of communication that we use.

The school pays a significant amount of money each year to use Teachers2Parents. We are only able to text one number as the cost of using the two number option is prohibitive. We recognise that this is not always convenient for a small number of parents.

We would also urge you to provide the school with at least three contact names and addresses. We had several incidences last year when we were unable to contact parents as they had not provided any alternatives contacts.

The Home-School book is used throughout the school, but the older children are expected to show the teacher the book if you have written something in as they are



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not necessarily checked every day as they are in Reception and Year 1.

Many of you prefer to communicate via email and each member of staff has their own address. Please see the contact list at the end of this newsletter. Please do not expect an email straight back, but we will endeavour to reply within a few days. Always feel free to cc Mr Tucker or Mr DeGruchy into the email.

Newsletters are sent out fortnightly via email. If you would prefer to have a hard copy, please come into the Office, where you will be able to find a copy in the carousel. We do find it disheartening when parents openly say that they do not read the newsletter and then ask us questions that would be answered if they took the time to read it! We are not perfect, but we do aim to include as much detail about school life as possible.

Woodpeckers

From September 2015 all Woodpecker payments will be made via ParentPay. Ad hoc payments will still be paid on the day, not via ParentPay. Any outstanding payments from last school year should be paid to the office.

Young Voices

This year children in Years 5 and 6 will be participating in Young Voices. Further details of this event can be found at <http://www.youngvoices.co.uk/>

This is an exciting event that will be supported by Music Junction and Helen Wright, the singing teacher that runs the Voices club after school.

The event will be in Birmingham the week beginning 11th January. Further details will follow soon.

PE Kit

PE is an important subject at Woodmancote and all children require a kit suitable for indoor and outdoor sessions.

*PE-Black shorts and plain white T-Shirt.
Children may wear trainers for Games.*

(School Prospectus)

Children will have sessions outside and this may be when the weather is colder. Please ensure that they also have sweatshirts and even tracksuit trousers for when the weather becomes more inclement. We do like to take them outside even if it is cold or a little drizzly! There is no set uniform for sweatshirts or tracksuits.

Children are asked to remove earrings for PE.

Dates

Harvest

13th October Junior Harvest (2.30)

15th October Infant Harvest (2.30)

Last day of Term 1

Wednesday 21st October

First Day of Term 2

Tuesday 3rd November

(Monday 2nd November is a Joint INSET day for teachers from Gotherington, Swindon Village and Grangefield)

Parent Consultations

Tuesday 3rd November (3.30-6.30)

Wednesday 4th November (4.30-7.00)

Infant Christmas Play

8th December 1.45pm



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9th December 9.30am

10th December 1.45pm

Last Day of Term 2

Friday 18th December

Mrs Meredith-Smyth	zmeredith-smyth@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mr de Gruchy	ddegruchy@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk

Staff Emails

Name	Email address
Mr Clark	aclark@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Greening	agreening@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Miss Waters	awaters@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs McCormack	cmccormack@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Hubbard	fhubbard@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Pearman	gpearman@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Miss Chandler	jchandler@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Baxter	kbaxter@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Workman	kworkman@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Holding	lholding@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mr Williams	mwilliams@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Howard	nhoward@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mr Carter	ncarter@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Dodwell	rdodwell@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mr Evans	revans@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Grosvenor	rgrosvenor@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mr Hoyle	rhoyle@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Badham	sbadham@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
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