



Woodmancote School
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Newsletter

www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk

Newsletter 3 Friday 2nd October 2015

Cheltenham Schools Challenge



On Sunday morning, children and staff in Year 4 took part in the Cheltenham Half Marathon Schools Challenge! In front of thousands of spectators, the children completed a mile course around Pittville Park and the surrounding roads. This was the final mile of the 13, 12 of which had been previously completed at home and in school during PE lessons. The children loved the amazing atmosphere of race day, and alongside 600 other children from across the county, were cheered from start to finish. Everyone in a green marathon t-shirt (adults included!) gave 100%, and the effort and enjoyment was clear to see. It was a fantastic morning, and the children can be proud of all their efforts! Roll on 2016, when hopefully another year group will represent the school.

Macmillan Afternoon Tea

Thanks to your wonderful generosity we raised £347.57 which will go towards the work of Macmillan nurses. Thank you for all your donations and contributions.

Fair Funding

School budgets are under pressure and school budgets in Gloucestershire more than most. The ten best funded areas of England have on average received grants of £6,300 per pupil this year, compared to an average of £4,200 per pupil in the ten most poorly funded areas of England, of which Gloucestershire is one. As a school we believe this is unfair and are seeking your support to bring about change.

The national budget for education is shared out on a basis that is lost in history and is manifestly unfair. Gloucestershire schools and academies suffer as a consequence. The government has given a commitment to introduce fair funding, but there is real urgency about making progress. A rapid move to a proper funding formula would help schools meet the additional costs they face in the coming years.

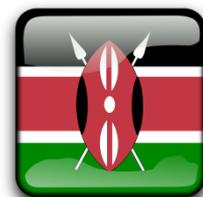
We would like you to join the campaign by signing a petition that will be handed in to parliament. The timescale is tight and we need signatures by Wednesday 14th October.

If you would like to see an increase in the per pupil allocation for your child through the introduction of a fairer funding formula, please look out for the petition in the playground next week, or pop in to school and sign the copy at the front office.

Thank you in anticipation of your support

Visit by Kenyan Headteachers

After a very successful visit, Mr James Mwangi has now returned to Kenya. The children were very welcoming and mature in asking him a host of questions about life back in Kenya and we hope that they gained a wonderful insight into life for Mr Mwangi and





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his family. Mr Clark will be travelling out to Kenya just before half term and it is hoped that he will return with many images that he can share with the children in after the half term break.

Spelling/Phonics Information Evening for parents-CHANGE OF DATE

This evening will now be on Thursday 8th October not 6th October at 6pm

The aim of this evening is to inform parents about the new spelling system and the year group expectations. It will hopefully show how you can support your children and how phonics are taught in the Early Years. If there is anything in particular that you want covered or raised, please email Mrs Badham

sbadham@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk

Year 4 and Year 6 residential to the Forest of Dean and Whitemoor Lakes

We have organised two meetings on Wednesday 14th October for parents of children in Years 4 and 6. Parents of children in Year 4 are welcome to come along at 6.15 to hear all about the planned trip to the Forest of Dean, whilst parents of Year 6 children are invited along for a 7.00 start. Meetings will be in Sycamore and Hall.

Winchcombe School

Parents of children in Years 5 and 6 are welcome to come along to our school on Wednesday 14th October to hear a presentation from the Headteacher of Winchcombe School. We have timetabled this for the same day as the Residential trip so that parents need come out only once! The meeting will start at 6.15 and will be held in our hall

SEND Information Day Thursday 8th October 2015

A free event for parents & carers of children & young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

A great opportunity to meet other parents and carers, share ideas, and find out what's available for your child/young person in Gloucestershire.

Please see leaflet sent out with this newsletter.

Parking!

I can almost hear the sighs now, but once again I must highlight how a minority of parents are endangering the lives of children at our school. Yellow zig zag lines must not be parked on and cars, other than those with a blue disabled badge, may not drive on to site at the beginning and end of the school day.

We have also had many complaints about the inconsiderate and dangerous parking opposite the Colleberry junction and the Woodmancote Vale junction. **Please** park away from the school and walk that little bit further in order to keep your children safe.

The Highway code rule 243 states: DO NOT stop or park opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space.

Behaviour

Woodmancote is an inclusive school with children from a range of backgrounds, with a variety of needs. We do however have an expectation for behaviour throughout the school day and look to parents to support us in implementing our expectations.

Can we also please remind all parents of a few rules that we have for the beginning and end of the school day.



-Children are not permitted to play on the playground in the morning before school. This is our busiest time of the day and many parents bring pre-school children to school. If children play tag or find a ball to kick around, this can pose a risk to parents and younger children.

-All children are expected to be on the playground and are not to play on the trim trail or pirate ship.

-Scooters and bikes are to be walked from the school gates to the relevant parking areas. They must not be ridden on school grounds at the beginning or end of the school day.

-At the end of the day it has become a bit of a 'free for all' on the playground, field and trim trail, with many parents allowing their children to go off without supervision.

As from Monday, children will not be allowed to play on the trim trail or field at the end of the school day. Please ensure they stay with you on the playground. Sports Clubs and Woodpeckers find it very hard to keep track of children if there are so many other children around.

Thank you for your cooperation

In the next newsletter I will outline how we ensure children behave in school and what we do if they do not!

Middy Supervisors

For many years children at Woodmancote have called Middy Supervisors by their first names. There have been historical reasons for this, but we increasingly believe that some children do not respect these adults because of this. Therefore, as from Monday, children will have to call Middy Supervisors by their Surnames.

Mrs Coltman	Mrs Lockart
Miss Davies	Mrs McConnell
Miss Jones	Mrs Moore
Mrs New	Mrs Parker
Mrs Rushton	Miss Scarborough
Mrs Shafiee	Miss Stephens
Mrs Thomas	Miss Vardy
Miss Brooks	Miss Minchin

We expect children to treat all adults the same and Middy Supervisors with the same respect as they do their teachers.

Please spend some time reinforcing this important message in order that we can support our Middy Supervisors who have a difficult time supervising some of our children at lunchtimes.

Lunchtime Arrangements

We introduced Family Service to Woodmancote some time ago when our lunchtime numbers were significantly lower than they are now. We currently have to serve in the region of 180 meals each day and this is placing an enormous strain on how we run lunchtimes. We have decided to change arrangements and work in a similar way as our local schools such as Swindon Village who also have very large numbers.

Starting in the next few weeks, children in Reception will go to the hall for their lunch at 12 o'clock where they will collect their lunch from the servery. They will then sit and eat their lunch. As Reception children finish other year groups will be called in from the playground, having started their lunch break at 12.15. This will continue until all children have been served their hot lunch or eaten their packed lunch. We are aiming



for children who have dinners to eat alongside those with packed lunches in the hall, not the classroom.

Midday Supervisors will be on hand to help the younger children to cut up food, reinforce basic table manners and help the younger ones clear their plates. Whilst not 'Family Service' we will still promote eating together.

Things may change later in the term, especially if the Government decides to withdraw funding for Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) as part of the Autumn Spending Review.

Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Lunchtime Supervisor. For more details and an application form see the school website.

Spelling/Phonics Information Evening for parents

6th October at 6pm

The aim of this evening is to inform parents about the new spelling system and the year group expectations. It will hopefully show how you can support your children and how phonics are taught in the Early Years.

Payment for Lunches

Please remember that Parentpay accounts for junior school lunches need to be in credit if you wish your child to order a hot dinner.

To top up your account log in to www.parentpay.co.uk.

Dates for this term

8 th October	Spellings and Phonics Evening at 6pm
12 th October	Prospective Parents Afternoon (1.30-2.30pm)
13 th October	Junior Harvest (2.30pm)
14 th October	School Photographer 6.15 Talk by Headteacher of Wincombe School to parents of children in Years 5 and 6 6.15 Year 4 Residential Meeting 7pm Year 6 Residential Meeting
15 th October	Infant Harvest (2.30pm)
21 st October	Last day of Term 1
Tuesday 3 rd November	First Day of Term 2
Tuesday 3 rd November (3.30-6.30)	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 4 th November (4.30-7.00)	Parent Consultations
8 th December 1.45pm 9 th 9.30am 10 th 1.45pm	Infant Play
Friday 18 th December	Last day of term

Class Assemblies - Wednesdays at 8.50 a.m.

7 th October	Fir
21 st October	Pine
18 th November	Sycamore
25 th November	Hazel
2 nd December	Yew
16 th December	Rowan



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