



Woodmancote School
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Newsletter

www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk

Newsletter 4. 16 October 2015

Cross Country

Well done to the school Cross Country team who have competed in two events so far this year. We have a strong and enthusiastic team and are looking forward to even more children competing in the Cluster Cross Country after the half term break.

The boys team has got off to an amazing start with a third of the team coming in the top 30!

Class Dojo

Several classes are now trialing Class Dojo and we hope that those parents who can access the system are finding it useful and informative. Before we commit to it as a whole school as a means of improving behaviour we would welcome any comments that parents may have. Please email Mr Tucker as soon as possible.

head@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk

We would like to clarify that the facility should not be used for informing the school about absences, etc, but should simply be used for communication around behaviour. Thank you for your cooperation. If you know nothing about Dojo it is because your child's class is not involved in the trial!

Open Mornings and Afternoons

We have seen a record number of prospective parents visiting the school in recent weeks, thanks in part to the positive messages that many of you send out to the local community. Thank you for all your support, it is much appreciated. We continue to see an increase in pupil numbers and currently stand at 397. Our maximum number is 420. The Governing Body has no intention of increasing capacity to be a three form entry school and developments that are due to start after Christmas will be simply to

accommodate all classes in permanent buildings, rather than relying on two Elliott buildings.

Woodpeckers

Woodpeckers continues to be as popular as ever and we thank you for your continuing support. From time to time we have to reiterate the message with children that whilst Woodpeckers is all about play, we do expect them to behave in an appropriate way and treat Mrs Coltman and her team the same as they would teachers. We reserve the right to withdraw a place if a child's behaviour is unacceptable.

Please remember that children cannot be dropped off at Woodpeckers until 8.00am. Also please make sure the children are picked up promptly at 6.00pm. Thank you.

Year 3 Blog

Congratulations to Year 3 who are now blogging! Children are able to log on and comment on posts provided by Mrs Howard and Miss Perkins. They have thoroughly enjoyed reading the comments so far and are looking forward to reading even more in the near future.

Class Assemblies

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

Spelling/Phonics Information Evening for parents

Thank you to all those parents who came along last week. It was wonderful to see so many of you. We hope that we answered



Woodmancote School

some of your concerns, but several of you raised issues that we will consider in the coming weeks. Thank you for your feedback, it really helps us to tailor our provision.

If you were unable to make the evening, details of the evening can be found on our website. If there is anything that you want clarification on, please contact either Mrs Badham, Mrs Meredith-Smyth or Mr Clark.

<http://woodmancoteschool.co.uk/about/curriculum/>

Behaviour

We are sometimes asked by prospective parents whether we have poor behaviour at Woodmancote School. The simple answer is yes, like many schools. However, it is what we do about poor behaviour that ensures children can feel safe and can learn effectively.

We have a Behaviour Policy that outlines what we consider to be poor behaviour and this can range from simply not listening and concentrating in class to being aggressive and abusive to other children. Sanctions are proportionate to the behaviour and can range from a reprimand in the classroom, to a detention at breaktime, to the ultimate sanction which is permanent exclusion. This is something we aim to avoid through various strategies that seek to change a child's behaviour.

The most effective way to deal with poor behaviour is to ensure that good behaviour is rewarded and recognised. To this end we have a range of stickers, house points, Headteacher awards and certificates that can be given out by adults throughout the school. Some classes are now using a new on line method which I know that children and parents in Year 5 are particularly engaged with.

For some children these strategies do not work and 'rewards' need to be adapted or broken down into very specific things that can be achieved. We seek to understand why some children find it necessary to behave in the way they do and will then endeavour to tackle the root cause of such poor behaviour. This is not necessarily the side of behaviour management that many parents see, but we would like to make all parents aware of it as sometimes there can be the misconception that nothing is happening about particular children.

Unfortunately all parents have differing attitudes to parenting and what one parent feels is acceptable is not always acceptable to another. School has a clear idea of what is and what is not acceptable within the school community, but recognises that our messages may not be followed up at home. We will continue to reinforce our expectations for behaviour and thank the overwhelming majority of you who support us in this.

Christmas Treat...a little early!

Following on from a very successful free show last year, we are welcoming back M and M Productions on the 3rd of November. They will be performing Robin Hood to all years from Year 1 to Year 6. Reception children will have their own Christmas treat nearer the end of term.

As this is the same day as Parent Consultations, we will not be using the hall on Tuesday 3rd or Wednesday 4th, but teachers will be meeting parents in their classrooms. One classroom in each year group will be earmarked for meetings, whilst the other will contain the books for all children in that particular year.

Below you will see a list of where teachers in that year group will be meeting with you.



Woodmancote School

Reception	Ash
Year 1	Maple
Year 2	Cedar
Year 3	ICT Suite
(books will be out in the library area)	
Year 4	Pine
Year 5	Hazel
Year 6	Sycamore

Structured Conversations

Because of budgetary considerations we will not be able to offer the same number of Structured Conversations as we have done in previous years. Therefore only parents who are contacted directly will receive an invitation to meet with their child's teacher for a structured conversation. All other parents will need to sign up in the usual way.

We are sorry that we cannot offer all parents a half an hour appointment, but we hope that you will find your 10 minute slot useful in identifying what your child can and cannot do and how you can help with their learning

PTA News.

Thank you to those who came to the meet and greet evening on 7th October. There was plenty of wine, cheese and nibbles.

Christmas Card Design. Christmas card designs need to be in by Wednesday 21st October. Please place all designs, order forms and money in the PTA shed mailbox.

Halloween Trail. The Halloween trail is rapidly approaching. Please let us know if your child/children want to take part by **Wednesday 21st October**. Reception has forms to fill out if you want to join us on Friday 30th October. Please put all applications in the PTA shed mailbox.

Design the Christmas Fayre Poster. There have been several Christmas Fayre poster designs in already. If your child/children want to take part and design a poster, drop their artwork in to the PTA mailbox by Thursday 5th November. Judging is on Friday 6th November and the winner will be announced on Monday 9th November. There is a prize for the winner as well as this design being used for the Christmas Fayre poster.

Volunteers. We need some volunteers to help run some stalls at the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 28th November. The Fayre runs from 2.00-4.30pm. If you can offer any help, even if it's 30 minutes, please let us know either by e mail or by putting a note with contact details, in the PTA mail box.

If you have any ideas for fundraising, wish to give us feedback about events, want to join the PTA or be added to our list of volunteers please e mail us, or put a note in the PTA mailbox.

Thepta@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk

Thank you.

Dogs

Can we please ask that if you do walk your dog to school that you do not tie them up near the exits and entrances as some children are a little scared around them. Dogs are not allowed on school premises, so please (if you must tie them up) do it along the fence away from the gates. Thank you for your cooperation.



Woodmancote School

Kenya Trip

This week Mr Clark has set off on his Kenyan adventure along with teachers from other schools in our cluster. He will be experiencing school life in Kenya following Mr Mwangi's very successful visit earlier in the term. He is taking along with him a gift of a collage of Woodmancote School's logo, representing the seasons, which was made by the children and Mrs Percy. We look forward to hearing all about his travels after half term.





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