



Woodmancote School
Belong • Aspire • Achieve

Prospectus



Woodmancote School

Welcome to Woodmancote School

Welcome to Woodmancote School. I hope that you find this prospectus informative, but please feel free to drop us a line or give us a ring to organise a visit in person. There is nothing quite like seeing a school in action to appreciate the wide range of opportunities that we can provide for your child.

Woodmancote is a 'Good' school (OFSTED 2012) working towards being 'Outstanding'. It is a school that clearly aims to inspire our children to 'Belong', 'Aspire' and 'Achieve' and these three words guide all that we do here.

As we continue to grow, moving to 14 single aged classes in September 2014, we are confident that Woodmancote School will remain the 'village' school that makes it so distinctive. Quite simply, we are big enough to provide a full range of opportunities for our children, but retain the mindset of a village school where every individual is important and provision is built around them and their families.

Mr Gary Tucker

Headteacher



Woodmancote School



Belong

A school where children are encouraged to develop a sense of belonging to both a thriving local community and a national and international community where responsibility goes hand in hand with discovering who they are and where they fit in the world.

Aspire

A school where children are encouraged to see the world as full of endless opportunities to develop skills and knowledge, that enables them to lead full and meaningful lives.



Achieve

A school that aspires to give all children the very best start to their academic lives through a stimulating, supportive and challenging curriculum.

How is my child taught?

In each class there can be a wide range of ability. At times, the whole class may be taught the same lesson, at other times, the children will be split into groups so that each group can be taught at a level that is more appropriate to their particular requirements. The groups may be arranged in ability sets, in cross year groups or in friendship groups. Care is taken so that each child experiences the full range of the different groups.

Teachers employ a variety of methods and strategies to develop each child's individual potential. Detailed curriculum plans are available for parents to see through the website and each term parents receive a curriculum newsletter that outlines what their child will be studying that term. From September 2014 the school will have 14, single aged classes named after trees.



Meeting the needs of the individual child

All children are different and at Woodmancote we aim to ensure that whatever their needs, children receive the appropriate guidance and support. Children with learning difficulties, physical difficulties and emotional difficulties are considered to have Special Educational Needs. If a child is identified as having special needs, this will be discussed with parents and an Individual Education Plan and Provision Map will be developed for the child.

Gifted and talented children are those who have one or more abilities developed to a level significantly ahead of their year group (or with the potential to develop these abilities).

In England the term 'gifted' refers to those pupils who are capable of excelling in academic subjects such as English or History. 'Talented' refers to those pupils who may excel in areas requiring visio-spatial skills or practical abilities, such as in games and PE, drama, or art.

Once a child has been identified the school aims to provide them with the relevant activities to stretch and challenge them within the framework of the taught curriculum and by providing a range of opportunities outside the classroom.

Policies relating to Special Educational Needs and Gifted and Talented children are available via the website or from the school office.

Pastoral Care



Children are encouraged to feel positive about who they are and what they may want to achieve. They are supported in this by the ethos of the school that aims to help children gain a sense of self worth.

Our aim is to ensure that all children have a sense of belonging and that they are encouraged to aspire to achieve all that they are capable of.

Children in Key Stage 2 have a dedicated Teaching Assistant who is available if they have any concerns or worries.

Parents are encouraged to engage with the school and are supported to do so by our Parent Liaison and Attendance Adviser, Theresa Brown. Working closely with our school nurse, they hold regular 'Drop off, Drop In' sessions.



Woodmancote School

Achievement for All

Woodmancote is an Achievement for All (AFA) School, awarded Quality Mark in July 2014. Details about AFA can be found at www.afa3as.org.uk.

What will my child be learning?

All children have access to the whole curriculum. Woodmancote School aims to make the curriculum interactive, fun and relevant to the children.

Our teaching fulfils the requirements of the National Curriculum and leads to the intellectual, aesthetic, social, emotional and physical development of each child. Children in our Reception classes work within the later stages of the Foundation Stage.

We teach the National Curriculum, plus Religious Education and Citizenship. We take a cross curricular approach and aim to teach key skills in the following areas:

- Communication (English)
- Mathematical Understanding
- Scientific and Technological Understanding
- Creative Development (Art, Music, Dance and Drama)
- Health and Well Being (P.E., Outdoor Education and Personal and Health Education)
- Geographical, Historical and Social Understanding (including French).

Maths and English

At Woodmancote School we recognise the importance of ensuring all children are numerate and literate by the time they leave us at the end of Year 6. Children who may experience difficulties in these subjects will receive additional support, whilst those who show an aptitude will be challenged and supported to achieve above age related expectations. Those who are particularly gifted will be placed on our Gifted and Talented register.

English and Maths have a high profile throughout the school and the learning environment seeks to challenge and support children to achieve all that they are capable of.

Science

We place great importance on the children developing a scientific approach to answering questions and solving problems. Skills such as observing, planning and carrying out investigations, interpreting data and communicating findings are taught and developed.

Music



As part of our Creative Development teaching all children have access to specialist music teaching by our Specialist Teacher, Mr King. Music is a strength of our school, recognised by OFSTED as being 'Outstanding'. Through playing together, children develop a strong sense of belonging. Opportunities are varied and focus on the joy of making music together.

Instrumental tuition, for which parents are charged, is provided in school by 'The Music Junction'. Instruments covered include flute, violin, clarinet, singing, keyboard, drum, saxophone and guitar. Instruments can be hired from the County Music Service or through 'The Music Junction'.

Other Curriculum Information

Parents wanting more detailed information about the Foundation Stage Curriculum and the National Curriculum should ask at the school office. We have particular evenings during the year for parent/teacher discussions and a written report on each child's progress is issued in the summer term.

The school also has various curriculum evenings and mornings, where parents are invited in to school to learn a little more about certain aspects of the curriculum.

Assessment

Children are assessed throughout their time at Woodmancote to ensure that they are being supported and challenged in equal measure. Most assessment is informal and undertaken as part of the normal classroom routine. However, children also have times when formal assessment is undertaken. This occurs in Years 2 and 6. There is also a Year 1 Phonics Screening test that is undertaken in the summer term.



Admission Arrangements

Children starting school for the first time are admitted in September, the start of the school year in which they have their fifth birthday. Since the school year starts on 1st September and ends on 31st August, all but a few of our children are four when they start.

The Local Authority (LA) coordinates our Reception admissions and any queries that cannot be answered at school should be directed to the Admission department at Shire Hall. In-year admissions are handled by the school.

School Admissions and Transfer Team

School Admissions and Transfer Team deal with and give advice on the admission and transfer to all mainstream schools.

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Tel: 01452 425407

We welcome visits from any parents wishing to consider a place for their child at our school. Mrs Thomas, Mrs Meredith or Mrs Williams (01242 674312) will be happy to arrange an appointment.

Partnership with Parents

Please remember that your child will benefit greatly from close co-operation and communication between you and school. Some Parents kindly volunteer to help in school and this is always appreciated by the children and teachers. Parents who do help on a regular basis are asked to undergo a Disclosing and Barring Service (DBS) check.

Every Parent automatically becomes a member of the Parent and Teacher Association. The PTA committee organise a variety of fund raising and social events during the year.

All teachers are happy to talk with parents. They prefer to talk after school for all but the shortest of conversations as they are busy preparing for the school day before 8.40am.

The Headteacher is also pleased to hear your views about any aspect of school and the school positively encourages parents to express their opinions through regular parent questionnaires.



Accessibility

In line with our commitment to be a school where everyone has equality of opportunity the school has an Accessibility Plan that can be obtained from the website, along with our Equality Policy, Behaviour Policy, Attendance Policy and Community Cohesion Policy and Plan.

Communication

We believe that effective communication with all members of the school community will bring about a greater understanding and improved outcomes for all our children. We endeavour to keep parents informed about school events through a variety of channels.

Newsletters are published fortnightly on a Friday and contain information about what has been happening at school and what is planned for the weeks ahead.

We celebrate success as well as effort in all activities that children participate in whether it be musical, sporting or academic. Newsletters are posted on to the website and are emailed to parents.

The texting service enables us to communicate with parents in a fast and efficient way as long as parents supply the school with current numbers.

Teachers may contact individual parents regarding their child or may convey information about a particular class or group.

Homework

All children will have some form of homework during the school week. Our policy is available from the school office.

Homework for maths is increasingly set to be completed on line. Children are able to log in using their personal log in details and the teacher is able to monitor progress via the Mymaths website.

School Hours 8.45am - 3.15pm

(Children may come into class from 8.40 onwards ready for registration at 8.45am).

Breaktime 10.30-10.45

Lunchbreak 12.15-1.15

Afternoon Break for Key Stage 1 and Foundation 2.20-2.30 pm

School Uniform

We expect parents to dress their child(ren) in uniform;

- *Boys-grey trousers/school shorts; white polo shirt and a bottle green round necked sweatshirt.*
- *Girls-grey skirt/pinafore/trousers*, white polo shirt and a bottle green round necked sweatshirt or cardigan sweatshirt. They may wear a green and white dress in the summer term.*
- *Footwear-Black/dark shoes that enclose the toes. No open toe sandals.*
**Trousers' does not include leggings*
- *PE-Black shorts and plain white T-Shirt. Children may wear trainers for Games.*

Children may wear a watch and simple ear studs if they have pierced ears. Most other jewellery is inappropriate for school but, if there is a particular reason for your child wearing a special item, please talk to the Headteacher.



Key items of uniform such as sweatshirts, cardigans and PE kit can be ordered through the school office or online at www.brigade.uk.com . Information is available from school reception.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The school has a wide range of extra-curricular activities that are available to different groups of children throughout the school. Many members of staff, along with some external providers, run clubs such as tag rugby, football, chess, cross country, athletics, tennis, art and drama.

Our outstanding music provision in curriculum time is supported by a range of music clubs open to children throughout the school. Ukelele, Wind, Strings and Voices are just some of the groups that children can join.

School Meals



Meals are cooked daily in our own kitchens by Edwards and Ward. The catering company is obliged to provide a carefully balanced and healthy menu.

Parents pay for school dinners through 'Parentpay' and will be issued with a user name and password when their child starts school. Free meals are available for those in the Infant classes and for those on income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance or child tax credit. Forms are available at the school office. Children may, of course, bring their own packed lunch, which is also eaten in the dining area.

Woodpeckers

Before and after school care (Woodpeckers) provides before and after school activities for children in a safe, happy environment, supervised by caring, experienced staff.

The morning session starts at 8.00am and breakfast is provided if you wish your child/ren to have some. The children are then able to sit and do quiet activities and play before they are taken to school for 8.40am.

The after school sessions start at 3.15pm and finish at 6.00pm during normal school days. A varied programme is offered including arts, sport and recreational activities. There is a quiet area set aside where children can read, rest or do homework. A snack is offered daily and drinks are available throughout the session.

Charging Policy

The school wishes to provide all pupils with the best possible educational opportunities. The law states that education during normal school hours is to be free of any compulsory charge to parents and the school warmly endorses that principle and is committed to uphold the legal requirements. However, many educationally valuable activities are dependent on voluntary financial contributions from parents. Without that financial support, the school would find it impossible to maintain the quality and breadth of the educational programme provided for the children. The school's concern is to keep financial contributions to a reasonable minimum and to ensure that all children are able to take part, irrespective of their circumstances.



Woodmancote School

Welfare of Pupils

- Children should arrive at school between 8.40 am and 8.45 am. Children are marked late if they arrive after 8.50 am.
- Children staying for lunch must not leave the school premises during this period.
- If children have to leave school during the day, e.g. to visit the dentist, they need to be collected from school and signed out at the office. Please notify the school office before 9.30 am on the first day of absence from school due to sickness.
- We do not automatically authorise absence from school and are unable to authorise any holidays. We do request that you inform us of any absences due to family circumstances.
- Staff may accept responsibility for administering medicine, although they are not obliged to. Parents will be asked to sign an agreement that clearly states that the administering of medication is voluntary on the part of the staff.
- Parents of children with asthma or allergies should ask for a copy of our school policy for managing these symptoms.
- Our school nurse visits at regular intervals and can always be contacted via the school office.

Safeguarding

The school has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Mr Tucker, as well as a deputy DSL, Mr De Gruchy. Any concerns about safeguarding or child protection should be made to these members of staff, or Mrs Clare Spiller, the Governor with responsibility for safeguarding.



Woodmancote School

Beyond the Classroom

All year groups have the opportunity to participate in various educational visits to enhance the curriculum. Recent trips have been organised to Warwick Castle, the SS Great Britain, Gloucester Cathedral and the Cotswold Wildlife Park and the Cotswold Farm Park.

Year 4 pupils have the opportunity to spend three days and two nights at The Dean Field Study Centre in the Forest of Dean while Year 6 pupils can have the experience of a week's residential activity week at Whitemoor Lakes.

Many children are encouraged to participate in teams and the school is well represented in local competitions and festivals. These include football, netball, athletics, country dancing, cross country and rugby.



Governors

The school has an active Governing Body which is comprised of staff, parents, Local Authority and community representatives. There are several committees, Staffing and Finance, Premises and Teaching and Learning. The chairs of each committee, together with the Headteacher, come together as a Steering Committee.

Community Links

Children at Woodmancote are encouraged to see themselves as part of not just a local community, but a national and international one. From donations to the Salvation Army at harvest, Winston's Wish collections after concerts and performances, through to non-uniform days for charities, all children are encouraged to see themselves as global citizens.

The school is a member of several partnerships, all of which are designed to ensure that children have a variety of experiences during their time with us. With the University of Gloucestershire we provide opportunities for trainee teachers to bring something new to the school community. Working with other Cheltenham schools we provide a range of opportunities for children who are Gifted and Talented in Art, Music and Creativity.

With our local schools, Swindon Village, Gotherington and Grangefield, we are developing opportunities for staff development and pupil partnerships. This enables us to draw upon a wider range of skills and opportunities.

The school is twinned with Le Plaine School, Annecy.



Year 5 and 6 children visiting Annecy in 2013



Woodmancote School

STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES 2014-15

Mr Gary Tucker	Headteacher Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
Mrs Linda Armitage	Chair of Governors
Mr Duncan De Gruchy (Deputy Headteacher)	Assessment Leader Numeracy Subject Leader Deputy DSL
Mrs Anona Greening (Senior Leadership Team)	Creative Development Leader Special Educational Needs and Inclusion Leader
Mrs Giovanna L. Pearman	Class Teacher
Mrs Sarah Badham (Senior Leadership Team)	Talk for Writing Lead, Forest Schools Leader Class Teacher
Mrs Sara Trigg	Class Teacher
Mrs Kathryn Baxter (Senior Leadership Team)	Communication Leader Class Teacher
Mrs Kirstie Workman	Class Teacher
Miss Sam Perkins	Class Teacher
Mr Richard Hoyle	Science and Technology Leader Class Teacher
Mrs Caroline McCormack	Class Teacher
Mrs Zoe Meredith-Smyth	Class Teacher
Mrs Susie Jordan	Student Mentor Class Teacher
Mrs Liz Holding	Science and Technology Lead Class Teacher
Mr Nick Carter	Class Teacher
Mr Matthew Williams	Class Teacher
Mrs Fran Allen	Class Teacher
Mrs Fiona Hubbard	French Teacher
Mrs Beckie Grosvenor	Numeracy Subject Leader Class Teacher
Miss Nathalie Carless	Class Teacher
Mr Adam Clark	Class Teacher
Mrs Lisa Hetherington	Class Teacher
Mr Nathan King	Teacher for Music
Mrs Worgan	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Minett	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Strangwood	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Meadows	Teaching Assistant
Mrs King	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Cotter	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Burrows	Teaching Assistant
Mrs S. Smith	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Lee	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Bird	Teaching Assistant
Mrs C. Smith	Teaching Assistant and Pastoral Support
Mrs Siveter	Teaching Assistant and Pupil's Champion
Mrs Fletcher	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Kelsall	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Morrish	Teaching Assistant
Mr Nathan King	The Music Junction
Mrs Debbie Sallis	www.themusicjunction.co.uk
Mr Mike Sallis	



Woodmancote School

School Contact Details

Name	Woodmancote School
Address	Station Road Woodmancote Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL52 9HN.
Telephone	01242 674312
e-mail	office@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Website	www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk
Headteacher	Mr G Tucker BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH