

Newsletter 23. 02nd July 2021

It has been rather an eventful week here at school, but we hope that this newsletter finds you all well and looking forward to the weekend.

We have endeavored to put outdoor learning, the environment and creating a sense of Belonging at the core of our curriculum here at Woodmancote, so if you feel you have the skills, interest or resources to help us realise our ambition to have all our children connecting with their environment, as well as each other, please do contact us.

As well as developing the Outdoor Classroom Area at the front of the school, we are looking to enhance the school's provision in several different ways in order to meet the needs of children at school. We do hope that you will consider helping.

Winston's Wish Growing Hope Project

We have recently signed up to be part of *Winston's Wish Growing Hope Project*. The project supports bereaved primary school children to come and garden together and experience the therapeutic benefits of gardening through the year. By gardening together with the support of several members of staff, and the team at Winston's Wish, we hope that our children will be able to process feelings of grief in a gentle way.

The project follows the seasonal cycle of the year and uses it as a metaphor for growth and change that supports the children in coming to terms with their own changing circumstances.

We hope that running this Project will not only support the children and families in our school who have experienced a close family

bereavement, but also help us all to become aware of the impact that grief can have on a child and help us all to feel we can talk about death and dying more. Once the garden is set up, we hope that it will become a place of comfort and reflection for the whole school community to access.

How can you help the Project?

We would like to involve the whole school community in supporting the *Growing Hope Project* and really need your help to get us started!

We would like the children to wear non-school uniform on Friday 16th July and ask that they each bring in a coin to place on our Tree of Hope (kindly drawn by Ms Steer). We are hoping to raise enough money to be able to set up our garden ready for the launch of the project in September.

We will also be looking for plants and seeds throughout the year so if you or your wider family like to garden and have spare plants and seeds that you/they would be happy to donate, we would love to hear from you.

We will also be looking for practical help to help to dig our garden and we are looking for local businesses who might have tools, compost or materials to donate. We have already had a very kind donation of compost, seeds and trugs from Brockworth Garden Centre.



If you can help with any of these, please contact Mrs Dodwell on rdodwell@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk

We look forward to providing updates throughout next year on the progress of our garden.

Academic Year 2021-22

As you can appreciate we have been discussing ways in which, as a school we can address some of the challenges that this year has presented. We are now in a position to share some aspects of our provision next year.

We recognise that we need to prepare our current Year 5 children for the transition to secondary education in September 2022. We will therefore be splitting the children into three classes of 20 for next year. This is not a permanent arrangement, but we are able to do this for one year only thanks to the increase in the emergency funding from the Government. Next week current class teachers and members of the Senior Leadership Team will meet to allocate classes. We are not streaming the children in any way and each class of 20 will comprise of children with a range of abilities and needs. We will consider friendships, as well as the gender balance and ability of each child when deciding upon how to organise the classes.

The class teachers will be Mr Evans, Mr Adkin and Mrs White and they will be based in the Year 6 block, where we currently

have a classroom that can be repurposed for one year.

This is an opportunity to meet the needs of this particular year group before they leave us and move on.

New appointments

I am delighted to say we have recruited two new teachers to join the team at Woodmancote. Miss Cowan will be joining us in Year 5 and Mr Jefferies will be joining us in Year 2.

As full list of staff deployment will come out in the next newsletter.

Photography Competition

Congratulations to Seren and Libby who recently had their photographs displayed at the Gloucestershire Young Photographers Competition awards show. For those who missed it or would like to see it again, here is a link to the show on YouTube.

<https://youtu.be/nrJkrFFEyXs>

Cheltenham Camera Club will also be putting a link to a slide show and to a searchable gallery on their website www.cheltenhamcameraclub.co.uk in the next few days.

Local Support for Families

<https://www.thehivecscheltenham.co.uk/>

We have been chosen as a provider of Free Holiday Clubs for the Tewkesbury Borough and every child who attends school and is eligible for free school meals can have up to 3 days free of charge during August 2021

We have capacity for 250 children (we can apply for more once we have reached numbers)

If your child qualifies and you are interested, please contact us via the website www.thehivecscheltenham.co.uk

Remote Learning

I can understand your on-going frustration with the current arrangements for a child having to self-isolate because of another child testing positive in a class. We are all aware that this is not sustainable going forward, but in the meantime, can I assure you that we are aiming to do all we can to minimise disruption.

Can I remind parents that where a whole class or Year Group are asked to self-isolate, including members of staff, we have the capacity to move to remote learning via TEAMS. When only an individual is self-isolating from a class or year group, the class teacher is still in school and still responsible for the teaching and learning for all other children. They do not have the capacity to do live teaching for those at home.

Children in these circumstances can access learning via the Government's own approved platform, The Oak Academy. Alternatively, parents with limited internet access, can request learning packs via the Office (admin@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk) and Teaching Assistants will compile Learning Packs for home learning. If you do request a pack, you will be informed when these are ready.

We recognise that the current arrangements are incredibly difficult for parents, but we will endeavour to do all we can to support you and your child.

We are looking forward to welcoming Holly class and Year 2 back when their isolation periods end, along with all the staff who have been self-isolating.

Setting work

In the event of a child being absent, awaiting test:

- If a child is off due to symptoms of covid and awaiting a test, the office should direct them to use Oak

Academy

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/>

In the event of a confirmed case and the whole class, including teacher is off:

- For online Learning, the school will only use Teams and the class teacher will upload the work for each day/week.
- The resources used can be teacher generated, specific Oak Academy lessons or links to other online resources.
- Each day the teacher should follow the suggested whole school timetable and spend time on TEAMS outlining the day and then teaching an aspect of the curriculum as appropriate, using a range of resources. It is not an expectation that all lessons will be Live, but teachers may want to record aspects of teaching and learning and then post these for pupils to access when possible.
- Each child should be provided with between 3-4 hours of academic study or craft/DT activities
- Both classes in each year group should have the same quality and quantity of work set.

Summer Reading Challenge

Why not join in the Wild World Heroes for the Summer Reading Challenge.

Introducing...Wild World Heroes! We're so excited to reveal the theme for the Summer Reading Challenge 2021! Get ready for Wild World Heroes, arriving online and in your local library this summer.. Pack your bags, we're headed for Wilderville!

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/news/general/wild-world-heroes-intro>

Recent letter regarding Covid 19.

Dear Parents,

We have been advised by Public Health England that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

The small number of children who have been in close contact with the individual who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have received a letter informing them that their child must stay at home for 10 days.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The household isolation period includes the day the first person in your household's symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) and the next 10 full days. This means that if, for example, your 10 day isolation period starts on the 15th of the month, your isolation period ends at 23:59 hrs on the 25th and you can return to your normal routine.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus->

[symptoms/](#). If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often - do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

G Tucker

Contact Details

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School Website:

www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk

Pre-school Website:

<http://littlechestnutspreschoolwoodmancote.co.uk/>