



Woodmancote School
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Newsletter

www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk

Newsletter 1st October 2021

This week's newsletter is rather long, but contains some important information about how you can help support the school in the coming year.

Thank you

An enormous thank you to all those parents who came along to our New Reception Parents Evening on Thursday. It was great to see so many of you there. The powerpoint will be uploaded to the website next week.

Parent Governors

The Governing Body is looking for two new Governors. Governors oversee all aspect of the school's provision. There is obviously a level of commitment that is spelt out below.

Why volunteer to be a school governor?

School governors make a valuable contribution to children's education, opportunities and futures.

Being a school governor is a challenging but hugely rewarding role. It will give you the chance to make a real difference to young people, give something back to your local community and use and develop your skills in a board-level environment. You will also be joining the largest volunteer force in the country: there are over a quarter of a million volunteers governing state funded schools in England.

Schools need governing boards that have a balance and diversity of knowledge, skills and experience to enable it to be effective. Ofsted (the national inspection body for schools) has repeatedly noted that the most effective schools demonstrate effective leadership and management - which includes *the governing board*.

Here at Woodmancote we are looking for those parents with an aptitude or interest in Premises generally, and Health and Safety specifically.

Who can become a school governor?

Anyone aged 18 or over can be a governor (but there are some exceptions) There is no requirement for you to have an understanding of the education system, just the necessary skills, character and time to contribute. There is plenty of training available to help you learn about education.

As a governor, you will be able to:

- use your own experience of education and life beyond school to inform conversations
- develop and utilise your skills in a board-level environment
- make a valuable contribution to education and your community
- support and challenge the school so that it improves for pupils and staff
- bring your unique experiences, perspectives and insights in to decision-making in the interests of the school community

What do governors and trustees do?

The governing board provides strategic leadership and accountability in schools. It has three key functions:

- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational



- performance of the school and its pupils
- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

Governors set the aims and objectives for the school or group of schools and set the policies and targets for achieving those aims and objectives. They monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making and act as a source of challenge and support to the headteacher. In action, this means:

- Appointing and performance reviewing the head teacher and senior leaders, including making decisions about pay
- Managing budgets and deciding how money is spent
- Engaging with pupils, staff, parents and the school community
- Sitting on panels and making decisions about things like pupil exclusions and staff disciplinary
- Addressing a range of education issues within the school including disadvantaged pupils, pupils with special needs, staff workload and teacher recruitment
- Looking at data and evidence to ask questions and have challenging conversations about the school
- Governors and trustees must be prepared to adopt the Nolan principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

What will be expected of me?

The average commitment averages out to be approximately 10-12 two hour meetings each

year, although it will vary depending on the needs of the school and the 'role. In addition there would be the need to undertake background reading, training and preparation activities.

If you feel that you have the skills and expertise we are currently looking for and can commit to the time, please look out for the nomination forms and details of the election timescales that will be emailed out early next week.

Parent governors generally serve for four years unless stated otherwise in the school's Instrument of Government. If a parent governor ceases to be the parent of a child registered at the school within the period for which they have been elected, he/she may continue to be a governor for the rest of his/her term of office.

The Role of Parent Governors

- Parent governors should play a full and active part in the governing board but, parent governors, like other governors, do not have the power to act as individuals or as a group, unless specifically authorised to do so by the governing board.
- Parent governors are not on the governing board simply to represent the interest of parents, or to be the only link with parents because all governors must have regard to these issues.
- Parent governors have the same rights, responsibilities and duties as other governors.



You might like to look at the information for prospective governors on the Gloucestershire County Council website www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/governors

Growing Hope Garden

Thank you to those parents who have already donated plants and bulbs to this project. Please email Mrs Dodwell (rdodwell@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk) if you can help

- Gardening tools such as spades, trowels, secateurs.
- Hardy perennials-If you are splitting this this Autumn, we would love to have a 'clump'!
- Bags of compost (preferably peat free)

We are also looking to work towards having a Polytunnel or small greenhouse.

PTA Newsletter - 01 October 2021

Your PTA needs you!

What? What is this?

Ok, before you think of the scenes from Motherland or some other dreaded PTA cringe moment, our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) isn't like that, honest! We've always had a small but dedicated PTA who meet regularly to organise events to raise funds for the school, for our children. From simple Pancake Flips with all the children taking part from Little Chestnuts to Year 6 (and some teachers!) to Gin Nights to our famous family festival, Woodmanstock, these have all been a success!

Over the years we've raised lots of funds which go directly back into supporting the school. The play equipment on the playground, new books in the library, the new

firepit, additional learning resources have all been funded by the PTA. It's parents like you who volunteer that make this happen.

Therefore, **YOU** are all invited to the PTA annual general meeting on Thursday 7th October 2021 at 7.45pm in the school main hall.

As it will be the AGM we have the four main PTA positions available and are seeking new volunteers to fill these roles. Here's a brief description to explain the roles, however please feel free to ask for more details if necessary. The opportunity to join the PTA without a dedicated role is available too.

- PTA Chair - To make all committee members feel welcomed and valued, to set the PTA agenda, to provide leadership, to co-write the annual PTA report. To have the final say on PTA decisions.
- PTA Vice-Chair - Deputising for the Chairperson when necessary, the Vice-Chair helps to ensure that the Committee and all of the events continue to run smoothly.
- PTA Secretary deals with all the correspondence that the PTA receives and helps the Chair ensure that committee meetings run smoothly.
- PTA Treasurer - To manage and control the funds the PTA raises. Although all the committee members have equal responsibility for the control and management of PTA funds the Treasurer plays an important part in helping the committee carry out these duties properly.

PTA Committee Members - Support and work alongside the above roles for the benefit of



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the PTA. Attends PTA meetings (one meeting per term), encourages participation and enthusiasm for the events organised by the PTA.

Your PTA needs YOU, we really do. It would be fantastic to have a strong representation across all year groups. Everyone will be warmly welcomed and supported throughout. We are all volunteers and just try to do our best and do as much as we can and we do have fun along the way too. Being in the PTA also gives you a different insight into the school and what your children experience at Woodmancote. It's also a fabulous feeling when you know your efforts have contributed to the wider community and made a difference.

We would love to see you and explain more at the AGM, so please pop along. Light refreshments will be provided. New, previous, curious, excited, volunteers are all welcome.

If you wish to contact the PTA please use our Facebook page to message - Woodmancote School PTA or email thepta@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 7th, bring a friend!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Parents may want to use all of some of this article to open up discussions with children about the role that this young man has played over the last two years.

Marcus Rashford, footballer, campaigner, and bestselling author and just a kid from South

Manchester



Not prepared to see kids go hungry and miss free school meals, using his celebrity clout, he single-handedly called on ministers to offer a guaranteed "meal a day" to all school pupils in England in financially struggling families.

Marcus Rashford MBE English professional footballer visiting FareShare Greater Manchester at New Smithfield Market.

If you check out his biography on Wikipedia it says.... Marcus Rashford MBE is an English professional footballer who plays as a forward for Premier League club Manchester United and the England national team.

However, it really only tells half the story.

In his 23 years on planet earth, Marcus has achieved far more than most top athletes have done, twice his age.

Marcus is famous worldwide for his skills both on and off the pitch.

OK we know he is a very talented footballer and plays for one of the top clubs in the World, Manchester United.



Not many 23-year-old footballers can claim to be an FA Cup winner, League Cup Winner, Man U player of the year 19/20 and in 2020 Footballer of the Year in England.

He still makes a noise on the pitch for Manchester United and is contracted until 2023 on over 10 million pounds a year too.

But before he was a Manchester United and England footballer, Marcus was just an average kid from Wythenshawe, South Manchester, and remembers his own hardships during his schools' days, having **received free school meals** whilst growing up.

Not prepared to see kids go hungry and miss free school meals, using his celebrity clout, he single-handedly called on ministers to offer a **guaranteed "meal a day"** to all school pupils in England in financially struggling families.

The Manchester-born star drew on his own experience of childhood poverty to raise money for food charities during the Covid pandemic.

As lockdown hit and schools were temporarily closed, Rashford partnered with [food distribution charity FareShare](#) to help cover some of the free school meal deficit.

The campaign was able to cover three million meals a week to the most vulnerable across the UK, but requests soon became overwhelmed following the Government's

decision to cancel the food voucher scheme over the summer holidays.

In an open letter to the Cabinet, Marcus pleaded with the Prime Minister to reverse the decision.

'As a family, we relied on breakfast clubs, free school meals and the kind actions of neighbours and coaches. Food banks and soup kitchens were not alien to us.'

He went on to tell MP's, "While the eyes of the nation are on you, make the U-turn and make protecting the lives of some of our most vulnerable a top priority."

Prime Minister, Boris Johnson extended the scheme two days later.

Then in October, Marcus launched a second petition urging the Government to again extend free school meals through the half-term and Christmas holidays, eventually pressuring ministers into providing £170 million of extra funding.

Rashford made tackling food poverty in Britain one of the key issues of the coronavirus crisis, raising huge awareness and money for the issue via the FareShare charity.

While the footballer is thought to have donated a substantial sum of his own cash to the campaign, his role in inspiring others to donate helped cement his position on the top of the Giving List.

Rashford was made an MBE in the delayed 2020 Queen's Birthday Honours List, in recognition of his services for vulnerable children in the UK during the pandemic.

Now Marcus is inspiring school kids to start reading as he has become a bestselling author with his

book *You are a Champion* which has been at the top of the Children book chart for four weeks and is packed full of stories from Marcus's own life, brilliant advice, and top tips from performance psychologist Katie Warriner. It shows you how to be the very BEST that you can be.

It shows kids how to:

- Be comfortable with who you are - you can't be a champion until you're happy being you!
- Dream big
- Practice like a champion
- Get out of your comfort zone and learn from your mistakes
- Navigate adversity in a positive way
- Find your team
- Use your voice and stand up for others
- Never stop learning.

It is therefore hard to think of someone else who has single handedly made such an impact across Britain in 2021.

Black History Month thanks you, Marcus Rashford MBE, on behalf of all the school kids for your dedication and continued support.

Written by Editorial Team 30/09/2021 at Black History Month 2021



Dates for the Diary

October	Black History Month
Monday 4 th October	'Bridge' Experience day
Thursday 7 th October	School Photos Siblings and Individuals
Thursday 21 st October	INSET No school for children
22 nd -31 st October	Half term holiday
1 st November	Start of Term 2
Monday 1 st November 4.30-7.30	Parent Consultations It is hoped that these will be face to face in school.
Thursday 4 th November 3.30-6.30	
Thursday 11 th November	Armistice Day
Friday 26 th November	INSET No school for children
Friday 10 th December	In School Pantomime



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17 th December	Last day of term 2
Tuesday 4 th January	INSET No school for children
5 th January	First day of term 3

School Website:

www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk

Pre-school Website:

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

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