



Woodmancote School
Belong · Aspire · Achieve

Newsletter

www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk

9th September 2022

Welcome back to a new academic year at Woodmancote School. A special welcome to all our new starters in Little Chestnuts, Reception and in various classes throughout the school. We hope that you are beginning to build relationships with those existing members of the school community and we are looking forward to working with you in the future.

Unfortunately, the academic year has started with the sad death of Her Majesty, Elizabeth II. The school has marked this event this morning in Assembly and in the coming days and weeks children will be supported with making sense of this monumental national event.

This newsletter will contain various bits of information that may be new to you, forgotten by you or having simply passed you by as you are all busy parents!

New Developments around school

Many of you will have seen that we now have our own Multi-Use Games Area and we will be starting to use it in the coming weeks for both PE and Breaktimes. Our timetable will aim to enable all children to benefit from this amazing facility.

Support with financing this is still required, so if you are in a position to support us, please see the details at the end of this newsletter.

We have also increased the size of the playground itself by removing the rather tired and unusable borders around the Key Stage 2 building.

Once again we have updated several toilet blocks. This time it was in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. This now brings all our toilets up to the same wonderful standard!

Talk from Cleeve School and Winchcombe School

Parents of children in Years 5 and 6 are welcome to hear from both schools on Wednesday 14th September. The talk will be in the main hall.

- 6.15 Winchcombe
- 7pm Cleeve

Year 6 Camp Out

We are currently in the process of planning an overnight camp on the school field on Thursday 22nd September for Year 6. During the evening, children will play games, sing songs around the camp fire, be tasked with setting up tents and there may even be time for hot chocolate around the fire!

Children will be supervised by a number of staff including class teachers and members of the Senior Leadership Team. We hope this will be an enjoyable and useful experience, which will bring the year group together and improve cohesion moving forward into the new academic year. Further information and details will be sent out next week, but in the meantime, if you have a tent handy, please put it to one side!



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New Staff

We also welcome several new members of staff this year. Mr Pownall will be supporting children in Year 5, Miss Walker in Year 3 and Mr Dowsett in Year 3. Mrs Searle will also be teaching across the school, as will Mr DeGruchy. Mrs Skerry, who many Little Chestnuts parents will already know, will be teaching in Beech every Monday.

Mr Dowsett will also be responsible for Coordinating various play activities at lunchtime with children in various year groups. As Play Coordinator he will be ensuring that children make effective use of the MUGA to experience a range of sports and physical activities. Some of the children will know him as Tom at Woodpeckers.

Hockey



We are delighted to be working with RO Coaching

<https://www.rocoaching.co.uk/schools> this coming year to provide Hockey Clubs for children in Year 1-6. We are developing a Hockey Strategy as part of our Sports Premium Strategy and will be working closely with Lansdown Hockey Club and Hockey Fever <https://www.hockey-fever.co.uk/> to get more boys and girls playing this inclusive and exciting sport.

Family Finances

We are acutely aware of the current demands being placed on the family finances. We have discussed this as a school staff and the Governing Body will also be discussing it at their next meeting. Throughout an academic year we know that we can appear to be constantly asking for a contribution to this or a donation for that. We have tried to have a 'one payment for all' option in recent years, but this failed to cover the cost of all the

things that we actually did, so we will not be repeating this in the coming academic year.

Can I take this opportunity to reassure parents that we will carefully consider each and every occasion which may result in requesting a payment. We obviously want to give all children at Woodmancote a rich and varied experience and we will be exploring how we can do this at minimum cost to you.

Thank you for your support

Parentpay

Parentpay is the school system that allows all parents to make online payments for school dinners, trips and visits. To all our new families, you will be issued a letter in the next 10 days, this will detail how to login and your unique login reference. If you have any questions or require any support in setting it up, please speak to the school office.

Meal Price

Caterlink, our catering providers have informed us of a price increase for September. The meal price will be £2.36 from September. Whilst we are all currently experiencing significant food inflation, this price is guaranteed to the 31st March 2023. This will be adjusted automatically on Parentpay.

However, we would urge parents to consider following this link to find out whether their children are able to claim Free School Meals. Not only would this mean your child would have a free cooked meal each day, regardless of age, the school would then receive additional funding that may be used to support families with the cost of things such as residential and day trips. If you are unsure, please just have a look or contact the school and we will help you through the process.



<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

A few gentle reminders

School Uniform

Part of our approach to living our ethos of Belonging is that all children wear and present themselves at school in a similar manner. Last year we saw several children coming to school pushing the boundaries in terms of jewellery, hair styles and 'accessories'. Can we remind parents of the following expectations.

- All children should wear appropriate dark school shoes unless they have a medical reason not to do so.
- Hair that is long enough to fall into eyes should be tied up or a child should wear a plain hair band. *This goes for boys and girls.* If a child comes to school and their hair is hampering them accessing their learning they will be given a simple elastic band to tie their hair up with.
- If worn, ear rings must only be simple studs.
- No necklaces, bracelets, rings or bangles should be worn to school.
- Hair bands should be plain and not 'ears', sparkly unicorn bands or anything similar.

Jumpers and other items of clothing should be labelled. Last year we accumulated a mountain of lost property! Naming items of clothing and also lunch boxes really helps us to return items.

School Gates

A gentle reminder that all children should be in school by 8.50 ready for registration. They can come into the classroom from 8.40, so any child not registered at 8.50 will be classed as late.

We shut the gates within a few minutes of 8.50 so that we can then ensure the safety of all the children registered at 8.50. Thank you for your cooperation.

Playground Supervision before school

Please be aware that whilst the school gates will open at 8.30, supervision of the playground will start at 8.40, when classroom doors will be opened by teachers. Can we also remind parents that children should not play on the climbing frame before or after school as it is not supervised by a member of staff? Thank you.



Medicines

From time to time it is necessary for children to attend school, but also have prescribed medicines.

May we politely remind you that we can only administer prescribed medicines, rather than over the counter purchased calpol etc.

If your child does need medicine it should be brought directly to the school office, rather than to the child's classroom. A form will need to be completed at the office before any medicine can be administered.

Parents may also wish to access the appropriate *Supporting children with medical conditions policy* on the school website <https://woodmancoteschool.co.uk/school-policies/>

Head Bumps

From time to time you may receive a text from school to say that your child has had a head bump.

Every child who has a head bump is seen by a qualified first aider. If there are no adverse effects, a text is sent to parents/carers to tell you about the head bump and to remind you to look out for any of the following.

Confusion/Memory Loss
Nausea /Vomiting
Vision changes
Excessive sleepiness
Severe headache
Slurred speech
Restlessness/Irritability
Dizziness

Whilst at school children will be monitored for the same symptoms.

Please seek medical attention if necessary.

If your child's head bump is considered to be more serious and require prompt medical attention we will make every effort to

contact you. If we are unable to do so, we will take whatever action is considered necessary as for any other injury or medical emergency.

School Car Park

Can we remind all parents that the car park at the front of the school is only for staff, visitors to the school and parents displaying Blue Badges or School Badges. If you are dropping off or picking up from Woodpeckers you may also use it, but we politely ask all other parents to park on surrounding roads.

Members of the Senior Leadership Team will be out in the coming weeks to ensure that this polite message is received and understood by all!

Autumn Term Clubs

With this newsletter you will also receive an outline of clubs available this term. Please take time to look through with your children and contact the relevant members of staff via email.

If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium and are interested in hockey, please contact Mr Tucker asap to receive a code for this particular club.



Class Assemblies

These will return fully this year and we warmly welcome parents of the children in each specific class to come along and see what the children have been doing in school. They will start at 9am and are usually finished by 9.20am

Autumn Term	
5 th October	Sycamore
12 th October	Fir
19 th October	Lime
2 nd November	Willow
9 th November	Maple
16 th November	Hazel
23 rd November	Oak
Spring Term	
25 th January	Rowan
1 st February	Holly
8 th February	Pine
15 th February	Beech
8 th March	Yew
15 th March	Cedar
22 nd March	Ash
Summer Term	
26 th April	Year 3
3 rd May	Year 2
17 th May	Year 4
24 th May	Year 5
7 th June	Year 1
14 th June	Reception
	Year 6 TBC

Dates for the Diary

14 th September	Talk to parents of children in Years 5 and 6 by representatives of Cleeve and Winchcombe
29 th September	Introduction to Reception for parents starting September 2022-6.30pm
October	Black History Month
11 th October	Infant Harvest led by Year 1
13 th October	Junior Harvest led by Year 5
18 th October	School Photos
21 st October	INSET Day-No children in school
1 st November	Parent Consultations 4.30-7.30pm
3 rd November	Parent Consultations 3.30-6.30pm
w/b 7 th November	Arts Week
w/b 14 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
7 th December	Reception/Little Chestnuts Christmas Play at 9.15am
8 th December	Reception/ Little Chestnuts Christmas Play at 2.15pm
9 th December	Pantomime Production at School by M and M Productions
Tuesday 4 th January	INSET-No children in School



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