



Woodmancote School
Belong · Aspire · Achieve

Newsletter

www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk

Friday 5th September 2024

Welcome back to the new academic year. I hope that this finds you all well and that your children are looking forward to the year ahead. Much of this newsletter contains information that most of you are already aware of. However, it is always worth reminding everyone at the beginning of the year of a few things that help the school day go more smoothly!

New Reception intake

If your child is due to start with us next week, we hope that the initial Home Visit has been useful in introducing our staff to you. In addition to the support we can give you, the new Best Start in Life website has a wide range of resources and advice that you may find of interest.

[School readiness | Best Start in Life](#)

Transfer to Secondary School

It is time to start the Secondary transfer process again. Letters for all Parents/Carers of Year 6 students will be sent home shortly.

In the meantime Cleeve School will be coming to school on Thursday 18th September (6.15 onwards). If your child is in Year 5 or Year 6, you are very welcome to come along and speak to representatives from Cleeve.

Time Out for Parents: Children with Additional Needs Course.

This course begins on Thursday 9th October 2025, 10am- 12noon, in person at Treasure Seekers, 52 Westgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2NF.

There are 7 sessions on consecutive Thursdays (There will be no session on Thursday 30th October during the school break). The final session is on Thursday 27th November 2025.

The cost is £40 total. **Parents can book a place on the course using the link below:**
<https://kftseekers.org.uk/service/time-out-for-parents-children-with-additional-needs/>

This course is for parents of any child with an additional need for support, if:

- You are struggling to understand or manage your child's behaviour, or
- Your child has developmental challenges, or
- Your child becomes overwhelmed by their emotions, or
- You're feeling isolated because of your child's needs, or
- Traditional parenting methods are just not working well for your family,

Absolutely no official 'diagnosis' is necessary, you don't even have to know what might be causing your child to need extra help.

Through the course we encourage a willingness to explore ideas and find out what works for you and your family. We recognise that all children are individuals and no-one knows your child better than you.

The course offers practical, jargon-free advice and practical steps to engage and build relationships with your children with additional needs. The course is also a great opportunity to build relationships with other parents.

There are seven sessions, including:

1. Parenting Children with Additional Needs
2. Self-Esteem
3. Coping with Your Feelings
4. Understanding Behaviour
5. Managing Behaviour
6. Home and School Issues
7. The Wider Family



Time out for Parents: Children with Additional Needs is run by licensed facilitators for 'Care for the Family'.

Stars of the Week

Can I please remind parents that it is not an expectation that every child in the class will get one of these over the course of the year. They are awarded to children who deserve it that week. It may mean that a child receives several over the year and others not at all. It is based on merit as is Tea with SLT.

All children are awarded Dojo points as and when they deserve it and as part of our overall Behaviour Policy.

It is important that all children understand the expectations we have of them and that they abide by our simple rules - Ready, Safe and Respectful.

Climbing Frames

These are not staffed in the morning before school or after school, so please supervise your children if you allow them on to them.

Communicating with school

We have a very welcoming and open door policy at Woodmancote, but there are several ways in which this can operate more effectively for children, parents and staff.

As teachers welcome the children in at 8.40, please avoid chatting to the teachers about issues, other than those that would impact on the well-being of your child that day. All other issues can wait until 3.15 on collection.

Emails are not checked during the teaching day, so please do not expect a reply from the teacher immediately. It is far better to email things through to the office, where messages can be passed to the teachers at an appropriate time.

Admin@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk

Please be aware that Dojo should **not** be used for the following:

- Reporting absences
- Informing the school who may be picking your child up on the odd day.
- Sending personal details about possible safeguarding concerns, marital issues, etc.

Please do not expect your child's class teacher to respond to Dojo messages during the school day or in the evenings or at weekends. All teachers have release time at some time over a two-week window and will use some of that time to respond to messages.

Finally, please do not message teachers other than your child's class teacher via Dojo.

In light of the recent parent survey, we are evaluating how we communicate more effectively with you going forwards, but in the meantime, if you are not sure, simply contact the office and they will direct your query appropriately.

Absences

Informing the school of absences on the day can be done by phoning the office and leaving a message on the absence line, sending an email to admin@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk or using the absence notification facility on our school website.

For upcoming absences, please complete a 'Request for a Leave of Absence' form, available from the office, and return for reply from Mr Tucker.

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 shortly. 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.

School Dinners

The current meal price for a school dinner is £2.85.

Children in reception, year 1 and year 2 all receive infant free school meals.

However, we would urge parents to consider following this link to find out whether their children are able to claim Free School Meals.

[Apply for free school meals | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

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.

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

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 per year / £616 per month, as assessed by earnings from up to 3 of your most recent assessment periods)
- 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 are 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

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

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 child and contact the relevant members of staff via email.

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.

On days when PE is taught, children should not wear football socks, shorts over leggings or long sleeved tops under t-shirts. On days when children have PE, they are expected to come in their PE kit, which includes the school sweatshirt.

Class teachers in each Year group will liaise with you directly about Forest School/Outdoor Learning sessions.

	Uniform Items
Required Standard School Uniform	Grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore
	White shirt, blouse or polo top
	Bottle green sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan with logo
	White or grey socks or grey tights
	Black / Dark shoes
	Green and white checked summer dress
Required School PE Kit	House colour t-shirt with logo
	Black shorts
	Black tracksuit trousers or joggers
	Trainers
	Children are expected to wear their school jumpers with the above on the days that they have PE
Other Optional Items	Book Bag
	Rucksacks

Little Chestnuts	Bottle green sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan with logo
Forest School/Outdoor Learning	Long sleeved tops Black tracksuit trousers or joggers Sweatshirts (these should be their school sweatshirts) Waterproof trousers or 'all in ones' Wellington boots

Please note

- Hair that is long enough to fall into eyes should be tied up with a plain hair tie or elastic band. *This goes for boys and girls.*
- If worn, ear rings must only be simple studs.
- Nails should be short, with no nail polish or extensions!

What our school uniform is not...

- Necklaces, bracelets, rings or bangles, unless agreed with the Headteacher and of a religious or cultural significance.
- Hair bands should be plain and not 'ears', sparkly unicorn bands or anything similar.

School Gates

A gentle reminder that all children should be in school by 8.45 ready for registration. They can come into the classroom from 8.40.

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 Parking Permit 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 in a safe manner, even if this means parking a little further from the school.

Reception 2026 Open Sessions

As we are starting the new accademic year, we are looking ahead to our 2025 Reception starters. With this in mind we would like to invite prospective parents and children to one of the following open sessions;

7th October 9am & 1.45pm

15th October 9am

18th November 9am and 1.45pm

26th November 9am & 1.45pm

9th December at 9am

Places are limited so please call to book your place.

Dates for the Diary

September	
16 th	PTA Colour Run after school
18 th	Talk for parents of children in Year 5 and 6 6.15pm-Cleeve
25 th	6.15 Talk for Parents of new Reception children
October	
6 th	School Photos
14 th and 16 th	Parent Consultation Evenings
22 nd	INSET Day No school for children

November	
3 rd	First day back after half term
10 th -14 th	Anti-Bullying Week
14 th	Children in Need
December	
19 th	Last Day of Term

Staff Emails

Mrs Baxter	kbaxter@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Dodwell	rdodwell@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Jordan	sjordan@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Grosvenor	rgrosvenor@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Badham	sbadham@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Workman	kworkman@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs McCormack	senco@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mr Guest	tquest@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mr Adkin	padkin@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Howard	nhoward@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mr Evans	revans@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs White	jwhite@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mr Ridal	lridal@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk

Mrs Pearman	gpearman@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Holding	lholding@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs McNamee	lmcnamee@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Organ	hcowan@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Miss Taylor	mtaylor@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mr Wood	Lwood@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Miss Niblett	Lniblett@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mr de Gruchy	Ddegruchy@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Holder	kholder@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk

