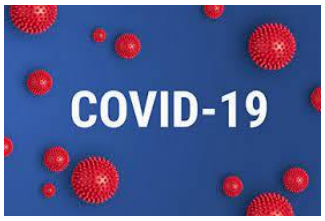
Newsletter
February 2022

HEAD TEACHER NEWS

Dear Parents / Carers,

There are a couple of updates for you from me today:

NEW COVID GUIDANCE



From **Thursday 24 February**, the Government removed the **legal** requirement to self-isolate following a positive test, however if you test positive you are **advised** to do the following:

Stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.

Report the results of any tests taken directly on the gov.uk website.

UKRAINE

I'm sure you have all seen the news over the past week. We have a number of children who have raised concerns about family in Ukraine and the surrounding countries.

If you would like to support during this time, we are requesting any first aid boxes, non-prescription pain killers, covers for wounds and large bandages. If you are able to help by donating any of these items, please bring them in to school this week so that they can be distributed.

Save the Children have suggested 5 ways to support talking to your children about such issues:

1. Make time and listen when your child wants to talk

Give children the space to tell you what they know, how they feel and to ask you questions. They may have formed a completely different picture of the situation than you have. Take the time to listen to what they think, and what they have seen or heard.

2. Tailor the conversation to the child

Be mindful of the child's age as you approach the conversation with them. Young children may not understand what conflict or war means and require an age-appropriate explanation. Be careful not to over-explain the situation or go into too much detail as this can make children unnecessarily anxious. Younger children may be satisfied just by understanding that sometimes countries fight. Older children are more likely to understand what war means but may still benefit from talking with you about the situation. In fact, older children will often be more concerned by talk of war because they tend to understand the dangers better than younger children do.

3. Validate their feelings

It is important that children feel supported in the conversation. They should not feel judged or have their concerns dismissed. When children have the chance to have an open and honest conversation about things upsetting them, it can create a sense of relief and safety.

4. Reassure them that adults all over the world are working hard to resolve this

Remind children that this is not their problem to solve. They should not feel guilty about playing, seeing their friends, and doing the things that make them happy. Stay calm when you approach the conversation. Children often copy the sentiments of their caregivers – if you are uneasy about the situation, chances are your child will be uneasy as well.

5. Give them a practical way to help

Support children who want to help. Children who have the opportunity to help those affected by the conflict can feel like they are part of the solution. Children can create fundraisers, send letters to local decision-makers or create drawings calling for peace.

Save the Children has been operating in Ukraine since 2014, delivering essential humanitarian aid to children and their families. This includes supporting access to education, distributing winter kits and hygiene kits, and providing cash grants to families. Our specialists support children to overcome the mental and psychological impacts of their experiences of conflict and violence and increase their ability to cope with stress in their daily lives.

WSSPA

We still desperately need support with WSSPA – our parent association. Didfferent events are being organised for the children but it is hard with small numbers. If you are able to donate some of your time to the charity, please let the office know.

Many thanks

Miss Woode

MEET OUR GOVERNORS

Our governors work hard to ensure the best for the school. We are currently looking for parent governors. It's a great way for you to have some influence on decisions made in the school. If you would like to find out more about this role, please arrange to meet Miss Woode.

Jan Khanna- Support Staff Governor

My name is Jan Khanna. I have 3 wonderful children and a granddaughter who attended Woodlands. I myself was a pupil in the 1960's. I have worked at Woodlands for 25 years being employed originally in Nursery with a SEN Child. I moved with her accordingly up and down classes and year groups. I completed my degree in SEN at Hatfield University whilst working full time as a Teaching Assistant here. Over the years I have served on various other governing bodies in the Primary, Middle and Upper schools in the local area. I have been twice vice chair and also chair of governors and as a governor on the team who set up the flagship of Hertswood School. At present I have various roles here at Woodlands. I am a staff governor, and with this role I am EYFS governor as well as the Pupil Premium for the Governing Body. My current role in school is as part of the Pupil Premium Team as HLTA. I also have an additional role as the Library Assistant. I feel all my roles are very important as part of the Woodlands Team.

MEET OUR STAFF

Mrs Dickson- part time teacher

Hi my name is Mrs Dickson and I have been teaching at Woodlands since September 2000. I previously worked at a school in North London for 5 years and wanted to teach in a school closer to home.
Since being at Woodlands, I have taught in several years groups across the school as a full time class teacher and (since having our 3 daughters) I now work part time. I enjoy working with a range of age groups as well as teaching music and taking music clubs. I also qualified with an MA in music therapy in 2016 and work as a music therapist two days per week.
Woodlands is a fantastic school which is why I have not wanted to leave!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Hertfordshire Family Centre Services.

Hertfordshire Family Centre Service help families from pregnancy through to when a child reaches the end of primary school. They offer families a variety of support.

Contact your local hub for more information on what's available for under 5's via the following link: Family Centre Service (hertsfamilycentres.org) or by ringing 0300 123 7572.

They offer the following services

- help finding childcare
- antenatal classes
- support with breastfeeding
- health visiting (0-5 years)
- school nursing (5 years+)
- support with parenting and speech and language
- services for children with special needs and disabilities
- support for families experiencing domestic abuse
- opportunities for families to get involved with volunteering

and much more! Check out what's on offer from Family Centres, or find a Family Centre in your area today to find out how we can support you and your family.

Safer Internet Day-Tuesday 8th February 2022

It was Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 8th February.

Please take some time to explore this with your children.

KS1/EYFS:

Story about playing games online-

https://www.childnet.com/resources/digiduck-stories/digiduck-and-the-magic-castle/

KS2:

Video-

https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2022/films

Quiz-

https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2022/quiz-7-11

Further resources:

https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2022/educational-resources

We hope you will find this information useful.

BE AMBITIOUS DAY

Thank you to all the children that took part in the 'Be Ambitious Day' that took place on Friday 11th February 2022. You raised £100.00 that was donated to Place2Be which is a children's mental health charity and the page is still open if you wish to still donate:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/woodlands-primary-school-borehamwood5

We had children dressed up in a variety of outfits including doctors, vets, scientists, budding footballers, football trainers and lots of teachers!

Also on Thursday 10th February, as part of our values afternoon, we ran our first ever Woodlands Guinness World Records Kids event in each class. The children had the opportunity to be as ambitious as possible and try to set a world record. Challenges included creating a right-angle tower with 20 Lego bricks as fast as you could, doing as many kicks up as possible and seeing how many claps you can do in 1 minute. The children all had lots of fun and were very ambitious when it came to setting a world record.

YEAR 2 TRIP TO ST ALBANS CATHDERAL

Year 2 had a great time on their class trip to St Albans Cathedral. The children described the cathedral as 'magnificent' and 'amazing', and it was wonderful to see them linking their experience to their RE topic this year.

They enjoyed finding out about the history of the cathedral. The children dressed up and acted out the story of Saint Alban.

They enjoyed the 'celebration trail' where they learned about the celebrations that take place in a church. They had an amazing 'pretend' wedding and a baptism ceremony where they identified the different areas and features of a church.

The children were inspired by the beautiful stained glass windows and found out what they symbolise. They especially enjoyed the stained glass workshop where everyone got a chance to create a stained glass artwork. You can see these displayed in the Year 2 classroom.

Year 2 got complimented for their wonderful manners and even got mentioned in the daily prayer from the priest.

Well done, Year 2!

Keep in Contact

A reminder to please join WSSPA's Facebook page 'Friends of Woodlands Primary WD6' which is run by parents of the school where information is shared.

This group is to share information and to stay informed with what is going on at Woodlands Primary School. We ask that the parents on this group stay friendly and any members who do not follow the rules will be removed and blocked. Any issues that relate to the school should be addressed directly to the school and not discussed on this page.

We will soon be launching an official school Facebook page, following feedback that this is an easier form of being updated for some. Please look out for the launch.

PARENTMAIL/GOOGLE FORMS

As you may be aware, we have been sending a lot of messages via the parent mail app including links to purchasing the recent disco tickets, via google forms.

We also used this for the Year 1 & 2 production in the autumn term. In order to use less paper in the school and to help us collate information we are hoping to use google forms more. In order for this to work, we will need all parents to be set up on parent mail in order for you to get the information and not to miss out on anything. Please ensure you are set up on Parent mail. If you are having problems it may help to update the app. However, if you are still having problems please advise the office staff and they will try their best to assist you.

Another reason to make sure you are set up on parent mail is parents evening will be taking place in March and you will need to book your appointment through this.

Also, just to advise you that, **due to the Natwest bank closing in Borehamwood, we will no longer be able to accept cash for future trips** so please ensure that you make the payment via the parentmail app at the correct time. Thank you for you co-operation with this.

PICK UP INFORMATION- COLLECTION FORMS

We have noticed a lot of parents are ringing at the end of the school day to advise that their child is being picked up by somebody else etc. Although we appreciate you calling to advise, we would ask that this is either advised earlier or, if it is a regular arrangement, to complete the collection form that you can obtain at the office. The information on this form can then be passed to the class teacher. We understand that it cannot always be helped but ask that you contact the school earlier. Many thanks for your cooperation regarding this.

SCHOOL GATEWAY/HERTS CATERING LTD

A reminder that all school meals should be paid weekly via the school gateway app that we are now using in school: https://schoolgateway.co.uk/get-started

The charge is £2.60 per day, unless you are entitled to free school meals under the benefit umbrella. Please ensure you have downloaded the app in order to pay for your child's school meals. **We are unable to supply further meals for any children if their school dinner bill is over £20.00 and will request parents to provide a home packed lunch until the bill is paid in full.**

The school menu is on a 3 week cycle and we ask that you and your child choose the meals they would like. If your child wants to change any of their options, can you please put this in writing with the details and hand to Lisa in the office. We do require one weeks' notice for the choice to be amended.

The menu can be found on our webpage woodlands.herts.sch.uk under the virtual office tab and then to school meals. The menu gives you the dates of which week we will be on.

PACKED LUNCHES

Please make sure if your child has a home packed lunch, that it is a healthy lunch. We are still seeing some children with chocolate bars and also some children with an overabundance of food in their packed lunch boxes, especially the younger children. We are aware that you may be giving your child a choice but sometimes too much is more overwhelming. If we can ask you to provide a savoury item such as a

sandwich, a yogurt item, a piece of fruit and then a biscuit i.e. a penguin or a cookie, but nothing that contains nuts, and a drink. This is normally more than enough.

Just a reminder……

Also another reminder we are **a nut free school** as we have children with a severe allergy. Therefore, please ensure you do not supply your child with any products that contain nuts. This relates to chocolate spread in sandwiches. Thank you.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO READ PLEASE

If you think you may be entitled to free school meals please check by visiting the Herts County Council webpage www.hertfordshire.gov.uk and complete the application form under FSM. We do see older siblings that are on the FSM list but younger siblings from Reception- Year 2 are not. Please make sure you are applying for your child/ren if you receive benefits.

If you are having any problems with this, please advise the office staff who will be happy to help. Please note that the applications cannot be back dated so it is better to check this sooner rather than later.

If you receive any of the following please ensure that you have applied for Free School meals:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than £16,190 a year)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (with annual earned income of no more than £7,400 after tax and not including any benefits you get).

As stated above.this applies to those children in Reception, through to Year 2 as well, who currently receive Universal Free School meals. It is really important that you apply under the 'benefit umbrella' in order for the school to receive funds that can help your child and so you do not miss out of other benefits. These include the dinner vouchers that have been issued during the school holidays during the covid period.

If you go on to the following website and follow the directions to Free School Meals to apply, you will get confirmation if you are entitled, and the school will be advised as well: https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/Schools-and-education/At-school/Free-school-meals/Free-school-meals.as

WOODLANDS SCHOOL, STAFF AND PARENTS ASSOCIATION

We have a small dedicated group of committee members who work really hard during the school year to organise and host events to raise much needed funds for all the pupils of Woodlands.

A big thank you to WSSPA for organising the spring disco on Thursday 10th February 2022 and also for the tuck shop that took place on Friday 11th February 2022.

Again, just to advise you that all the money raised is for the pupils of Woodlands school. WSSPA have kindly donated a large amount of money towards the coaches that will be taking the children to the trip to the theatre to see The Lion King which is on Wednesday 9th March 2022.

WSSPA are looking to organise some more events in the coming weeks for Easter and are looking at hosting another Mother's day room. We will keep you informed of these events via the parent mail app. If you are able to allocate some time to help WSSPA with these events, please let us know. The annual AGM meeting is being arrange and we always welcome new members to help and provide us with new ideas of how to raise money for the school.

It is a joint effort with the staff and the parents that will make WSSPA a success.

So a very big thank you to the WSSPA members- the pupils and staff really appreciate what you do for the school. A big thank you to the staff that help out with the events as well.

We desperately need more parents to join WSSPA to raise money for events for the children. This could involve helping out at one or two events across the year. Please speak to Lisa in the office if you may be able to give us some of your time. ☺

Please continue to show your support and please get involved! It's great fun if we all pull together.

DATES FOR THIS TERM		
February 2022	Monday 21st February 2022	Year 2- St Alban's cathedral trip
March 2022	Tuesday 1st March 2022 Thursday 3rd March 2022 Wednesday 9th March 2022 Monday 14th March- Friday 18th March Wednesday 16th March 2022 Tuesday 22nd March 2022 Wednesday 23rd March 2022 Tuesday 29th March 2022 Wednesday 30th March 2022	Mental Health Workshop day World book day Lion King trip- Year 1 to Year 6. Early lunch. Last week of school clubs Year 4 Cultural day- details to follow Parents Evening TBC Parents Evening TBC Lower KS2 production TBC Lower KS2 production TBC
April 2022	1st April 2022 Monday 4th April- Monday 18th April Tuesday 19th April 2022	Break up at 1.30pm Half Term Summer A term starts
June 2022	22-24th June 2022	Years 5 & 6- Residential trip to Isle of Wight- selected pupils. No further spaces available.

Please note- TBC- To be confirmed and details to follow.

ATTENDANCE

We are still continuing to strive to reach our 97% target in school.

If your child is off for longer than 3 days, we would advise that you call the doctor in order to get an appointment if possible and proof to the school for our records. Also, just a reminder that if your child is sick , they should be off school for 24-48 hours from the last episode of the sickness/diarrhoea to ensure that they do not have a sickness bug. This is the guideline from the HSC Public Health Agency, which the school adheres to.

Please note for those children whose attendance is very low and is being monitored, we will need proof that your child has attended the doctors in order to authorise the absence. Failure to do so may result in the attendance being mark as unauthorised and, if your child has more than 15 unauthorised sessions (1 session = half a day) in the current or previous term, could result in a fixed penalty notice being sent to both parents.

We are also monitoring lateness in school as this is also a very important time of the day. Children need to be on the playground ready to go in to class at 8.55am. The doors will then be closed and you will need to bring your child to the main office to get signed in, if you arrive once the doors are closed. This is the time when the teachers will be settling the children into the new day, letting them know what will be going on in the day so it is a very important time for your child.

Holidays during term time are strongly discouraged. If you are intending to go on holiday during the school term, you will need to complete an exceptional leave of absence form. This is then passed to the head to look in to. Generally holidays will not be authorised unless it is exceptional circumstances.

We continue to ask you to follow the government guidelines with regards to COVID. We understand there are lots of colds and illnesses going around at the moment but ask you to continue to do lateral flow tests and if they have symptoms, to obtain a PCR test. We will update you with any new information we receive relating to covid.

Attendance for 3rd September 2021 – 11th February 2022

Year	%
Reception	90.8
Year 1	93.3
Year 2	93.1
Year 3	93.1
Year 4	91.9
Year 5	92.7
Year 6	95.0
Total	**92.9**

The attendance is still a little low as we are still experiencing a number of illnesses as stated above. However, we still want to improve on our attendance figures and ask that you help by sending your children in to school and on time all being that they are well enough to attend.

WOODLANDS VALUES

At Woodlands we believe every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential.

In order to help with this Woodlands has 6 values which we look at each half term. They are to be positive, kind, ambitious, passionate, confident, and curious.

We are looking at our values with all of the children and in the spring term we will be looking and practising to be ambitious and to be passionate. These values are teaching pupils to make be ambitious in everything they do and to follow and embrace their passions – both in and out of school.