Newsletter
January 2022

HEAD TEACHER NEWS

Dear Parents and Carers,

How is 2022 here already? I hope you all had a wonderful break and managed to spend quality time with your families.

We have some exciting things coming up this term. We will be introducing a new early reading scheme later this term for Reception , Year 1 and 2 which will support the children in their phonics and reading. More information will be sent out to parents prior to its introduction.

Later this term, Years 3 and 4 will be putting on their performance, which we look forward to. Please look out for dates when tickets will be available to buy. You will need to buy these in advance.

Years 5 and 6 have been showing their musical talents in our recent virtual assemblies. Following Mr Cocomazzi treating us all with a rendition of Ed Sheeran's 'Perfect', others were inspired to bring their instruments in from home to perform for us. We have enjoyed Jessica playing the guitar, David playing the trombone and Bobby playing the ukulele. Please do let us know any other talents you would like to share with us – it's always such a nice treat.

As a school, we plan to go paperless very soon. All communication will be sent electronically via parentmail. We will be using google forms for parents to give permissions. Please do ensure that we have your correct mobile phone number and email address. We will be checking these prior to the transition. Please look out for the information.

Many thanks,

Miss Woode

We're going paperless.

MEET OUR GOVERNORS

Our governors work hard to ensure the best for the school. If you are interested in a governing role, please speak to the office, Miss Woode or a member of our governing body.

Sophie Perkins: Governor

My name is Sophie Perkins, I have been a parent governor since 2018. My son is currently at the school, he joined in year 1 and is now in year 5. My daughter started Reception in September 2021. I have always worked within education starting as a teaching assistant in a secondary school supporting children with emotional, social and developmental needs. I then moved into early years and progressed to manager. I have a wealth of knowledge in the early years and gained Early Years Teacher Status in 2014. My background contributes to the school supporting early years and understanding some of the requirements that cross over into school such as moderation, supporting development of staff and children, use of pupil premium, developing policy and procedures, being a designated safeguarding lead and over-seeing SENCO for my own setting. Being a parent at the school gives me the opportunity to express my thoughts from a parent point of view and wanting the best for our children.

Margaret Kamau : Governor

I have been a parent governor since November 2018. I am a mum of two children at Woodlands and I manage an office at Finchley. I enjoy my role as a school governor and am learning a lot from the experience. I keep up to date with governor training mainly at Modern governor Herts for Learning website which has lots of courses. I enjoy the challenges that being a governor brings and being a parent at the school gives me the opportunity to express my thoughts from a parent point of view.

Vacancies

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.

MEET OUR STAFF

Mrs Ridler : Year 5 & 6 teacher (PPA cover)

I have been teaching at Woodlands for over 14 years now. Over the years I have taught in many year groups, more recently I have been a PPA cover teacher in Year 6. I absolutely love

working at Woodlands, the staff and children are the best! It's been amazing seeing so many families move through the school throughout the years, I have taught numerous siblings!

Outside of work I am a busy mum to two children, Harry and Daisy and I also have my fur baby Gracie, a boxer dog! I enjoy keeping active and regularly go to the gym and do outdoor boot camps. I like spending quality time with friends and family and hope to be able to do this more with restrictions easing. ☺

Mrs Adams- Year 6 teacher's assistant

My name is Sue Adams and I live in Borehamwood with my husband, daughter and son.
My daughter started in Playgroup at Woodlands in 1997 and I volunteered to come in to listen to children read and then became involved with the parents association becoming the treasurer and helping to organise fund raising events.
Both my children attended Woodlands and were very happy here, receiving an excellent education from all the dedicated and hardworking staff throughout the school.
When a vacancy for a Teaching Assistant and midday supervisor within the school became available I didn't hesitate in applying for the roles and I was very lucky to be offered the positions. I am now in my 15th year of employment at Woodlands and, having worked in different year groups, I believe being in Y6 (where I've been for several years now) is my favourite year group!
I love being a part of the children's last year in primary school, helping them through their SATS, preparing them for the transition to secondary school and helping to arrange all the nice events such as the leavers party.

I feel very lucky to be a part of the amazing team and school that is Woodlands.

COMMUNICATION

Once again, we are asking that you make sure that you are using the Parent Mail app as we are using this all the time to communicate with you. We are trying to reduce the amount of paper we use in the school and would like to eventually become paperless!

Lots of information is being sent, including booking tickets for future performances/productions and we do not want parents to miss out on these events.

We will continue to use this for booking appointments for parents evening, school trips and generally getting messages to you if we have been unable to contact you by phone. Therefore it is very important for you to have the app. Please continue to check for emails and text messages that we are sending. Let us know if you are having any problems with this, it sometimes helps to reload or update the app to rectify any problems. However, if you still have problems not receiving information, please let us know and we will look into it.

Please remember to advise us if you change your email address, telephone number or home address in order to update and amend our records.

Please continue to check our Twitter page **@WoodlandsPri**
We do tweet and put lots of photos of activities that the children have taken part in. Please take a look!

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.

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

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.**

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).

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

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.

SCHOOL DINNER- HERTS CATERING LTD

Please ensure that your child's school bill is paid in full in order for us to supply them with meals for the current term. Herts Catering require a list of outstanding items in order to conduct an audit at the end of every term.

Just a reminder……

Herts Catering Ltd supply the school meals and we are advised that if there any bills with a balance of £20.00 or over, parents should provide a home packed lunch until the bill is paid in full. Can we please ask that you pay the school dinner bill in advance via the school gateway app. If you are having any problems paying please contact Lisa in the office.

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

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.

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.

Thank you to WSSPA who organised the Christmas fayre, Santa's grotto and the Christmas parties in December 2021.

WSSPA kindly offered to host a movie afternoon for the children on Monday 20th December 2021 due to the disappointment of not being able to attend the Lion King at this time and this was a great success!

It is a joint effort with the staff and the parents that will make WSSPA a success. We will be looking to arrange a date for the WSSPA AGM and will be inviting all parents to attend to see if you have any ideas or are able to help with any of the events that we will arrange for this year!

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.

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

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. ☺

DATES FOR THIS TERM		
January 2022	Thursday 6th January Monday 31st January	Spring term commences- normal times Year 1- Church visit at 9.30am (Borehamwood St Michaels)
February 2022	Thursday 10th February Monday 21st February 2022	Dress as what your child would like to be in the future (£1.00 donation- details to follow). Woodlands Guinness World record event (in class during the afternoon) Year 2- St Alban's cathedral trip
March 2022	Wednesday 9th March 2022	Lion King trip- Year 1 to Year 6. Early lunch.
June 2022	22-24th June 2022	Years 5 & 6- Residential trip to Isle of Wight- selected pupils. No further spaces available.

ATTENDANCE

We would like to remind parents that our target for attendance is 97% which we strive to reach with the help from all the parents and pupils of Woodlands. We are continuing with this in the spring term striving to reach and attain this target. It is so important for your child to attend school every day in order to achieve their maximum potential.

You need to report your child's absence on the **first day** of their absence by either calling the school or by sending a message via the parent mail app. If we do not have a call or confirmation, this will be marked as an unauthorised absence. If you do not get through on the telephone line, please leave a message as these will always get picked up by the office staff. Please refrain from sending messages via the individual emails as these may not get picked up prior to calls being made. The office staff have access to the telephone and the parent mail app.

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.

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. Thank you for your cooperation regarding this.

Attendance for 3rd September 2021 – 25th January 2022

Year	%
Reception	91.3
Year 1	93.7
Year 2	93.9
Year 3	93.8
Year 4	92.2
Year 5	94.2
Year 6	96.1
Total	**93.6**

The attendance is slowly increasing and we ask that you continue to help by sending your children in to school and on time. We understand that covid and other illnesses are still about but hopefully not on the scale that it was! Let's hope that the attendance improves in the spring term.

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. This value is teaching pupils to make be ambitious in everything they do and trying their best in everything!

With regards to 'be ambitious' as part of the values afternoon, we would like the children to express themselves by coming into school dressed as what they would like to be in the future or those inspire them to be ambitious as they grow up. A £1.00 donation will go towards supporting children's mental health week which will be taking place on 7-13th February 2022. We will also be running The Woodlands Guinness World records for each class on this afternoon! We look forward to breaking some records!!!!