

# Wootton-by-Woodstock CE Primary School



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## NEWSLETTER 1

Dear Parent,

Welcome back to the new academic year. I trust that everyone had a wonderful summer and managed to work around the erratic weather patterns.

Our value for the coming month is Friendship, a value with which the children have always held in high regard.

‘Scripture offers much guidance when it comes to choosing friends. God knows our desire to be known and to be loved! He made us for companionship. Read Bible passages about friendship and how if chosen right, our friends can be the greatest source of love, healing, joy, and encouragement. Within this collection of verses, you will also find advice on how to forgive others when you are hurt and how to handle difficult situations within friendship.’

[\(https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/friendship-bible-verses/\)](https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/friendship-bible-verses/)



A little something to, perhaps, share and discuss with your children.

## TEACHING STAFF

As you may have seen from the news item on the school website Mrs Vicky Lawrence will not be returning to school this term owing to having been diagnosed with a long term illness. Her teaching hours will be covered by Mrs Sylwia Arneil and Mrs Jo Palmer. Jo Palmer will teach Ash class from Monday to Wednesday and Sylwia Arneil will teach Ash class from Wednesday to Friday. In addition, Jo Palmer will continue to cover PPA time for both Sarah Brown and myself. We are sure that you will all join us in wishing Vicky Lawrence well.

## CURRICULUM

This year we begin our new curriculum re-designed with the new school structure in mind. Please see the Long Term Plans and the Curriculum Policy (to be uploaded shortly to the school website) for information on some fabulous new topics coming your way! We have retained some of the successful topics whilst introducing new ones to avoid repetition across year groups and to make learning as exciting as possible. Please also view the termly overviews on the website and on the classroom windows for detail about what the children will be exploring week by week this term. Take note of the homework ideas. These include formal homework as well as ideas for opportunities to support your child with more informal tasks related to current learning.

## BREAD MAKING

Early this term all pupils will be making and tasting bread. Please let your child's class teacher know should you not wish your child to taste bread for any reason.

## PE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

This year, owing to school re-structuring, the amount of PE events the school will attend with the Woodstock Partnership will be reduced. It is not possible, at this stage, to take children out of school but as the new systems and procedures settle down PE events will be planned in with either ODST or Woodstock Partnership Schools as appropriate.

## COMMUNITY WORSHIP AND HARVEST SERVICE

Community worship takes place on (usually) the first Friday of the month at 9.10am in the church. Parents, neighbours and other villagers are very welcome to join us. This term worship is as follows:

Community Worship Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 9.10am

Harvest Service Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 9.10am

Community Worship Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 9.10am

## CLUBS, VISITS AND EVENTS

The office staff are working as fast as possible towards publishing the list of clubs, visits and events for the whole year. All known dates will be added to the calendar on the website. Please be aware that you need to click on the calendar to find the information; it is not possible to see everything at a glance. Dates are always subject to change and the calendar will be updated at the beginning of each term as well as, when appropriate, on occasions during the term. As far as we are able we will include detail about venues and times. A Useful Dates list will be sent home as paper copy at the beginning of each term.

## INSET DAYS 2019-2020

This year INSET days will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> October and 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July. Please view the Term Dates on the school website. SATs will be undertaken throughout May and we strongly advise parents not to take their holidays during this period. Please view the attendance policy for information regarding absences from school.

## PUPIL POST AND OFFICE COMMUNICATIONS

Please note that we expect all children, no matter how young, to fulfil the role of post person; to take home letters and bring back money, lunch orders, notes and signed slips. The reasons for this are three-fold:

1. Pupils learn independence and responsibility from an early age
2. It reduces the amount of people trying to access the office staff, in a small space, early in the morning
3. We benefit from streamlined systems and increased school efficiency

We understand that parents sometimes worry about items going astray but this is all part of the learning process. If, as requested, the communications are sent in clearly labelled envelopes all items should be found; what else could possibly go wrong?!

If you have an item which you have forgotten to give to your child or have something to deliver at a different time of day then please post it through the school letterbox. This goes directly into the office and will be easier for all concerned.

There is also a 'suggestions' box mounted on the wall just outside the new office door. Please, by all means, use this for suggestions of any kind but please note that the quickest way to get a message to the head teacher is to send an email direct to [head.3657@wootton-woodstock.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:head.3657@wootton-woodstock.oxon.sch.uk).

## ANNUAL FORMS

Because of GDPR we will be collecting permissions and signatures more frequently than we did before. Each September we will send out a pack of forms for you to complete and return to school to make your views known and to provide us with the information which we are required to hold. Until we have consents from all parents with regard to specific types of information we will be asking you to collect any documents which contain personal data, in person, from the school office. The pack for this year will be put together by Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September. However, if you have changed your telephone number, address or email address since the last data check please come in and let Maria Withey know as soon as possible. It is important that we hold the correct contact information for every child.

## CHANGES AHEAD

This year look out for changes to:

Provision for after school care; we will be reviewing the success of this initiative, and,

Changes to the school website

Parental access to Target Tracker pupil data

## EQUIPMENT

Extract from the School Prospectus:

### Outdoor wear

All children need to have outdoor wear available in school every day. This may be a coat, fleece, waterproof jacket, or cagoule. Please ensure that your child is appropriately equipped for the weather.

### Your child also needs every day

A named drawstring bag containing:

Plimsolls or trainers

PE Kit

Painting apron

In Key Stage 2 only -A fountain pen containing black ink

### And on swimming days only

Swimming costume/trunks, cap and towel in a separate drawstring bag (caps may be purchased from the school office).

### And on Meadow School days

Wellington boots, waterproof trousers, waterproof coats, hats and gloves. We want the children to enjoy their time at the meadows without having to worry about getting their clothes dirty or wet. Please send your child with appropriate clothing.

Please mark all items with your child's name.

Children who attend school wearing tights also need a pair of socks to change into for PE and children with long hair should be supplied with hair ties/pony tail holders.

## VOLUNTEERS

We are always looking for willing volunteers to hear readers and play maths games with small groups of children. If you think you may be able to help please get in touch with one of the class teachers. Thank you.

## TOYS IN SCHOOL - REMINDER

Toys and other items should not be brought into school unless they have been specifically requested as part of a curriculum topic. The school takes no responsibility for items which are brought in and lost, argued over or broken. Please say 'no' should your child ask to bring, or try to smuggle in, their favourite items. Thank you.

## MEADOW SCHOOLS

Meadow schools will take place on Wednesday afternoons for both classes this term. We will inform you should we need to change this arrangement.

## DROP OFF

Please note that you are responsible for your children until they arrive in the classroom in the mornings. The school doors are opened at 8.45am, register is at 8.55am and lessons formally start at 9.00am. Please drop off your child promptly but not before 8.45am. Thank you.

Best wishes for the year ahead,



Valerie Lucas  
Head Teacher