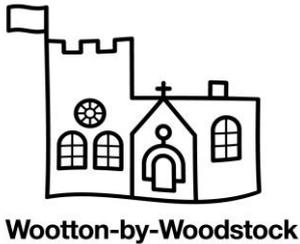


Wootton-by-Woodstock CE Primary School



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OX20 1DH

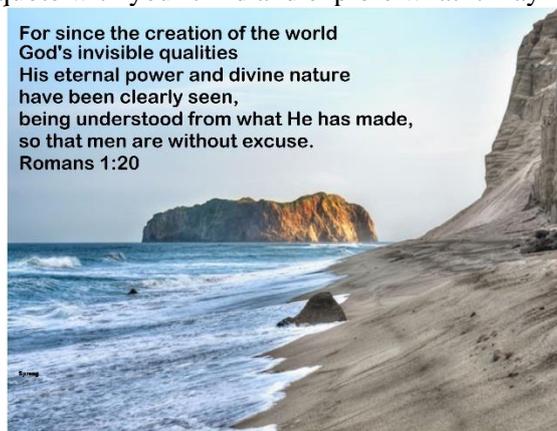
Tel/Fax: 01993 811520
office.3657@wootton-woodstock.oxon.sch.uk

4th October 2019

NEWSLETTER 2

Dear Parent,

Our current school value is Sharing. In particular we are thinking about sharing and celebrating God's creation. You may wish to discuss the following quote with your child and explore what it may mean.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHILDREN

We are starting Eco-group to look at making our world a better place. We would like parents to also help in Eco-group. The meetings are monthly, lunchtime at 12.40 -1pm. Please contact the school if you are able to help, telling us which day would be best for you. Molly Yr 6

FOOD BANK

We would like to thank all parents who donated gifts to the Food Bank, via their children, in our recent Harvest Service. This small act of kindness from many of you will very much help and support local people who may be 'down on their luck' at this time. Thank you.

SHARING ASSEMBLY

There will be a sharing assembly in the church on Thursday 24th October at 1.30pm.

SWIMMING

Swimming begins on Monday 18th November for children in Yr 3-6. Swimming dates are as follows:

November 18th, 20th, 22nd, 25th, 27th, 29th

December 2nd and 4th.

A swimming experience is also being offered to Year 2, Year 1 and Reception children. The dates for this are: December 9th, 10th and 11th.

A permission form will need to be completed to allow Year 2, Year 1 and Reception children to take part. Please find the form at the end of this letter.

All pupils are expected to swim a minimum of 25 metres by the end of Year 6. The PE report for 2019-2020 will be published shortly on the school website.

Because swimming is formally part of the National Curriculum no permission slips are needed for children in Year 3-6. However, we do ask for voluntary contributions towards the coach travel as this is a significant cost. Being situated where we are, we are unable to walk to the nearest pool. Donations of £3 per day have been requested via the SchoolMoney system. Thank you.

They will need:

A swimming costume, a swimming hat and a towel.

Swim wear must consist of a full swimming costume for girls, and trunks for boys. Bikinis, Bermuda shorts and wet suits are not acceptable. A large part of the swimming curriculum is about self-rescue skills and so at some point the more competent swimmers will be asked to bring in some clothes to wear in order to learn about what to do should they fall in a body of water unexpectedly.

Swimming hats may be purchased online via the SchoolMoney shop.

- Guidance on Goggles (extract taken from the Oxfordshire County Council Swimming Policy):

Association for Physical Education

While swimming goggles may make a child feel comfortable in the pool while they are learning to swim, if they accidentally end up in water it is unlikely that they will be wearing them. It is vital that children are comfortable swimming with or without goggles. Goggles are not normally recommended for normal swimming lessons or where swimmers have poor control in the water. Adults' attention can be distracted by constantly having to help children adjust goggles etc. and limbs that are not controlled can often knock faces and goggles in crowded swimming conditions. Equally the pupil's attention can be compromised by the need to adjust and replace goggles.

The Swimming Instructor for the group is responsible for determining whether any pupil wearing goggles is using them safely and for a positive purpose. If they are not then the goggles should be removed.

Goggles must be manufactured and packaged to British Standard BS 5883:1996.

Pupils with medical eye conditions **may** also need to be allowed to wear goggles. Knowledge about individual children's needs remains critical in determining the wearing of goggles.

Risk management should include ensuring parents have taught their children to put on and take off goggles safely.

Parents are responsible for requesting permission (by written letter) that goggles be worn by their children and schools are responsible for collecting and recording such requests. The Swimming Instructor will ultimately decide whether the wearing of goggles is appropriate for the activity being undertaken.

Children may be asked to remove their goggles for certain activities e.g. self-rescue, water polo.

- Athlete's Foot (Extract from Oxfordshire County Council Policy)

Exclusion from school swimming of students/pupils with athlete's foot or plantar warts (verrucae) is not necessary. Verrucae should be covered with a waterproof plaster or other waterproof dressing if the affected person is allergic to sticking plasters.

SCHOOL FUNDING - A MESSAGE FROM ODST

Over recent weeks you may have seen stories in the press about the Government's plans to increase funding to schools over the next three years. Whilst these plans are a welcome step in the right direction and go some way towards "closing the gap" in terms of funding in our school, the details of this funding have yet to be released. As such, we do not yet have clarity as to whether this will, in fact, represent a real term increase. It is entirely possible that the increases as announced might still be significantly short of what is required to make up for the 8% real terms cut in school funding over the last ten years.

Recently the Government has also announced plans to increase the starting salary for new teachers by 2022. Again, whilst welcome in terms of making the important job of teaching more attractive to prospective entrants to the profession, this comes on top of significant employer pension increases brought in last year. This means that whilst school funding may increase – so will the costs that schools face.

We will continue to make our schools places where children and young people develop and thrive intellectually, socially, culturally and spiritually.

We wanted to make you, as parents/ carers, aware that there are still difficult choices facing all schools in terms of funding, and to put the press stories in context. Your continued help and support for the school, in any way you can, would be greatly appreciated – as it always has been in the past.

Kind Regards,

Madhu Richards

Chief Financial Officer

Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust

INSET REMINDER

There will be a school INSET day on Friday 25th October. While the teaching staff are hard at work your child may rest and take pleasure in their extra day off; children are not required to be in school on this day. School will finish for the half term break at 2.30pm on Thursday 24th October.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

These take place during the week beginning 7th October. Please sign up using the online system via the school website.

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Applications can now be submitted for Year 6 transfer to Year 7 at secondary school for September 2020 entry.

Applications should be submitted online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions

If parents cannot/will not submit an application online, [a paper form](#) can be completed. Copies of the form also available from County Hall.

The deadline for receipt of completed applications is **31 October 2019**.

Best wishes,



Valerie Lucas

Head Teacher

Acorns Swimming

I give permission for my child/children

to participate in the Ash Swimming trips to Chipping Norton Leisure Centre on 9th, 10th and 11th December 2019. I understand that they will travel by coach.

Signed