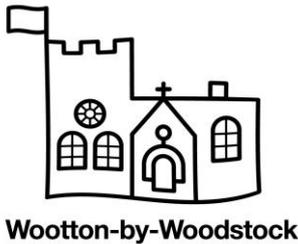


Wootton-by-Woodstock CE Primary School



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20th November 2020

NEWSLETTER EXTRA

Dear Parent,

We have additional items of interest to share with you this month. Please read on.

PLAYGROUND PROJECT

It is with great pleasure that we are able to announce the completion of the outdoor learning 'classroom'. Please read the FOWS article at the end of this letter for the detail. I am sure that you will agree that the classroom looks fabulous and we must thank the FOWS for their tenacity in working with the school and the various external agencies to achieve such a great result. The children love it and, when social distancing is finally over, the structure will enhance our outside learning immensely. Is it possible to do a virtual round of applause for FOWS? If so, then please go ahead.

Simultaneously, our associate governor Chris Elliott, has project-managed the resurfacing of the playground, the new tarmac being laid during the half term break. Thermoplastic markings will be laid in due course including a phonics pond and dartboard as well as some old favourites such as the well-used chess board. We do not yet have a date for the laying of the markings. The timescale is complicated by access to the playground, the length of time the tarmac needs to set and the barriers imposed by lockdown restrictions. When the markings are complete, we will send out images.

On behalf of the school and its families, 'Thank you' to all those who have helped to make the playground developments possible.

STAFF MEMBER RETURNS TO SCHOOL WELL

We are pleased to welcome back Mrs Zoe Bake after her long period of isolation and to report that she is the picture of health. Well done Zoe, for being a Covid success story; we can all 'take heart'.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Christmas will be a little different this year owing to lock down. Please read the information carefully so that we can, once again, provide the children with a little bit of joy and excitement in the run up to Christmas.

Christmas Lunch 16th December

Lunch will be socially distanced and taken in Bubbles. As there is no school lunch service this year, we decided that we may need a little more help to make the event special. Please send your child with a Christmas themed school lunch; something a little different than usual which may contain an element of surprise. This may be shaped sandwiches, a Christmas cookie, Christmas decorated cake, Christmas chocolate, tiny gift or something else – the choice is yours!

School will source crackers/alternatives suitable for a socially distanced dinner table. Games will also be different this year as there is limited accessible space when we are following the C19 rules.

We believe that Santa Clause, with his global travel challenge, also has huge social distancing and shielding issues and will need to leave the gifts very early this year, by Friday 11th December, so that they can be sufficiently quarantined. A plastic box will be secreted outside the school gate between 2 and 2.55pm each day in case he passes by in the week beginning 7th December. We understand, from his helpful elves, that he may be sending a video message for all children who worked hard throughout the autumn term... fingers crossed!

Christmas Cards

We know that children love to send their Christmas cards but that not everybody will be entirely comfortable about receiving cards into their homes during the Covid period. Children may still bring in Christmas cards, from 1st December, and post them in the school post box as usual but the cards will be quarantined before delivery and will be delivered by gloved post-children during the last week of term. The last posting date for Christmas cards will be Monday 14th December. Please ensure that envelopes are saliva-free by tucking in the flap.

Nativity

The Ash children will be performing their nativity as usual and, we are optimistically hoping that it will be possible to share this in the church by maintaining socially distanced seating for parents. If this is not possible then the performance will be filmed and shared on the website in the same way as the harvest service. We will know more after December 2nd.

Carol Service

There will be no whole school carol service held in church this year but we aim to provide a Christmas sharing by video as we did for the Harvest service. Perhaps you could all have a family carol sing in your own home after watching the film.

ADMISSIONS DATES

For parents with reception age children starting September 2021, the closing date of Reception applications is 15th January 2021, and the National offer date is 16th April 2021. The 15th January closing date is extremely important, as late applications will not be considered until May 2021 after the first offers have been made.

COMING SOON – NEW AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Many of you will already be aware that Oxford Active will be drawing to a close at the end of this term. While the school finds a more permanent long-term solution for post lock down, we will be offering our own after school club as an interim measure.

The club will begin in January, initially for one afternoon per week but may be extended to additional nights if there is sufficient take-up of places. There is a maximum of 12 places for each session. Each session will consist of two activities; one creative/game based and one active. The cost will be £5 per session and this price includes a light healthy snack. The club will run until 5pm. Booking details will be communicated in the next newsletter.

Finally, we hope you are all keeping well and coping with the demands of the current circumstances.
With our best wishes,



Valerie Lucas
Head Teacher



FOWS

Friends of Wootton School

Our new Playground Facilities

This project started, after an Ofsted Inspector recommended that the outdoor space at Wootton School be improved so that children in the Reception Year had enough activities to develop their imagination and extend their skills. Mrs Lawrence created an Outdoor Area Working Party and a group of parents got together with her regularly to plan how this could be achieved. They raised money through a sponsored Park Run with their children and together with FOWS, quickly provided the funds for a mud kitchen, a caterpillar tunnel and other playground equipment for Early Years children.

There was always the intention to do more and with agreement from the school, FOWS drew up plans for a permanent outdoor classroom and bespoke storage, to make the most of our small playground.



Then the fundraising began. Our sincere thanks go to our main supporters: Blenheim and ODST and to 3 local trusts: the Pye Charitable Foundation, the Bartlett Taylor Charitable Trust and the Doris Field Charitable Trust, who have supported us through generous grants. Thanks also to everyone who attended the Comedy Night in 2019, the profits of which were also earmarked for the playground project.

The main building has storage on one side and a classroom on the other, with blackboards at either end, and a sandpit built into the floor. Sadly because of current restrictions the sandpit can't be used but we hope to uncover it shortly.

The pandemic has slowed progress but we are delighted to announce that the building work is now complete, with the finishing touches happening soon. We hope this will make a real difference to the children's experience at school.

