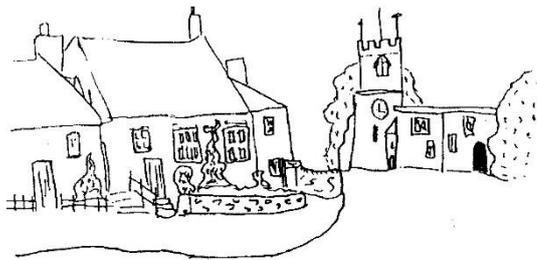


# Wootton-by-Woodstock CE Primary School

Church Street  
Wootton  
Woodstock  
Oxford  
OX20 1DH



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16<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

## **NEWSLETTER EXTRA**

We have several pieces of information to share with you as follows. Please read on.

### **EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE**

Very occasionally the school may need to close during severe weather conditions. This may be because there are insufficient staff able to reach the premises or because there is a problem with heating or water services. Please do not assume that the school is closed every time it snows; we will always do our best to stay open or, at least, partially open!

The easiest way to check whether the school is closed is to view the school website.

- If you have subscribed to the website an alert message regarding school closure will automatically be emailed to you.
- If you have not yet subscribed to the website, then please check the News page by logging on to the website or subscribe via this news page by following the on-screen instructions.
- Alternatively, you may check the Oxfordshire County website at <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/school-closures> , or listen to the radio; BBC Radio Oxford and Heart FM.

In instances when the school is closed, children should check the website for homework activity tasks that may have been set by their class teachers.

### **SWIMMING**

Swimming begins on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November for children in Yr2-6. Swimming dates are as follows:  
November 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>  
December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

We apologise for the gaps in the schedule but this was beyond our control; we had to accept the dates offered to us by the pool staff.

A swimming experience is also being offered to Year 1 and reception children. The dates for this are:  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November and,  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

A permission form will need to be completed to allow 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. Please see our sports report here:

<http://www.wootton-woodstock.oxon.sch.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/PE-Funding-Plan-2017-2018-September-update-1.pdf>

You will need to scroll down to the bottom to see the Swimming results.

Because swimming is formally part of the National Curriculum no permission slips are needed for children in Year 2-6. 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.

They will need:

A swimming costume, a swimming hat and a towel.

Swim wear must consist of a full one-piece swimming costume or trunks, 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 in the school office @ £1.

Donations of £3 per day may be sent in by cheque, cash or bank transfer. If you choose either of the first two options then please put donations into an envelope clearly marked with the child's name. Thank you.

### **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. In summary if you would like to request that your child wears goggles you must send a letter into school requesting this.

### **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.

## DUE DILIGENCE

Soon after the school converted to academy status in early October a due diligence visit was carried out by David Cousins. David is the Director of the ODST schools and also a school inspector. The visit followed the principles of a school inspection and I am pleased to report that, had this been an actual inspection, then the school would have been judged as a Good School. This means that in spite of all the challenges we face we are maintaining best practice and serving the children well.

## SAFEGUARDING AUDIT

The school has recently undertaken a Local Authority Safeguarding Audit. This was undertaken voluntarily to gain a second opinion on our own self-evaluation of practice. You will be pleased to hear that all areas of practice were at least good and most were outstanding. The limitations of the old school site were discussed at length and it was agreed that, in spite of the challenges posed by the premises, the school keeps the children safe. We are very aware that some parents share a concern about the school gate. For those who are not aware; the school playground affords a right of access to the cottages alongside the school and is also our escape route in case of fire. At the time of the audit the LA safeguarding team were unable to offer any solution to the gate security scenario. It was recognised that staff are highly vigilant and follow all possible safeguarding practice with regard to site security. However, I have also discussed the gate with David Cousins and he will be sending a surveyor to the school to make a further assessment of the site. I would like to point out that school gates do not have to be locked and that the school has undergone several safeguarding audits and inspections over the last twenty years, all of which have recognised the practical difficulties associated with this particular school site.

## SANDRA BURTONWOOD

I regret to report that Sandra Burtonwood, one of our TAs, will be leaving the school on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November to take up a new role in a very different organisation. Sandra has given us many years of service. She has shown dedication in supporting children and staff and will be very much missed by the school. We hope that you will join us in wishing her well in her new career path.

## ANTI-BULLYING WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

Two parents attended and, I consider, that we all benefitted from lively debate. The PowerPoint slides are available to view on the website here: <http://www.wootton-woodstock.oxon.sch.uk/wordpress/presentation-notes-from-anti-bullying-workshop-tuesday-13th-november/>

Please also find an updated Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy here: <http://www.wootton-woodstock.oxon.sch.uk/wordpress/policies/>

## ACORNS NATIVITY

The Acorns Nativity play will take place in the church on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm. This year the Sapling Singers will be the support group because the Acorns class is so small. All parents are welcome to come along and enjoy what, we are sure, will be a delightful presentation of the Christmas Story.

## CAROL SERVICE

This will take place in the church at 6.30pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Children should arrive in school no earlier than **6.20pm** on that evening. Thank you.

## CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December will be the day of the school Christmas dinner party. With luck, Santa will be dropping off presents for all hard working children!

## THE NUTCRACKER AND THE MOUSE KING

We were unable to book a theatrical event for the dinner party day but we have managed to secure a booking for a showing of The Nutcracker for Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December. This is significantly cheaper than going to the theatre in small groups and will be an enjoyable and enriching activity for the children. We ask for a

donation of £10.50 per child to cover the cost of the visiting theatre. Please note that, if insufficient contributions are received then the visiting theatre will have to be cancelled; we have no funds available for the provision of curriculum enhancement activities at present and we are very much relying on your generosity and goodwill. Please complete the form at the bottom of this letter if you would like your child to watch the performance of The Nutcracker and the Mouse King. Thank you.

#### CERTIFICATE ASSEMBLY

The certificate assembly will take place in the church on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 1.45pm. Please come and applaud the children; I am sure that there will be many successes to celebrate and prizes to share. Children may be collected immediately after the celebration to go home and enjoy their Christmas break.

Best wishes,



Valerie Lucas  
Head Teacher

## The Nutcracker and the Mouse King

I give permission for my child/children .....  
to watch the performance of The Nutcracker and the Mouse King on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

I enclose a cash/cheque (*delete as necessary*) contribution of £10.50   
per child (please make cheques payable to Wootton by Woodstock CE Primary School)

I have paid by bank transfer (*preferred option*)

### Bank Details

Account Name	Wootton by Woodstock CE Primary School
Account Number	75369263
Sort Code	30-96-35

Signed .....

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## Acorns Swimming

I give permission for my child/children .....  
to participate in the Acorns Swimming trip to Chipping Norton Leisure Centre Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November and Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018. I understand that they will travel by coach.

Signed .....

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## Swimming Donation

Please find enclosed a swimming donation for my child/children .....

I enclose a cash/cheque (*delete as necessary*) contribution of £.....   
(please make cheques payable to Wootton by Woodstock CE Primary School)

I have paid by bank transfer (*preferred option*)

### Bank Details

Account Name	Wootton by Woodstock CE Primary School
Account Number	75369263
Sort Code	30-96-35