

## How to contact the school

Just a quick reminder of the ways you can communicate with the school:

- ✓ Speak to the class teacher or learning support assistant at the start and end of the school day
- ✓ Email the office at enquiries@woodlandsprimaryacademy.org.uk
- ✓ Leave a message on EduLink
- ✓ Leave a message using Class Dojo
- ✓ Send a letter in with your child
- ✓ Speak to Ms Humphreys or Miss Jermy in the office.
- ✓ Leave a message on the answerphone if there is nobody available.

### Attendance

At Woodlands Primary Academy we know that good attendance is the key to successful schooling.

Our whole school attendance target is 96%, that the national attendance figure. Last week the whole school's attendance was **96.69%**, which, given the current circumstances, was excellent!

The highest class in Reception and KS1 was 2H with 100%, they get Pearl the teddy to join them in their class for the week.

The highest in KS2 was 6CS with 97.9% and they are joined by Geoff the giraffe!

### School Dinners

The week commencing Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September will be Week 2 of the menu.



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# Newsletter

## 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

We started this week in summer and seem to have ended it firmly in the autumn. Regardless of the weather, I love standing outside in the morning, watching the children coming in to school, smiling, happy and saying good morning. The children here are generally very positive, happy and polite - I am proud to work here with them all.

I am hearing lots of positive comments from the staff about the enthusiasm and positive attitudes the children continue to have for their learning. One of the aims for the school this year is to improve the children's independence and for them to take more ownership of their learning - to challenge themselves and have a go!

### Cases of COVID 19

We are hearing of confirmed cases of Covid in local educational settings. Please be assured that we are following the guidance that we are given by the government, following the risk assessments that we have in place and doing all we can to ensure that our children, staff and parents are kept safe. We understand that there are a lot of coughs and colds going around and are appreciative of the parents who are getting their children tested when they are concerned. If we have concerns that a child has developed a cough during the day we will notify the parents and send the child home to be tested. I have put a letter onto the Edulink noticeboard explaining the processes that will happen if we have a positive case confirmed at the school.



## Reading and library books

With the sudden lockdown that happened in March there are a lot of library books that will be at home on a bookshelf somewhere. Please can you have a look for any library books or reading books that may have been put away with other books and return them to school, thank you.

## Working together - homework

At parents evening last year I asked you to complete a survey. One of the questions was about homework. Some of the responses we had were that it was too much for them to do and that it was often too difficult.

Taking on board these comments we have changed the way we are setting homework. Year 1 parent trialled a topic approach to homework just before lockdown and the response was generally positive, so we have adapted that further.

The homework will be set half termly. There will be two strands of homework, one we expect to be completed by every child on a weekly basis, and a second that is optional.

1. The weekly expectations will include reading, spellings, times tables and maths skills. As well as weekly spellings, there will be a list of tricky words that the children are expected to know, understand, spell and use. These come from the common exception word list in the national curriculum. The lists are for year 1 and 2, a list for year 3 and 4, and a list for 5 and 6, so there may be some overlap between year groups. Please discuss these words with your children and put them into sentences so they get used to hearing them and understand the context they are used in. The maths skills are taken from what they will be learning over the next half term.
2. The optional homework will be more topic based and will include art, music, discussion, writing, science and maths. This work can be done on line and uploaded to teams, photos taken and sent to class dojo, or 3D models made and taken into class. Eventually, with the optional homework, we would like to invite the parents in so we can share it in the class at the end of each half term. We are clearly unable to do this at the moment, but we can share it with the other children in the bubble.

The homework will be set on dojo, and put on the website, on Friday next week. As this is the first time we are setting it this way we appreciate any feedback.

## Topic Letters

Attached to this newsletter are the topic overviews for this term. These will give you information about what the children are learning this half term, the key skills they will learn, vocabulary and links to reading that may benefit them. We hope you find them helpful and we welcome any feedback.



## School Photos

Individual photos are being taken next Wednesday, 30 September. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer sibling photographs this session.

Children who have PE or after school sports clubs on Wednesdays should wear shorts/tracksuit trousers and trainers on their lower half, and smart uniform on their top half. Once they have had their photograph taken they will be able to take ties off and change from their school jumper into a hoodie if they wish.

## Tuck

Please remember that no chocolate, biscuits or crisps are allowed to be eaten as tuck at playtimes. Next Wednesday 30 September there will no tuck available for KS2 to purchase at playtime, as photographs will be taking place in the school hall.

## What's been happening this week...

On Monday, year 2 had a visit from Jill and her husband from Hedgerows Hedgehog Rescue. The children in both classes had a lovely time, asking a variety of super questions and learning a huge amount about looking after hedgehogs in the wild. As a great surprise to the children, Jill brought one of her hedgehogs to see them which, predictably, the children really enjoyed! Thank you to the year 2 families for their donations to this great cause.





Some of the children in 4B were very excited to receive their sports awards based on their effort and achievements of last academic year. Well done to everyone who received an award.



Year 6 used atlases and maps to track Charles Darwin's voyage around the world!