



Woolenwick Junior School

Newsletter: January 2018

Current House Point Totals:

Cheetahs	Lions	Panthers	Tigers
1401	1312	1441	1843



Congratulations to Tigers who are the house point leaders. Well Done!

WELCOME BACK

A warm welcome back to the start of a new year. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and I wish all our families a very happy and healthy new year. The children have all settled back in very well and it was lovely to hear about all of the presents they received and all of the experiences they had.

As it is the start of a new year you will see a number of changes that will start to happen across the school, one being this new style newsletter. This main newsletter will be issued at the beginning of each month and will share information about the previous month and outline future events. Other letters about events happening will also still be issued as and when required, so please check your child's bag every day.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

A huge well done to all of the children for their wonderful professional performances at the end of last term. They worked so hard and we are all so proud of them all. Thank you to all of the staff who were involved in organising the event and also to all of the staff who stayed and helped out.

From the afternoon and evenings we raised £123.70 from donations and £272.00 on the raffle. Thank you for all of these contributions.

LAST DAY OF TERM & NEW DINNER DATE

As the school had to shut early because of the gas leak unfortunately we were not able to run our Christmas dinner. To make up for this cancellation we will be hosting a Roald Dahl day themed menu on Tuesday 30th January. A separate poster about the meal will be coming home soon from Hertfordshire Catering. For those parents who paid for Christmas dinner we can either refund the money to you or hold onto it to pay for the theme day meal, details of which will come out once organised. Please contact the Office and let them know what you would prefer to do.

On this date we will also be having a 'Wear What You Want' day. Pupils will be able to wear their own clothes, come in fancy dress or come however they wish to dress. We are asking for a suggested minimum donation of £2 per child to put towards purchasing some new iPads for the school.

SNOWY/ICY WEATHER

Thank you for being patient with us during the snowy and icy weather before Christmas. The school sits on a large site and the lower playground, near the wooden playground equipment and path to the cycle way, is one of the lowest parts of the site where water can pool and sheet ice can form. This playground was very slippery and so children had to be released and collected from the Hall. Thank you for your understanding about this and we have also looked into how we can make the collection of your children faster, balancing the waiting time and the safety of children and adults on site.

As we now have a new Site Manager and if you may be able to help us clear the two playgrounds when it is icy/snowy weather please could you let the Office know your contact details. This way we can create a bank of people who we can call on in severe weather to help us clear the site- many hands make light work.

OFSTED

You will know that Ofsted visited us on the 23-24th November 2017 and that the report was published at the end of term. A separate letter and a link to the report was posted on the school website and as the term had to end prematurely I sent out a text message and email via School Comms to ensure everyone was aware.



Although the result differs from the previous Ofsted report in May 2013 I had only been at the school seventeen days. I want to take this opportunity to reassure families that I had already taken swift action prior to Christmas and I am in the process of working with all members of staff and the Governors to create a Post-Ofsted Action Plan, along with reviewing the systems and processes already in place. It is important that as a school we provide the best opportunities for the pupils to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills in order to accelerate progress. Rigorous measures and decisive action are already taking place to drive improvement forward. Once all of the Action Plan has been created I will be inviting parents to a meeting towards the end of January to share our journey ahead.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything in the meantime please contact the school Office to make an appointment. For your information and any urgent messages, Justine Terry, my PA (Personal Assistant) has the email address of jterry@woolenwickjm.herts.sch.uk and Suzy Armstrong (Office Manager) accesses the admin account on: admin@woolenwickjm.herts.sch.uk As parents I will keep you informed of the progress we are making. I do value your ideas and suggestions, as it is important we all work together.

During the INSET day I worked with staff to develop a new school strategic vision and mission statement, along with reviewing the whole ethos of the school. We looked back at what was already in existence, which many of you may know as the picture of the child with wings, which was created many years ago. It seems an appropriate time now to review this and you will see that at the bottom of this newsletter there will be an opportunity for you to have your say so that we can write the new vision and mission statement together. We will also be working with the pupils to develop this.

I would also like parents/carers to feel free to suggest any ideas for improvement of the school at any time. Sometimes I may also ask you about specific issues. It is also useful for us as a school to know what is working well and has been successful so that we can apply this success to other areas, as well as areas that you feel need further development.

STAFFING NEWS

I would like to welcome three new members of staff to our team. Welcome to Joe Suckling who is the experienced Year 3 teacher for Moonstone class. He brings a range of experience with him and the pupils have adjusted well.

Keil Sherwing is our new Site Manager, who previously worked at a local school. He has also settled in well and I have been introducing him to parents who I have met on the playground in the mornings.

Jackie Newcombe will also be starting with us this week. She has been employed as a 1:1 worker and will also be a Key Worker to enhance pupil provision within the school.

FRIENDS OF WOOLENWICK JUNIOR SCHOOL (FOWJS)

A small group of parents kindly spoke to myself shortly after arriving at the school after Half Term about creating a fundraising committee to help raise money that could be spent on the children, to enhance their learning and provide extra opportunities for curriculum enrichment.

I am pleased to announce that the school now has a brand new fundraising group called the 'Friends of Woolenwick Junior School'. As a school I worked with all of the children during an assembly in order to generate ideas before the final name was chosen for the group.



The children are in the process of creating a new logo for the group, which will be digitally created by a graphic designer who has kindly volunteered her services.

Thank you very much to those parents for getting the group started and also for all of your help with organising the Christmas card, mug and tee-towel sales.

In a world where everyone's time is precious joining the friends association is greatly appreciated. As a member of the Woolenwick community anyone can get involved, even if they only have a small amount of time. You can pick and choose how much help you can give according to your situation.

It could be you may be able to help out at an event or you might have a particular skill or be able to get free things for the committee like gifts, or even helping out with printing posters. We would be grateful of any support. It is a very friendly group and if you would like to find out about being involved please contact the school office and speak to Diane Kerslake, from our school office, for more information. Diane can be contacted on 01438 216565 or by email on admin@woolenwickjm.herts.sch.uk

The next meeting is Friday 19th at 9 am at the school. Please feel free to come along and just turn up. If you have young children they are more than welcome too.

It would be good if we could have representatives from each child's class. Anyone can join the Friends of Woolenwick Junior School: Mums, Dads, Carers, Nans, Granddads, Uncles, Aunts - any adult who has a connection with the child. We welcome everyone. It could be you could help at one event in the year, help out for two hours, source prizes, contribute ideas. There would be no expectation for you to attend each and every meeting that the committee has; it can work around your commitments. You can attend as and when.

SCIENCE WEEK

National British Science Week is the 9-18th March 2018 and at Woolenwick Junior School we will be engaging in a whole range of Science activities week beginning 12th March 2018.

The theme for this year is 'Exploration and Discovery'. Can you help us? We are looking for professionals to inspire our children in Science. Perhaps you work for Airbus, a pharmaceutical company or a different company who may be able to inspire our pupils in this area.

If you can help us or know of someone who can, please contact Julie White, Science Leader, via the school office.

NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

I am pleased to have been able to open the new playground equipment. The children enjoyed using it on the first day back at school. They have been very patient and understanding whilst we were waiting for the playground equipment company to finish their remedial works and generate their final safety documentation in order for the equipment to be used.



NEW BREAK TIME SNACK SERVICE

I am pleased to announce that we will be starting a new snack service for the children. This service will start after Half Term on 19th February and will be charged at 50p a day.

Parents will be able to buy individual vouchers, or booklets of five vouchers, for £2.50, which will last the week. These vouchers can be used on any day of the week and be saved if needed. The children will be able to keep the vouchers in school and will hand them to the cook. I will share the menu with you once it has been finalised.



CLUBS AND EXTRA ENRICHMENT

As a staff we have been reviewing the extra-curricular opportunities that we are able to provide for our pupils. We are hoping to increase the number of clubs and offer a wider variety. A separate letter will be going home next Monday, once everything has been finalised. Clubs will be allocated on a first come first served basis so please return your forms promptly to save disappointment.



Where clubs and enrichment activities become full we will operate a waiting list. If your child does select an after school club these will finish at 4.15 pm unless otherwise stated, for example netball.

Clubs will be run by staff and volunteers, so prompt collection will be expected out of courtesy. If you have an unforeseeable reason, for example get stuck in an accident, we will of course understand, but we are also conscious that some families have taken advantage in the past and turned up late on numerous occasions without any reason. If this continues and there are persistent offenders I will have no option but to charge these parents for child care, which of course I want to avoid.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

In order for all pupils to fulfil their full potential they need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves pupils vulnerable to falling behind and pupils with poor attendance and punctuality tend to achieve less well in school.

There are a large number of pupils who regularly arrive late to school. I would like to remind parents that the government and the school expects parents/carers to perform their legal duty by ensuring their child(ren) attend regularly and that they are punctual to lessons.

Below is a breakdown of attendance and punctuality for Autumn Term 2017

ATTENDANCE

Year 3 Moonstone	Year 3 Onyx	Year 4 Opal	Year 4 Sapphire
95.9 %	97.1 %	98.1 %	97.5 %
Year 5 Emerald	Year 5 Pearl	Year 6 Amethyst	Year 6 Diamond
96.3 %	96.3 %	96.1 %	96.2 %

PUNCTUALITY

Year 3 Moonstone	Year 3 Onyx	Year 4 Opal	Year 4 Sapphire
0.8 %	0.2 %	0.7 %	0.2 %
Year 5 Emerald	Year 5 Pearl	Year 6 Amethyst	Year 6 Diamond
0.6 %	0.5 %	1.5 %	0.7 %

INSET DAYS/OCCASSIONAL DAYS 2018/2019

We are now in the position to be able to publish our INSET/Occasional dates for 2018/2019. These are as follows:

INSET: Monday 3rd September 2018

INSET: Tuesday 23rd April 2019

INSET: Friday 19th July 2019

INSET: Monday 22nd July 2019

INSET: Tuesday 23rd July 2019

OCCASSIONAL DAY: Wednesday 24th July 2019

Some parents may have a slightly different number of days or even dates for this academic year. One of the reasons for the change is that I would like our families, who have children in the Infant and Junior school, to have their children in school at the same time if possible, to make it easier logistically for families. In order for this to happen the Head at the Infant school and myself have agreed to these dates.

Unfortunately, I am not able to change any dates from the 2017/2018 academic year which go up to the end of the Summer Term. For those parents who have made a commitment during the previously published dates on our website for the academic year 2018/19 I will authorise these absences but families will need to contact the school and complete an application form for leave of absence so that I am aware. This will need to be done by the end of February as any absences past this point, and coinciding with the previously published dates will not be authorised.

LOST PROPERTY

As a school there is an enormous amount of lost property that seems to have gathered near the Office. Some of the items have names and so we are in the process of returning these items, but the vast majority does not.

From now on lost property, including lunchboxes, will be located in each classroom as we only have a small entrance area. Please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance if something has gone missing, before checking with the Office.



From the items not claimed we will be holding a second hand uniform sale with these items so that other families can benefit. These items will be sold on the playground before and after school this Friday (if the weather is poor it will be in the Hall). If you are in not able to come in on this day please phone the office and ask for what you require. We will see if anything is available that matches your specific request.

By having this sale the items will benefit other children, as some are nearly new, rather them just being disposed of. This system and sales will happen towards the end of each term.

PLAYGROUND AND GATE OPENING/CLOSING TIMES

I would like to remind parents, plus also make some alterations, to the system in the morning to improve safety of the site. **These changes are necessary as there are three pedestrian entrances onto the playgrounds, two pedestrian entrances at the front of the school and only two Site Managers. These changes will be in place for the foreseeable future, after seeking health and safety advice, and will start from 22nd January.**

Pupils and parents will be allowed on the playground from 8.30. Pupils should not be left unattended before this time because of health and safety. Staff will be on the playground from 8.40, when the school doors open. These doors will shut at 8.50. After this time pupils will need to go through the front office as the gates will be locked. At 9.00 pupils will be marked late and the absence will be unauthorised.

The entrance, from the cycle path (Woodlands entrance), will be closed permanently from Monday 22nd January and will no longer be an access route to or through the school playground. The school gates will open again at 3.20 pm ready for collection.

KEY DATES FOR THIS TERM

- 22nd January: Class Assembly Onyx: 2.45 start
- 29th January: Class Assembly Pearl: 2.45 start
- 30th January: 'Wear What You Want Day' Non-Uniform Day: Suggested donation £2 per child. Plus Roald Dahl Day theme meal.
- 5th February: Class Assembly Amethyst: 2.45 start
- 7th February: Enabling Enterprise Working with Year 6 in school: Greetings Card Challenge
- 8th February: Friends of Woolenwick Junior School: Valentines Disco
(To be confirmed once a group has been formed and we have more volunteers)
- 9th February: NSPCC delivering assembly and workshops
- **12th February – 16th February: Half Term**
- **19th New Snack Service Launched**
- 19th February - 23rd February: Feeling Good Week
- 26th February: Class Assembly Emerald: 2.45 start
- 1st March: World Book Day: Non-Uniform. Suggested donation £2 per child. Book Fair Arrives
- 5th March: Class Assembly Sapphire: 2.45 start
- 12th March: Class Assembly Moonstone: 2.45 start 12th March- 16th March: Science Week
- 14th March: Parents' Evening 4.00-6.30pm and 15th March: Parents' Evening 5.30-8.00 pm
- 19th March: Class Assembly Opal
- 28th March: Year 5 Visit to the London Planetarium
- **29th March: School Finishes: Pupils return to school on 17th April 2018**

LET'S CELEBRATE SUCCESS: OUTSIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

I would like to start celebrating your child's inside school and outside school achievements more.

Before Christmas Holly in Year 6, Diamond Class, was extremely successful and won the John Lewis Christmas advert competition that some children took part in. Her work was published in the Welwyn John Lewis store and also appeared on national TV adverts. Well done Holly!

If you would like your child's outside achievements celebrated and published in our newsletter, please email these, with photos if possible, to my Office Manager Suzy Armstrong on the admin account at: admin@woolenwickjm.herts.sch.uk

I would like to celebrate all achievements, no success is too small.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT IDEAS

SCHOOL VISION/MISSION STATEMENT

What do our children need at Woolenwick so that they will flourish academically and be prepared for the future?

Please could you list three qualities that you would like your child to leave Woolenwick Junior School with. (For example, resilience.)

1)

2)

3)

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Using these words please could you describe the values and expectations that you would like to see being developed with your child on their educational learning journey. For example:

At Woolenwick Junior School we:

- have high expectations of children and provide varied learning experiences within a broad and balanced curriculum;
- ensure that all children have an equal opportunity to achieve their full potential;

Please turn over...

Child's Name: **Year Group**.....

Parent/Carer's Name:

Suggestion/Idea:

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If you would like a response please include your contact details:

Name:

Phone number/Email Address:

Thank you for any suggestions you may have.

Kind Regards,

Mr G. R. Hawkins