



Woolenwick Junior School

Newsletter: April 2018

Current House Point Totals:

Cheetahs 829	Lions 637	Panthers 712	Tigers 848
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Congratulations to Tigers who are the House Point leaders. Well Done!

INTRODUCTION

Welcome back to the start of the Summer Term! I hope everyone had a relaxing Easter break with their families. It was lovely welcoming the children back and hearing all of their news.

SCHOOL UPDATE

-The front reception area and doors have now been finished, following further successful funding. This has improved safeguarding with the new access control fobs and colour video screens to allow authorised visitors into the school. The newly painted walls, fresh carpet and furniture have been commented upon by many people visiting the school.

-As a school we have further developed our Inclusion room, which will provide an area of learning for pupils who need a bit of a quieter space. Over the Easter holiday the room had a new ceiling and lighting, new plug sockets, new flooring and was freshly painted with colours chosen by the School Council. As the term develops we will be saving up to purchase extra equipment to go in the room. What would be very useful is if any families have any spare board games/unwanted indoors games that they could donate to the school for children to use at lunchtimes in this room or in any other clubs that are running.

E-SAFETY

We had a very successful first week back, which included welcoming an e-Safety expert, Richard Maskrey to the school. Richard held very informative workshops for our children and parents/carers. eSafety is an ongoing and ever growing issue both in schools and also at home, particularly as children have access to a whole world of apps, games and other software.

As part of our ongoing commitment to online and eSafety we constantly look at where we need to alter and adapt our Computing and eSafety curriculum. We will always work in conjunction with parents to offer support and guidance, however, it is becoming increasingly time consuming to resolve eSafety incidents outside of school, especially those that happen which then get brought into school. These detract from other learning experiences that the children need to take part in. It is also increasingly difficult to police apps/chat rooms/social media messaging outside of school and we must all be mindful that these can influence friendships etc.

For those parent/carers who were unable to attend the workshops, we can confirm that the information Richard presented will be sent home via email. We would ask that you talk to your child/children about the information that they were given and remind them of the importance of staying safe online.

MARVELLOUS ME

Next week we will be launching the use of our new school app called 'Marvellous Me'. The app will only be used for sharing successes and for positive affirmation about your child, as well as to give you information and reminders about specific class events.

You will be able to download the app free of charge to either an Android or Apple mobile phone in order to get updates from the school related to your child's learning and specific events. Your son/daughter will be bringing home a letter about this fantastic app with login details and a unique reference number. This number is very important as it will allow you access to your child's profile and school communication portal. This code can be kept with the main parent/carer or be shared with as many family members as you wish; this will be the responsibility of the primary contact holder as detailed on our school database.

Please note that Marvellous Me is not a means of communication to resolve any circumstances that may arise regarding your child/children, nor will it be a two way 24/7 communication tool. However, it will allow you to confirm that you have received a message by giving a 'high five' and this app will be in addition to our usual methods of communication.

The individual class teachers will be accessing and controlling messages / uploads for your son/daughter's account, so if there are any specific issues relating to anything please speak to them in the first instance. I am hoping for a successful launch, with few glitches. If you do encounter any difficulties please telephone Miss Armstrong in the School Office or email on admin@woolenwickjm.herts.sch.uk to either get advice or book an appointment.

FRIENDS OF WOOLENWICK JUNIOR SCHOOL (F.O.W.J.S.)

The 'Friends of Woolenwick Junior School' have chosen their logo design and this will feature on their future literature. Congratulations to Finley, Year 6, whose design was used as inspiration for the logo that will be used.

F.O.W.J.S usually meet every half-term to discuss fundraising ideas and events. All parents/carers can be part of F.O.W.J.S. who will next meet on Friday 8th June at 9.00am. We hope to welcome lots of new faces.

School Lottery

This is a schools fund-raising initiative that the F.O.W.J.S. have implemented for us. As well as knowing you're supporting our school, there is also a weekly chance to win up to £25,000. If you sign up today you could also win a Family Annual Membership with either the National Trust or English Heritage! For further details, please log on to <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play> and search for Woolenwick Juniors.

At the moment we have 41 members in the lottery, which will bring in an annual income of £852 for our school funds. However, the more people we can get to sign up, the more income the school will get and the bigger the weekly prize will be. So far we have had four winners, who have each won the weekly prize of £20; they are E. Farrier, L. Gourlay (twice!) and J. Thamoderam.

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. This will ensure a settled start both for the whole class and individual child.

Below is a breakdown of attendance for the first week of the Summer Term 2018. Well done Year 5 Pearl!

Year 3 Moonstone	Year 3 Onyx	Year 4 Opal	Year 4 Sapphire
96.1%	96.7%	96.7%	98.8%
Year 5 Emerald	Year 5 Pearl	Year 6 Amethyst	Year 6 Diamond
97.8%	100%	96.3%	95.3%

SUCCESS STORIES

We are delighted to share the following success stories.

During the Easter holidays Lyla-Louise Farrier, Year 5 and her sister, Jessica visited Mardley Heath with their Mum and collected 3 bags worth of litter. Lyla's mum said "the girls crawled through brambles to pick-up plastic bottles and waded through squelchy mud to collect cans!". Well done girls!

We are also delighted to announce that Charlotte Hessey, Year 3, has been short-listed as one of the top 50 entrants in the BBC Radio 2 '500 Words' competition. Well done Charlotte and good luck at the final!



FINAL MESSAGE – ROYAL WEDDING CELEBRATIONS



As it is approaching the date of the royal wedding we will be hosting a series of in-school class based activities in the afternoons of week commencing 14th May, culminating in a whole day of events on Friday 18th May, which includes a school street party.

If you have any craft/modelling materials including off-cuts of fabric that we can utilise for bunting and table decorations please bring these into the School Office as soon as possible.

This day will be a non-uniform day called 'Dress to Impress'. We will not be asking for donations on this day. You may also wish to note that the kitchen will be producing a 'picnic' style lunch instead of hot meals with a royal wedding themed nature at the usual price of £2.50. Further details of this will follow.

We will be inviting Governors and Women's Institute Volunteers to the event. We are looking forward to an exciting day and will cross-fingers for sunshine!

Thank you again for your continued support.

Kind Regards,

G Hawkins

Mr G Hawkins