



Woolenwick Junior School

Newsletter: December 2018

Current House Point Totals:

1st

Cheetahs

1152

Lions

1181

Panthers

1025

Tigers

1097

INFORMATION

What a busy few weeks it has been lately with delivering the curriculum to the children and also running Christmas dinner, pantomimes, productions, internal carol concerts, class parties and a whole host of other exciting events. What a fantastic job all of the children did to produce such a wonderful Christmas production and get us all in the festive spirit. The children performed so well in all three shows to parents, carers and other relatives-we are all very proud of you.

As we approach the end of 2018 I would like to say a huge thank you to each and everyone of you, for all of your support in working with the school. The children have all worked incredibly hard and having supportive parents is very important as together we can accelerate success of the children. I know the children are looking forward to some family time, a well-deserved rest at home and a special visit from someone on the evening of 24th December.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

A huge thank you to all parents/carers in their support of our first Christmas Fayre! Extra thanks also to the Friends of Woolenwick Junior School for all their hard-work leading up to the day, including decorating the hall and dining room. It was a really fun afternoon for all the children and their families and was a huge success!

There were lots of prizes won on Friday including:

- ❖ Raffle Draw First Prize £100 – Mr Bryon Boyes (Grandparent of William, Year 6)
- ❖ Most Raffle Tickets Sold - Lotti G, Year 4. Well done Lotti – prize is a Kindle Fire Tablet!
- ❖ Most Money Raised by a Class on their Fayre stall – Year 4 Coral – Congratulations!
- ❖ Winner of the silent auction of the prestigious signed Arsenal team photograph – family of Laylah, Year 3

As we are still having money coming in from the Fayre we will announce in the new year the final amount raised and what exciting projects we will be able to put the money towards.

CHRISTMAS PLAY

Thank you to parents, carers, staff and children for all their dedication in making our Christmas Play, 'Baa Baa Bethlehem', such a success. The children worked so hard on the songs and narration, and we appreciate all the help parents/carers gave at home and with costumes. It was a lovely Christmas experience for everyone.

CHILDREN'S ACHIEVEMENTS – OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

Congratulations to:

- ❖ Charlotte, Year 4, who came 3rd on the trampette at her club gymnastic competition early this month.
- ❖ Mackenzie, Year 6, who won 'Player of the Match' at the rugby matches he has played in the last two weeks for Datchworth Rugby Club Under-11s.

Please continue to email us with details of your child's successes. We love to help them celebrate their outside achievements in the school newsletter and you are welcome to send in a photo of the event. We will endeavour to include this in our next newsletter. Remember - no success is too small!

Email to Miss Armstrong: admin@woolenwickjm.herts.sch.uk



KEY DATES FOR THE SPRING TERM

BOOSTER SESSIONS – YEAR 6

These will recommence on Tuesday 15th January from 3.30pm-4.20pm every Tuesday and Thursday. If your son/daughter will not be attending these please can you let the school office know. If you have previously given permission for them to walk home, but this has changed, please let the school office know of any new arrangement.

VIOLIN LESSONS

Will commence on Friday 11th January. Please remind your child to bring their violin to every lesson.

MAD SCIENCE

If you have registered your son/daughter to attend Mad Science after school on Tuesdays then these lessons will start on Tuesday 22nd January. If you would like your child to join this fun club please register and pay for this using the following link:

<https://register.madscience.org/hertsbeds/afterschool-register.aspx?regItemSessionID=263118>

PREPARING FOR THE SPRING TERM

WARM WINTER CLOTHING

Please can you ensure that your son(s)/daughter(s) always come to school in a warm winter coat (preferably waterproof). The temperature may well drop again the new year and it is important that the children wear a coat and jumper to school. Pupils may also want to bring hats, scarves and gloves.

All items, including coats, should be named.

PE KIT

The children should bring home their PE kit (and PE trainers) at the end of each half-term. This will then need to be brought back into school, in a named drawstring bag, on Monday 7th January in readiness for PE lessons.

Please ensure that your child has a suitable kit (refer to the uniform expectations). In cold weather, children may bring a plain navy sweatshirt/fleece and plain navy/black jogging bottoms for outdoor P.E.

UNIFORM

Please ensure that your son/daughter is in full school uniform at all times, including black school shoes (or black trainers). We ask that all items of uniform are clearly labelled so that if items get lost they can be easily returned. If your child has accidentally brought home items that do not belong to them, please return these to school.

WATER BOTTLE

All children must have a labelled water bottled, filled up from home each morning, that is brought to school. This should only have water in it, although fresh fruit and ice is permitted. Please note that squash/cordials are not allowed. Keeping hydrated helps the children with their concentration.

ASTHMA PUMPS

If your child has been prescribed an asthma pump please ensure that they have one in school, in date, at all times. Please see the school office if you have not yet completed a yellow asthma form.

SCHOOL DINNER - PAYMENT REMINDER

Please can parents/carers ensure that they credit their son/daughters dinner money account before school starts on 7th January. **Payment for school meals must be made in advance.** If there is no money on your child's account you will be contacted by the School Office and asked to either provide a packed lunch or to collect your child and take them home for lunch, returning them for the afternoon session.

As you will be aware our preferred method of payment is via the SchoolGateway. However, should you need to pay by cash please put this in a sealed envelope with your son/daughter's name/class clearly marked.

As a school we do not provide free lunches; it is your parental responsibility to provide food for your child either through paying for a school dinner or providing a packed lunch.

School cannot provide free meals unless you are entitled (and have applied) for Free School Meals via Herts County Council. You can find out more information at:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

ATTENDANCE

Below is a breakdown of attendance from 26th November – 17th December 2018

Well done Year 5 - Jade Class – 97.8% class attendance!

As a school our target is to achieve a minimum of 96.0 % attendance. All lateness/attendance is recorded and monitored by the school and the Attendance Improvement Officer.

Year 3 Ruby	Year 3 Topaz	Year 4 Coral	Year 4 Jet
91.6%	97.5%	92.9%	89.1%
Year 5 Quartz	Year 5 Jade	Year 6 Zircon	Year 6 Amber
96.9%	97.8%	96.1%	96.4

PUNCTUALITY

It is very important for all children to attend school every day and arrive **on time**. School starts promptly at 8.50am. Children should arrive in good time to be outside their classroom for when the whistle goes. This is essential to ensure that children benefit fully for classroom learning and that other children's learning is not disrupted.

Please continue to do all you can to ensure your child arrives to school on time everyday. Thank you for your support.

APPOINTMENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

To avoid as much disruption to learning as possible we ask that ALL medical appointments including dentist, doctor and optician are made outside of school hours when possible. We understand that this is often not always an option with hospital appointments but please do your best to arrange these appointments out of children's learning time.

SCHOOL PARENTS' FORUM

At the end of the Summer term some very supportive parents approached myself and the Governors, in order to work with the school, to support us in driving forward change and implementing improvements. As Head I am very thankful to these parents and have decided to launch this forum in the Spring term. The reason for this is that I have now fully recruited all of my school leaders who will help me in raising standards and developing the school in all areas so that we can provide the very best we can to our children.

In the new year a date will be issued in the January newsletter inviting people to a meeting in Spring with all of the leadership team, including Governors, where people can put forward any suggestions they may have.

As a school we always find it useful to have suggested solutions to issues so that we can work out what is and is not feasible from any suggestions raised. All parents are welcome to attend or put forward any suggestions in writing via the issue of the next newsletter. More details will follow in the new year.

STAFF NEWS

I am writing to inform you that Miss Corrigan who is a highly experienced, outstanding teacher and leader, will be joining us as our new Deputy Headteacher at Woolenwick Junior School. She will be teaching in Year 3 Ruby class and currently teaches Year 3 at a school in Manchester. Miss Corrigan will be working very closely with myself in order to develop whole school teaching and learning, along with leading on other whole school initiatives.

Mrs Koser will also be joining us after Christmas. She is our new Assistant Headteacher and Leader of the Lower Phase. Mrs Koser will be teaching in Jet class and is a highly experienced, outstanding teacher and leader with sixteen years of experience. She has worked at a variety of schools in this country and has recently returned from teaching abroad in Qatar where she was Assistant Headteacher of a school with 25 nationalities and 678 pupils.

Both Miss Corrigan and Mrs Koser have visited Woolenwick and met with myself and the Chair of Governors and are looking forward to working with all of our wonderful children and staff at Woolenwick.

They will be working with myself, Governors and other members of the leadership team to continue to raise standards across the school and deliver the best possible outcomes for our pupils. Both of these new staff bring a wealth of experience with them to our school and I look forward to welcoming them into our community.

As people come others leave and move on to new adventures. Mrs Rivers, our Senior Midday Supervisor and Year 6 Teaching Assistant who has been with us for over 10 years will be moving onto pastures new. Mr Shewring, the current Site Manager, will be taking over this role. You will still see Mrs Rivers as she will be working locally in Stevenage for a distribution company and will be popping back to see us, especially during fundraising events. We also say goodbye to Mrs Lamacraft, a Teaching Assistant in Year 5 who is moving to work closer to her home near St Neots. I thank them for all of their hard work and wish them both well in their future careers.

FINAL MESSAGE

On behalf of the staff, Governors, Friends of Woolenwick Junior School and myself I would like to thank you all for your support throughout the year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 7th January 2019.

Kind Regards,
G Hawkins
Mr G Hawkins
Headteacher