



# Woolenwick Junior School

Newsletter: February & March 2018

## Current House Point Totals:

|                             |                          |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Cheetahs</b><br><br>1465 | <b>Lions</b><br><br>1461 | <b>Panthers</b><br><br>1657 | <b>Tigers</b><br><br>1519 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|



**Congratulations to Panthers who are the House Point leaders. Well Done!**

## INTRODUCTION

It has been a very busy two months and you will see that a number of changes have already been made or are in the process of being introduced across the school.

I would like to thank all of the families who sent back comment sheets from the last newsletter with ideas for our new school vision, mission statement, suggestions for improvement and also for the number of positive comments that were also included. I have read all of these and there is an ongoing plan and prioritisation for change, as it can't all be done at once. It is reassuring to know that we have such a supportive community and many people have already started to notice changes and the differences these are making.

One of the changes you will notice is associated with the House Point totals. At the start of this term they were all reset back to '0' and then points had to accrue again. This change was made as some parents' felt that as the academic year progresses the gulf widens in points between the houses. By doing this it means that there will no longer be such a big difference between certain house point totals and it will alleviate the thoughts from some children and parents that certain houses may not be able to catch up over the period of a whole year. House Points gain be gained for a variety of reasons ranging from positive choices in learning behaviour to academic achievement/progress from a pupil's starting point. As they have all been reset this has certainly given children more of thirst for achievement. Thank you for this suggestion.

I do always listen and read suggestions/advice; where feasible and pertinent some of these changes will happen quickly or overtime depending upon the other key priorities in the school. You will see later on in this newsletter some of the other changes that have or will be taking place in the school.

## SNOWY/ICY WEATHER

Thank you for your understanding during the snowy and icy weather-I hope we have seen the last of it. You will see that we altered the system for collection in the Hall and we will constantly continue to monitor this and adapt this where necessary. On the whole parents felt it was so much better, which is pleasing, as it is always a tricky job to re-unite the whole school from one location. Safety of the children is always our key priority, along with the safety of other adults on site.

## NEW BREAK TIME SNACK SERVICE

This is proving very popular, which is wonderful as it gives the children that extra bit of energy boost mid-morning. This service is charged at 50p a voucher (per day).

After reviewing sales we will now be selling them in booklets of ten vouchers, for £5.00. This will reduce extra administration in the office. 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. The daily options are:



| MONDAY          | TUESDAY                     | WEDNESDAY       | THURSDAY                    | FRIDAY           |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Teacake         | Teacake                     | Teacake         | Teacake                     | Teacake          |
| Cheese on Toast | Toast and Spread            | Cheese on Toast | Toast and Spread            | Toast and Spread |
| Yoghurt         | Yoghurt                     | Yoghurt         | Yoghurt                     | Yoghurt          |
| Fruit Bag       | Dairylea with Apple Portion | Fruit Bag       | Dairylea with Apple Portion | Fruit Bag        |

## LUNCHTIME MEALS

Children at the school can either chose to have a school cooked dinner from four different options, a school packed lunch or a home packed lunch.

At Parents' Evening I arranged for Herts Catering and our school cook to give out free samples of food from the school menu. This proved very popular and some people even went back for seconds (and thirds!). The quality of the food provided was not just a one off and is as tasty as this every day, with many staff also eating the school food.

As a result of labour costs, food prices and increase in portion sizes each meal will cost £2.50 from after Easter. The food is nutritiously balanced and provides good value for money, especially if you consider what you might be charged at fast food establishments and restaurants. Even if your child wants to have a meal one day a week that is absolutely fine. All meals must be paid for in advance. This can be done on the School Gateway or School Office.

School dinners are very delicious and represent good value for money and for some it is their main hot meal of the day. Although it is parental choice over what food to provide I would like to remind you that food in lunch boxes should not contain lots of fat, sugar, unhealthy food or left over takeaway food. Please think with consideration what you may be providing your child with, as this will also have an impact upon their concentration and learning behaviour in the afternoon.

If a child has a particularly unhealthy lunchbox we may call you to offer advice and if the lunch box situation does not improve you will be invited in for a meeting or charged for a replacement dinner at the schools discretion. Please remember-food is the fuel you provide your child with and it will keep them physically and mentally healthy, ultimately setting them up to be able to concentrate and make the most of their learning.

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

As the school develops further, and taking into account parent views from the last newsletter and the Ofsted meeting I thought I would give you an update of the progress so far.

- Each week on a Friday we celebrate children's achievements internally. We have altered how this is carried out and in the new 'Achievement Assemblies' children are entered into the 'Gold Book', with a strong emphasis on pupils who have made good or better progress from their original starting points, regardless of ability, along with acts of kindness continuing to be celebrated. Other achievements are also celebrated in the assembly such as House Points, the new Attendance Award, Sporting Achievements and other outside achievements.
- All pupils undertook assessments in Reading, Maths and Grammar, Spelling & Punctuation. (Writing is constantly assessed as the pupils' progress through unit objectives.) These assessments provided teachers with a baseline of progress in different curriculum strands so that they could use this information to feedback into their planning cycle to ensure learning is pitched according to the needs of all children. Staff shared progress information at Parents' Evening and if you wish to discuss progress further please speak to your child's class teacher or Miss Kingston who is the assessment lead.
- Feedback from the new electronic Parents' Evening booking system was overwhelmingly positive. (The system was changed as a result of feedback from the suggestions for improvement asked from the previous newsletter.) The facility gave parents an opportunity to select and send messages if they wanted to discuss anything specific and we had a 95 % turn out which was fantastic.
- The front reception area outside the main Office has started to be re-furbished. There is new plastering, new lighting, a higher entrance screen, newly painted walls and skirting. New internal and external doors have now been fitted with access control panels and this week saw the completion of the project with our external video intercom entrance system for improved security, strengthening our safeguarding systems as a school. We are awaiting a new carpet and seating also for the area.
- Following a break-in at a local Stevenage Primary School we have renewed the alarm system. I have also re-visited the emergency procedures for lockdown and evacuation with staff following last week's bomb threats to certain Hertfordshire schools. We hope we never have to use them but it is reassuring to know that we have an effective system in place. If we do ever need to use these in a real emergency the first point of contact for a child will be informed via Schoolcomms so please always ensure your emails and mobile numbers are up-to-date. It is the parents' responsibility to inform us of any changes.
- The children are very pleased with the new pencil bin and slate where the benches are to help improve their environment.
- There has been very positive feedback from parents about the club timetable released in the Spring Term. Clubs will remain the same and we are still looking at increasing the amount of extra clubs and enrichment opportunities where we can. The children are really enjoying them.
- The new friends fundraising group is going exceptionally well. A massive thank you to all of the parents who now make up our new committee 'Friends of Woolenwick Junior School'. We have 15 members which meant that the children were able to enjoy a Valentines Disco and a lovely Easter Egg hunt with their parents. It was not as easy as people thought and even adults learnt something new. The words 'Easter' and 'Rabbit' were taught to the children in their Spanish lessons so it also made it interesting to see who had been listening in class! £180 was raised from the disco and £120 from the Easter Egg hunt and £431 from the Easter Extravaganza. This money has gone towards the purchase of a PA system, with the school funding the remaining amount.

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT (CONTINUED)

- This Half Term there has been a focus in staff meetings on expectations within learning in English and Maths so that we can. We have also been actively working with Teaching and Learning advisors Each week on a Friday we celebrate children's achievements internally. We have altered how this is carried out and in the new 'Achievement Assemblies' children are entered into the 'Gold Book', with a strong focus on progress
- Staff within the school have been working very hard to enrich the curriculum. Children have experienced an Internet Safety Day where they learnt how to stay safe online and how to be e-aware. As a school we had a brilliant 'Feeling Good Week' where children enjoyed tasting lots of different fruits. Children had the opportunity to taste fruit smoothies which were made by children peddling on a bike in order to power a blender. This really inspired them to taste new fruits to help them stay healthy. Children in Year 5 also had the opportunity to undertake a food hygiene certificate and have a tour of the school kitchen. The most recent event has been Science Week where children took part in a 'ripping reptiles' investigation and many other exciting learning. Children really enjoyed working with Mad Science, visitors from Glaxo and Air Bus. A big thank you to our Science Governor Mark Hessey and his wife Jo who kindly gave up their time both behind the scenes and on the day. Children are still continuing some of their learning from this week and will be finishing off after Easter. This is because children have had so much fun and have wanted to extend their learning with their class teacher.

## STAFFING NEWS

Jill Morgan, our Finance Secretary, will be leaving us at the end of term due to career change. She will be working at one of the veterinary surgeries in Stevenage and we wish her the best of luck.

## CLUBS AND EXTRA ENRICHMENT

Clubs will continue as normal next term. Clubs will start in the second week of term, unless you are notified differently.



## SCHOOL LOTTERY

Thank you very much to all of the parents who signed up for the School Lottery. For every £1 spent we get 40p back to go towards improving our school. What is wonderful news is that Lyla-Louisa Farrier's Mum won £20 on the first draw! Good luck to everybody else.

## KEY DATES FOR THIS TERM

### APRIL

- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 - Children Back To School
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 - Year 6 In Class Assessments
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018: 2-3pm: E-Safety Workshops: Year 3 and 5
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 Mad Science Assembly
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018: 2-3pm: E-Safety Workshop: Year 4 and 6
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April Simon Murray-School Based Illustrator in-workshops all classes
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April 9.00- Friends of Woolenwick Junior School

### MAY

- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May Polling Day- School Open for Children
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May-School Open but also used as a Polling Station
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Bank Holiday-School Shut
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Class Photos Day
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May: Year 6 SATS Week
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May- School Street Party TBC
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May- Walk to School Week
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May- Emerald Class Assembly
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May-Year 6 Social Entrepreneur Day
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May-Opal Class Assembly
- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May: Year 6 Visit to Mountfitchet Castle
- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May: Year 3 Rising Stars Team Building Day at the Gordon Craig
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May: Whole School Sports Day
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May: School Breaks Up

### JUNE

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June: School Occasional Day-School Closed to Children
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June: Amethyst Class Assembly
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June: Children Back to School
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June: Reserve Sports Day
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June: Moonstone Class Assembly
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June: Pearl Class Assembly
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June: Sapphire Class Assembly
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June: Onyx Class Assembly
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June: Diamond Class Assembly

### JULY

- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July-Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July Year 3-5 Assessment Week
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July: Reports out to Parents
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July: Year 6 Dragon Boat Racing Fairlands Valley
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July Secondary School Transfer Day and whole school transition day to new class
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July New Year 3 Parent Consultations
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July Year 5/6 Evening performance 5-7
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July Year 5/6 Evening Performance 6-8
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July Year 5/6 Afternoon Performance 1.30-3.30
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July School Finishes at 1.30pm

## 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 and punctuality for the Spring Term 2018. Well done Year 4 Sapphire!

### ATTENDANCE

|                         |                     |                        |                        |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Year 3 Moonstone</b> | <b>Year 3 Onyx</b>  | <b>Year 4 Opal</b>     | <b>Year 4 Sapphire</b> |
| 94.4 %                  | 94.7 %              | 94.5 %                 | 96.4 %                 |
| <b>Year 5 Emerald</b>   | <b>Year 5 Pearl</b> | <b>Year 6 Amethyst</b> | <b>Year 6 Diamond</b>  |
| 95.0 %                  | 90.0 %              | 94.4 %                 | 92.4 %                 |

## FINAL MESSAGE

A big thank you to all of the staff and Governors for all of the work they do for the benefit of the children here at Woolenwick. It has been lovely over the past few weeks to hear so many kind message and positive comments about how the school is developing.

Thank you again for your continued support and I wish all of the families a Happy Easter.

Kind Regards,

*G Hawkins*

Mr G Hawkins