

Woolenwick Junior School

Newsletter: June 2018

Current House Point Totals:

1st Cheetahs

2601

Lions

2317

Panthers

2301

Tigers

2439

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

INTRODUCTION

It has been a very busy month and the children have been working very hard in their classes to complete all of their learning that they need to cover before the end of the year. I have been very impressed with how children have challenged themselves and how their behaviour for learning has improved. Many parents have commented on how lovely the reception area now is, especially the comfy chairs, and the new bird hide in the playground that was designed by the children.

SPORTS DAY

On Thursday 21st June, in the lovely sunshine, we finally got to host our Sports Day. Dressed in their house colours, the children took part in track and field events. All children ran in either the running, skipping or hurdles and then took part in a house team relay. All children also took part in hop, skip and jump, standing hop, standing jump and javelin. The morning was a real success and we were really proud of all the children for their fantastic effort and sportsmanship.

The winners on the day were Cheetahs with 2601 house points – 162 points ahead of Tigers who were in second place. Tigers. It is the first time, in a long time, that Cheetahs have won sports day so there were many cheers all round. Well done Cheetahs; 100 points have been added to your overall house point score.

Thank you to all the staff for their hard work preparing the children for sports day and helping the event run smoothly. Thank you as well to all the spectators – it was great to see so many people and hear you cheering all the children on. A big thanks to the Friends of Woolenwick and Mr Shewring who ran the refreshment stall. Finally, thank you to all the children for making us proud of you for your hard work and determination.

CRICKET FESTIVAL – YEAR 5

The children had a fabulous day with Rising Stars at Datchworth Cricket Club. In the morning the children were split into groups and learnt the skills of cricket. In the afternoon they took part in a mini festival of matches with two other schools. The children all enjoyed their day and had the opportunity to compete with other pupils from Benington and Datchworth schools.

STEVENAGE FOOTBALL CLUB FESTIVAL

Some children in Year 4 took part in a celebration afternoon of fun activities to further their PE skills. They got to play dodgeball and other team sports, as well as getting to see the premier league trophy close up.

CAKE FETE

Mrs Shadbolt and Miss Kingston were overwhelmed by the response to the Cupcake Fete. There was amazing support and we can't wait to contact The Alzheimer's Society to let them know how much we raised; they'll be blown away!

So, for the much anticipated announcement of which class won the competition to raise the most money from their cake stall. In third place, were Onyx class raising £71.75. In second place, were Diamond class raising £122.25. In first place, raising a whopping £136.95, were Opal class. Well done to all the other classes as well who raised anything from £24 up to £66 each. Opal class will now enjoy a giant cupcake, made by Mrs Shadbolt, during their end of year party as their prize.

The entries for the animal cupcake competition were just phenomenal. The winners were Charlotte T in Moonstone, Charlotte H in Onyx, Amelie B in Opal, Benjamin H in Sapphire, Lucy S in Emerald, Amelia R in Pearl, Maddie S in Amethyst and Luke W in Diamond. Congratulations to all of these winners who have already received their prize. Well done to all other entries. Councillor Mrs Margaret Notley, the Mayor of Stevenage, and Councillor Mrs Laurie Chester, Mayoress of Stevenage, found it incredibly hard to choose and deliberated for a long time as the standard was so high.

During the fete, we were also selling raffle tickets with our first and second place winners taking home the "giant dog cupcake" made by Mrs Shadbolt and the "beehive" cake made by Tilly's (Year 4) Mum. Thank you so much for contributing these excellent cakes. The total money raised was a staggering **£751.51**. Thank you so much again for all your support and the children, and staffs, hard work in making the event a success. We look forward to doing it again next year!



PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS

STRING DAY

Our violinists spent the day at Nobel School with students from Hitchin and Stevenage playing a variety of pieces, which were performed to parents at the end of the day. What an experience! Their violin teacher Miss Humphries was very proud of them all and wants to thank all of the parents for their support.

AND IN OTHER NEWS.....

- ★ Charlotte H, Year 3 enjoyed a fablous day out at Hampton Court Palace after making it as one of the final 50 entrants of the BBC Radio 2 – 500 Words Competition. Charlotte got to meet all sorts of authors and celebrities, including David Walliams.
- ★ Lucy S, Year 5, was named 'Swimmer of the Month'.
- ★ Charlotte T. Year 3, did a cake sale for Water Aid and raised £106.64!
- ★ Freya R, Year 5, was rewarded at swimming for 50m fly (bronze), 100m individual medley (bronze) and 50m backstroke (silver).
- ★ Cameron M. Year 5, received the U11s 'Positive Attitude Award' at Letchworth Roller Hockey Club.
- ★ Jemma, Year 5, went to the 'Summer Sprint' swimming gala and won 5 silvers and 1 bronze.
- ★ Benjamin H, Year 4, completed the "Race at Your Pace" 25 miles challenge, he actually did 26.6 miles!
- ★ William S, Year 4, completed 100m and 50m breaststroke (silver)



BLAST REQUESTS

JUNK MODELLING

Blast Club are looking for any junk modelling items that can be used over the Summer Holidays. Please hand these into the Junior school office or hand directly to Blast staff.

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

Blast will be open from Thursday 26th July until Friday 17th August. Please see a member of Blast staff for bookings. Deadline for bookings is 10th July.

SCHOOL LOTTERY

This is a 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 (tickets are £1 per week) you could also win a £50 restaurant voucher. For further details, please log on to www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/woolenwick-junior-school One of our parents kindly donated her winnings back to the school fund. Many thanks!

HERTFORDSHIRE LIBRARIES

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE – LOCAL LIBRARIES

The Summer Reading Challenge takes place every year during the summer holidays. Children sign up at their local library, then read six library books of their choice to complete the challenge. There are exclusive rewards to collect along the way, and it's FREE to take part. Children are highly encouraged to take part in this event. As a school we will be asking for all books to be returned by 20th July ready for our annual stock check, so by taking part your child will still continue their reading development. The Summer Reading Challenge website helps children keep track of their reading all year round. For more information see: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/parents-carers>

EBOOKS / EAUDIOBOOKS

Did you know that you can borrow free eBooks and eAudiobooks from Hertfordshire Libraries? Hertfordshire Library members can borrow up to seven eBooks and seven eAudiobooks at one time for completely free, with no loan fees or overdue charges. BorrowBox, eLibrary, is available 24/7 and offers a choice of almost 11,000 eBooks and over 4,000 eAudiobooks with new titles are being added all the time. BorrowBox offers a fabulous selection for all ages and reading preferences, from the latest bestsellers to classics, as well as non-fiction - there is something for everyone!
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/ebooks-and-audiobooks

Don't forget - library membership is free, you can find out more information and join either through our website at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries, or by visiting any Hertfordshire Library.

ENVIRONMENT DAYS

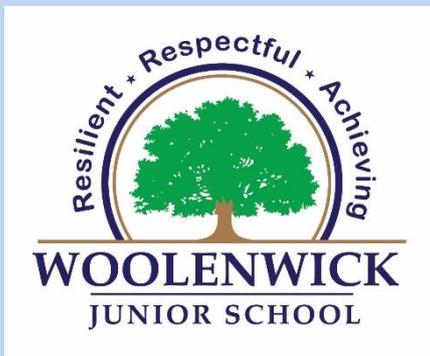
We are asking for help from parents, carers, friends and relations to help improve the school environment at the beginning of the school holidays. Our Site Manager, Mr. Keil Shewring, is asking for volunteers to help with gardening (digging, planting, tidying etc.) and painting (clearing areas, preparing them, cleaning and painting) on Thursday 26th July and Friday 27th July from 9.00am until 12 noon. All are welcome, including children, but we ask that they are supervised by their adult. Tea, coffee and squash will be available during the morning. Even if you are available for an hour that would be great.

NEW LOGO / NEW UNIFORM SUPPLIER

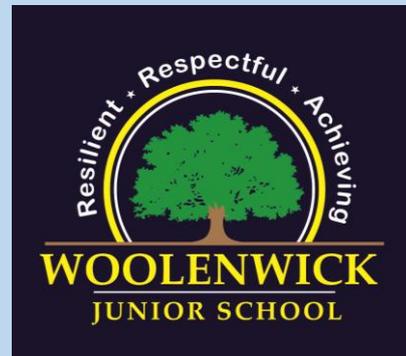
We are pleased to announce that we will have a new logo to use from September. You will see this on all correspondence as well as on school uniform (see logo below) and eventually on the signage around the school too.

The new uniform provided will be Mapac, a Hertfordshire company who supply uniform nationally. They offer a range of services including delivery to home, as well as to school every two weeks during term-time. Uniform will no longer be sold at school but there will be samples for your child to try on if you need to. A separate letter will be sent home before the Summer break with a link for Mapac's website, so that you can see all items online (with/without logo) and make any necessary purchases.

We understand that you may wish for your son(s)/daughter(s) to grow out of the current uniform they are in and do not expect you to replace their current clothing immediately, but would ask that all pupils are in the uniform with the new logo from the start of September 2019.



Logo on white clothing e.g. polo shirt



Logo on navy clothing e.g. jumper

The new logo blends all of the existing logos, of which there were three when I arrived, and creates our school family identity. It has our new core values/qualities that have been agreed as a result of parent, pupil, staff and other stakeholder feedback.

From the start of September I will be sharing with you the agreed new values and vision, linked to this, as a result of the suggestions and ideas given to me over the period of time following Ofsted. We are also in the process of commissioning a new website and I will be able to provide you with more information on this in September.

SCHOOL DINNER PAYMENTS

As of Tuesday 4th September 2018 all dinner money **MUST BE PAID FOR IN ADVANCE***. Please make sure that any outstanding balance is cleared at the latest by Friday 20th July.

Whilst any money is owing on a dinner account you must send your son/daughter with a packed lunch or collect your child to take them home and provide food.

I have informed my office team to contact any parents over the next few weeks who owe an unacceptable amount of money and if needs be you will be expected to attend a meeting so that we can discuss the outstanding debt. School cannot provide free meals unless you are entitled (and have applied) for Free School Meals via Herts County Council.

It is not acceptable for the school to have to absorb debt that has been accrued by parents/carers and I will be implementing initiatives to reclaim the debt. There are a small minority of parents who seem to have taken advantage of the school and I will be scrutinising debts going back over the past 18 months. Any money that has been paid by the school, including that prior to my leadership, will be sought as I will not allow other children to miss out at the expense of certain parents' non-payments. School budgets are very tight and this is money that should be spent on the children.

If you are a parent of a Year 6 child I will be writing to your child's new school if you owe dinner or trip money after the date above. I hope that this is an avenue I will not have to enter into.

Thank you very much to those parents who do pay on time and adhere to the rules.

*Payments can be made in via the Schoolgateway or at the office. Your son/daughter can have a meal every day or only on some days. They can choose on the day which meal choice they would like, however, we do insist that payment for school meals is made in advance and that dinner money accounts must remain in credit.

Dinner money is £2.50 per day / £12.50 per week which represent very good value. The cost for the first half of the Autumn Term 2018 is £97.50.

I would appreciate all parents co-operation regarding this matter.

STAFF LEAVERS

Schools are ever evolving organisations. At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Fitzpatrick, who is moving closer to home, Mr Suckling who will be looking after his children, Miss Ward who will be pursuing a SENCO post at another school and Miss McLay and Miss Kingston who will be working in a school in a different authority. Our two 'School Direct' trainees, Mrs Bond and Miss Sawyer have successfully completed their teacher training and will move on to the next phases of their careers in the academic year. I would like to thank them all for their hard work and wish them well for their future ventures.

Joining us new to the school in September will be Mrs Bishop (Year 3 Teacher), Ms Drummey (Year 4 Teacher), Mr McAdam (Year 4 Teacher), Mrs Kuffour (HLTA/Specialist Behaviour for Learning TA), Miss Higgins (Year 5 School Direct Trainee Teacher), Mrs Banks (Year 5 Teacher), Ms Derby (TA) and Mrs Alloo (Finance Secretary). We welcome them to our school and they bring a wealth of experience to support the children.

CLASS ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR – SEPTEMBER 2018

It is approaching that time of year where your child will be allocated their new class ready for September.

From discussions with my staff and from parent feedback about suggestions as to how to move the school forward following Ofsted over the past six months, I have taken the decision to restructure the current year 3, 4 and 5 when they move into their new class.

The final decision about which class children go into will be made by myself, Mr Hawkins, taking advice from my teachers and support staff, with regards to groups of children who work and learn well together, or groups of students who might benefit from being separated for academic or social reasons.

I will be allowing children to state a preference for whom they would like to be with and I will take their preferences into consideration when allocating them to the new classes; there will be no guarantees. It is important for parents and children to realise that the core purpose of the school is to educate and the reason of the restructure is to create two well-balanced teaching classes. If children are not in a class with their closest friends, they can still socialise with them outside of lessons in the playground but there will also be opportunities for more whole year group working.

My decision about the classes will be a carefully considered one based on how the school staff feel your child will best learn.

MY DECISION WILL BE FINAL AND MY STAFF AND MYSELF WILL NOT BE ENTERING INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN OR PARENTS ABOUT SWAPS OR WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN PLACED. THE SCHOOL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMEND ANY CLASS A CHILD MAY BE IN AT ANY POINT IN TIME, IF AFTER THE PROCESS A CHILD MAY BE BETTER SUITED IN THE OPPOSITE CLASS. THIS IS THE ONLY TIME WHEN A DISCUSSION WILL BE ENTERED INTO.

The children will be told who their teacher will be on 'Move-Up Day' on Thursday 12th July. They will go into their existing class and will then meet their new teacher later on in the day to get to know one another and work with other children in their class. A supporting note will be given to your child to take home to explain to their family what the name of their teacher is and what class they will be in.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

We understand that from time-to-time parents/carers may need to request permission for their child/children to be absent from school during term-time. If you have no alternative but to take your child out of school, please complete a form the request form below and return it to the School Office no less than 3 weeks before the requested absence.

The Headteacher is unable to authorise holidays taken during term-time except in exceptional circumstances, but all forms will be signed and returned home, and a note taken by the office as to when your child/children will be absent.

Absence from school is such a significant contributor to under achievement. If your request is for more than one day we would strongly urge you to re-consider this request if at all possible.

We would also ask that all medical appointments are made as early or as late in the school day, and when possible after school has finished.

REPORTING OF SICKNESS ABSENCE

Although we promote good attendance, the welfare of your child, other children and staff is an important consideration. If you child/children are unable to come to school due to ill health please keep them at home until they have recovered fully. Please telephone to inform us on each day of illness and leave a message on the answerphone (option 1) or speak to a member of staff in the School Office. In particular please inform us if you believe your child has an infectious disease such as rubella (German Measles), chicken pox, headlice or worms.

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 half of the Summer Term 2018. Well done Year 5 Emerald!

Year 3 Moonstone	Year 3 Onyx	Year 4 Opal	Year 4 Sapphire
89.8%	93.1%	93.7%	94.0%
Year 5 Emerald	Year 5 Pearl	Year 6 Amethyst	Year 6 Diamond
98.1%	93.1%	90.9%	85.7%

KEY DATES FOR SUMMER TERM

Mon 2 July-Thurs 5 July	Year 3-5 Assessment Week (This information will be used to inform your child's report. If you would like to know more about how they have got on please contact the teacher directly.)
Thurs 5 July	Meeting with New Year 3 Parents/Carers
Friday 6 July	End of Year Reports out to Parents/Carers
Monday 9 July	Year 6 Dragon Boat Racing, Fairlands Valley Lakes
Thurs 12 July	Secondary School Transfer Day / whole school 'moving up' day to new class
Thurs 12 July	Open Evening
Wednesday 18 July	Year 5/6 Play - Evening performance 5-7pm
Thursday 19 July	Year 5/6 Play - Evening Performance 6 -8pm
Friday 20 July	Year 5/6 Play - Afternoon Performance 1.30-3.30pm
Tuesday 24 July	Last Day of Term - School Finishes at 1.30pm

NOTE: Tuesday 4th September 2018 will be the First day of school for children.

FINAL MESSAGE

I would like to thank the staff, parents and school community for all of their hard work in driving the school forward to deliver the best outcomes we can for the children.

I look forward to the last few busy weeks ahead and will give you further updates about the progress of school developments in the next newsletter.

Kind Regards,

G Hawkins

Mr G Hawkins