



Woolenwick Junior School

Newsletter: October 2018

Current House Point Totals:

Cheetahs 483	Lions 468	Panthers 491	Tigers 478
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Congratulations to **Panthers** who are the House Point leaders. Well Done!

INFORMATION

It has been a very busy few weeks and the children have been working incredibly hard in their lessons. As a school we are exploring different values in assembly and our new value is 'courage'. There have been many occasions where children have been courageous asking more questions in class, assembly and also tackling challenging learning in order to extend their thinking. Perhaps you could examine this value more with your child at home before we look at a new value next month.

PRIDE OF STEVENAGE AWARDS

We had the pleasure of being the only school to perform for the Mayor at the Pride of Stevenage Awards ceremony on Saturday 29th September. We had three weeks to hold auditions and put together a performance with an 'Elvis Presley' theme. Seventeen children from Years 5 and 6, along with Mrs Kuffour and Mrs Jones performed to the Mayor and her guests at The Forum in the Ibis Hotel. The children worked really hard and put on a fantastic show. Councillor Mrs Margaret Notley, Mayor of Stevenage, commented "It was a wonderful and energetic performance, which I, along with everyone else, thoroughly enjoyed and I loved the little Elvis." As a school we would like to take this opportunity to thank the children for their wonderful performance. We are so proud of you. Huge thanks as well to all parents and carers for their support.



DID YOU KNOW? LUNCHTIME TOP TABLE

Did you know that every week there is a special 'Lunchtime' Top Table? The children that get invited to sit on this table are those that have been exceptionally well behaved at lunchtimes making all the correct choices, including each other in games, etc. during the previous week. One pupil from each class is nominated and chosen by our Midday Supervisory Team. These pupils then sit pride of place in the dining room on the 'gold table' (see photo) with flower vases and the best sparkly glasses in Stevenage!

In addition to this, the 'Class of the Week' whose behaviour was also excellent at lunchtimes are invited to use the top playground for games on Friday.

Well done to all those pupils who have already received this reward during this Autumn Term.



PARENTS' CONSULTATION EVENINGS

Our next Parent Consultation Evenings will be taking place just after half-term on:
Tuesday 6th November 4.00pm-6.00pm and **Thursday 8th November 5.30pm-8.00pm**

Parents' Evenings take place in the Hall. You can collect and view your son/daughter's school books in the Dining Room before you meet with the class teacher. This academic year we have adopted the system of 'fast feedback' from adults, whilst the children are learning, so you will see less teacher/adult writing in the books.

We are pleased to announce that following the success of using the online 'Parents Evening System' last school year we will once again be asking you to book your appointment(s) electronically.

Parents' Evening System is a very simple system to use. A link to this, instructions on how to make an appointment and a 'Parents' Guide' will be sent home by email shortly. Once you have selected an appointment time(s) you will receive a confirmation email and be able to amend the time(s) of an appointment(s) should you need to.

Please note that appointment bookings open at 4.15pm on Wednesday 17th October and will close on Monday 5th November at 11.55pm. After this time, you will need to contact the School Office for them to make you an appointment.

If you are new to this way of making a booking and you encounter any difficulties please contact Miss Armstrong in the School Office, who will be able to assist.

SCHOOL DINNER - PAYMENT REMINDER

Polite reminder - 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.

Payments can be made via the SchoolGateway. To set-up an account please login to: <https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/register>. If you need help with this, please contact the School Office by email (or in person). It only takes a couple of minutes and will enable you to pay for lunches, snack tokens and future trips etc. Should you need to pay by cash please put this in a sealed envelope with your son/daughter's name/class clearly marked.

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>

SPORTING SUCCESS

We are delighted to announce that both the girls and boys won their recent football matches. The boys won 4-0 away against Bedwell School and the girls won 2-1 home against Longmeadow School.

We were also invited to take part in the 'Primary Schools' Cross Country' at Fairlands Valley Park. Well done to all those who took part, 24 pupils in total. A brilliant effort from all those involved.

CHILDREN'S ACHIEVEMENTS – OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

Well done to Archie H, Year 4, who won 'man of the match' last week when he played for Datchworth Rugby Club against Letchworth and Stevenage.

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

UPDATES FROM HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Hertfordshire's new Family Centre Service launches October 2018

Public Health Nursing (PHN), who provide Health Visiting and School Nursing services, and Children's Centres will be re-launched from Monday 1st October 2018 as the Family Centre Service. Details (and the opportunity to sign up to future editions of the newsletter) can be found in the Partners Newsletter which is now on The Grid:

<http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/welfare/nhs/index.shtml#family>

Children with Additional Needs

HAND News is a free online newsletter for parents and carers of children and young people (0-25 years) with additional needs and disabilities. It has information about workshops for parents, community services for children and young people, support groups and much more. Read all about it in the September edition of HAND News - www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/handnews.

Hertfordshire's 2018-2021 Plan for Children and Young People

Hertfordshire's 2018-21 Plan for Children and Young People outlines the priorities for children, young people and their families over the next three years. Hertfordshire's vision is to give every child, young person and their family the opportunity to live happy and fulfilling lives.

The county council is committed to meeting its statutory duties to protect children and young people effectively and to prevent problems from escalating by providing the right support, in the right place, at the right time. Alongside partners in the education sector, their aim is to raise aspirations for all children and young people, enhancing opportunities into higher education, training and employment, enabling young people to flourish in their future lives. The plan for children and young people builds on what we are already doing as a school and our future work will reflect any initiative drives.

Partnership working and co-production with all public-sector bodies, schools, colleges, the voluntary sector and families is essential to achieve our goal to improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

To find out more about our priorities visit: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/childrensplan. You can also find the children and young people plan at <http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/csf/csf.shtml>

AUTUMN/WINTER – BEING PREPARED

Clothing

With the weather now on the change, and wetter/colder days upon us, please can you ensure that your son/daughter always brings a warm (preferably waterproof) coat with them to school each day. You may also wish for them to bring a hat/scarf/gloves, but please do make sure that all items are named.

Forced school closure – snow days etc.!

Should poor weather conditions be forecast, including snow, these are the procedures that are in place to alert you of closures should they occur.

As a school we have agreed with Woolenwick Infant & Nursery that, where possible, if one school closes the other school will close, as we are based on the same site. When closing a school the decision is not taken lightly and a range of factors need to be taken into account such as: predicted snowfall, distance that staff need to travel to come in and get home from work, outside surface conditions on paths to safeguard the children, along with a range of other factors. Although we are two separate schools, we work together for the benefit of the children and families and only on the absolute rare occasion where for instance, our boiler may not work, may one school close.

There is a very good system that we recommend you register with called 'Everbridge'. This will let you know if our school (and any other school in Hertfordshire) will need to open late, close early or be fully shut. We strongly recommend that you take a moment to log yourself into the system. They do not hold any of your details except to give you updates on schools that you ask for information for.

To register, please log onto: <https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489#/login>

In the event of a partial or full closure of Woolenwick Juniors we will send a text message and/or email from school directly. We will also post this information on the school website.

This system is important to us as a school as we do not have the capacity to phone every single parent, staff member and radio station, but the Everbridge system will alert you the second the school has sent the message.

ATTENDANCE

Below is a breakdown of attendance from 5th October -11th October 2018.

Well done Year 3 - Ruby Class - 99.6% 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
99.6%	92.6%	99%	90.7%
Year 5 Quartz	Year 5 Jade	Year 6 Zircon	Year 6 Amber
94.7%	94.1%	91.9%	98.5%

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 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.

The first few minutes of the day are really important as:

- The attendance register is taken.
- The dinner register is taken.
- The plan for the day is shared.
- Lesson objectives are shared.

What being late means for your child. (Please consider the effect upon them.)

- Gets their day off to a bad start.
- They may be noticed by other children in a negative light.
- May lead them feeling confused all day. They will have missed out on instructions, information and news at the start of the day.
- Disrupts the lesson for everyone.
- Will cause them to fall behind with their work because they do not know what has been said.
- Creates a bad habit that can be hard to break in the future.
- Can lead to poor attendance – if you think it is ok to be late for school they may start to think it is ok not to go to school.

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

DATES

Date/Event	Time/Description
Friday 19th October Halloween Film Night – Pupil Fundraising Committee	6.00-8.00pm. Year 3/4 - 'Hotel Transylvania' Year 5/6 - 'Goosebumps'
Friday 19th October Non-Uniform Day	'Wear what you want' day. Suggested donation £2. Money raised will be used to purchase prizes for the Christmas Fayre.
Tuesday 6th November Parents' Consultation Evening	4.00 - 6.00 pm. Children's books will be located in the Dining Room. Consultations will take place in the Hall.
Thursday 8th November Parents' Consultation Evening	5.00 - 8.00 pm. Children's books will be located in the Dining Room. Consultations will take place in the Hall.
Thursday 8th November *Year 6 Learning Experience- All Parents Invited	2.30 – 3.15/3.30 pm: Start in the Hall then visit the classroom.
Thursday 15th November *Year 5 Learning Experience- All Parents Invited	2.30 – 3.15/3.30 pm: Start in the Hall then visit the classroom.
Thursday 22nd November *Year 4 Learning Experience- All Parents Invited	2.30 – 3.15/3.30 pm: Start in the Hall then visit the classroom.
Thursday 29th November *Year 3 Learning Experience- All Parents Invited	2.30 – 3.15/3.30 pm: Start in the Hall then visit the classroom.
Friday 30th November Christmas Jumper Day and Decs. Day	Non-uniform day-please wear a Christmas t-shirt or jumper. Children to bring in £1 to make Christmas decorations that will be used to decorate their classrooms. These will then be sent home at the end of term.
Wednesday 5th December Christmas Dinner	Christmas Dinner day
Tuesday 11th December Panto visit to The Gordon Craig Theatre	'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' This is an afternoon performance and children will need collecting from the theatre. More information will be sent nearer the time.
Friday 14th December Woolenwick Christmas Fayre	3.15-5.00pm (revised time)
Monday 17th December Christmas Play	Matinee and Evening Performances (times to confirmed)
Tuesday 18th December Christmas Play	Evening Performance only (time to confirmed)

*Learning Experiences timings

Please feel free to leave at 3.15pm to collect any younger siblings from the Infant school or stay till 3.30 pm.

FINAL MESSAGE

As a school we are constantly developing and improving. One key development is the recruitment of a new Deputy Headteacher by the Governors and myself to start in January 2019. Her name is Katie Corrigan and she is currently working as a Deputy at a school in Manchester. I look forward to welcoming her into the school and Woolenwick Community. Thank you for all of your continued support.

Kind Regards,
G Hawkins
Mr G Hawkins
Headteacher