



# Woolenwick Junior School

Newsletter: September 2018

## Current House Point Totals:

<b>Cheetahs</b>  112	<b>Lions</b>  142	<b>Panthers</b>  120	<b>Tigers</b>  124
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**Congratulations to Lions who are the House Point leaders. Well Done!**

## WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to the Autumn Term; I hope you had a wonderful summer break with your children and are looking forward to the term ahead. It was fantastic to see all of the children back in school, looking so smart in their uniform and hearing about all of their adventures.

The term has started well and we have got off to a great start, with children settling well and focussing on their learning.

## UPDATES

Thank you to all of the children and families who completed the school survey questionnaires and who have spoken to me over time about how to move the school forward. There were many strengths and positive comments which were lovely and the suggestions for development have already been addressed, or have been planned to be addressed this academic year. Please find below some examples of how we have used people's suggestions.

Suggestion	Action Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We would like to see more adults in the morning to pass messages to about our children, whether they be medical, organisational or academic. The school doors also open at different times.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every morning staff are now on the playground and children line up. The official start of school is 8.50 so staff arrive at 8.45, a whistle is blown at 8.50, and the children are now walked in. Feel free to leave your child in their line at 8.45 whilst you drop other children.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The children, and some of the staff, told me that some of the smartboards and computers were very slow or did not work properly. They wanted new ones.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over the Summer we have worked with Xtranet-IT solutions, who have helped us get all of our IT back up and running, in-line with technological advances. Every single classroom now has a 65" ultra-high definition clever touch board (which is like a giant iPad on the wall) in order to help children with their learning. We also now have a mobile laptop trolley and the old computer suite has now been turned into a learning hub called the 'Platinum Room'. All of the old IT equipment has been sent to Hungary to be used in the education sector.</li> </ul>

Suggestion	Action Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class sharing assemblies vary in terms of quality and content covered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some of this depends upon how far the children have got with their topic and also how the assembly has been constructed by the adults and children.</li> <li>This term we will be trialling a new system instead of class assemblies called "Learning Experiences". Parents from the whole year group will be invited in, starting at 2.30 pm, to hear and see the children singing, doing drama sketches, photos etc. After that you will be invited back into the classroom to take part in a learning experience with your child and see some of their exercise books. The learning experience will involve you working with your child to see how we teach and develop the children's learning in a particular subject. The idea behind this is to share learning that the children have or are working on and make it more interactive. We look forward to you joining us and sharing in the children's successes. Dates for these are at the end of this newsletter. We welcome feedback towards the end of term about this change.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The children told us that the way the teachers and themselves (pupil assessment/peer assessment) marked their learning was not as helpful as it could be. The children used lots of different coloured pens and they felt it spoilt their work or they could not find the right coloured pen to use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part of the INSET day for the staff on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September was focussed on marking and how we can accelerate progress within the school. As a school we have put in place 'Fast Feedback': frequent, accurate, specific and timely feedback. This involves 'on the spot' conferencing with children during the learning process and instructing them how they need to improve their learning. Adults now carry out 'modelled learning', rather than marking, so when you attend Parents' Evening you will see very little 'old fashioned style marking', as research suggests that this is not the most conducive way to improve progress. The children now have 'the power of the purple pen' and use this 'polishing pen' to edit their learning and review it.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school needs more painting in certain areas and modernising.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over the summer we worked with Stevenage Education Trust (as school budgets are tight) and they kindly supported us in our partnership link with Glenelly. This company is in the engineering sector and volunteers from the Friends of Woolenwick and some school parents also kindly came and helped us paint the Dining Room, some of the Hall and some classrooms.</li> </ul> 

## **SCHOOL DINNER PAYMENT REMINDER**

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. If there is no money on your 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.

School Dinners are £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. 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.

School cannot provide free meals unless you are entitled (and have applied) for Free School Meals via Herts County Council. If you would like to know more about this, please speak to Miss Armstrong or Mrs Kerlake in the School Office.

## **SPONSORSHIP**

Are there any companies/businesses or anybody with any links who would be willing to provide sponsorship money towards our new football and netball kit for our children?

We are looking to secure funding from generous companies/business to purchase new kit and in return we can print their logo on the t-shirts/shorts.

## **FRIENDS OF WOOLENWICK JUNIOR SCHOOL**

If you are a parent, grandma, grandad, uncle, aunt or have a guardianship order of a child at the school you are automatically a member of our 'Friends' association. The friends help support the school to raise much needed funds for purchasing equipment/extra resources for the school and also to enrich the learning experiences of children at the school or when we may have a special occasion.

Please keep on supporting us. There is a meeting on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 9.00 am at the school, please come to the School Office if you would like to attend-you are most welcome. It is not a huge commitment and if you are able to help out on just one event during the year that would be great.

The main event we will be planning for is the Christmas Fayre on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 3.30-6.00 pm, so nearer the time we will be looking for gifts and prizes. If you would be able to help us secure any raffle prizes from your place of work, or from somewhere or someone you know, please speak to Mrs Kerlake in the School Office. Nearer the time we will be asking families to donate goods to sell such as jars, items for the tombola etc. More information will come out nearer the time.

We would like to encourage as many parents, friends and neighbours to sign up to our school lottery. 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](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/woolenwick-junior-school)

## **GOVERNORS**

As the school develops and moves forward I need to notify you of changes within the governing body.

I am delighted to announce that Catherine Tierney (a parent of Charlotte T in Year 4) was unanimously elected as the new Chair of Governors and Mark Hessey (a parent of Charlotte H in Year 4) was also unanimously elected as Vice Chair of Governors. We have had some other members of the public put themselves forward to become local community governors, which is very good news for the school. We have now appointed a new, very experienced Clerk to the Governing Body, Caron Montague. The role of a governor is voluntary and so I am very grateful to our remaining and existing serving governors, along with our newly appointed ones.

This refreshed and renewed leadership team will be working with myself, the local authority and Herts for Learning representatives to deliver the best possible outcomes we can for the children and families in our community. We will keep you updated on our progress.

## **OUTSIDE CHILDREN'S ACHIEVEMENTS**

Over the past few months we have been celebrating outside achievements of pupils in the school newsletter. Many children have successes and it is lovely to hear all about them.

If you would like your child's achievements to be published in our newsletter please email these to the Office Manager, Miss Armstrong, at [admin@woolenwickjm.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@woolenwickjm.herts.sch.uk)

Please send a photograph and a description of the event. We would like to celebrate all achievements; no success is too small.

## **HOME LEARNING**

As a school we are reviewing how we do home learning as a result of families feedback. Some families would like lots more homework, some less, some like the topic approach and some do not. Some parents had also commented on how the learning projects were marked and the house points awarded. It is very hard to accommodate all families requests so we will be trialling something that will hopefully strike the balance between everybody's viewpoints.

The expectation is that all children will :

- read every day, for a least fifteen minutes, to increase their reading fluency. Please ask your child questions about the text to check their comprehension. As a school we have invested in lovely personalised reading record books which both adults and children can record in.
- learn their times table, up to the twelve times table, every day. Please sing songs, complete games with them and use Times Table Rock Stars that we as a school have subscribed to.
- learn spellings and investigate patterns each week which will be assessed in dictation sentences.

There will be more information coming out in the next few weeks about home learning in the core subjects and projects.

## ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Below is a breakdown of attendance from 3<sup>rd</sup> September to 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Year 3 Ruby	Year 3 Topaz	Year 4 Coral	Year 4 Jet
99.6%	98.3%	98.3%	94.8%
Year 5 Quartz	Year 5 Jade	Year 6 Zircon	Year 6 Amber
95.3%	98.3%	95.8%	99.0%

Well done Year 3 - Ruby Class - 99.6% class attendance!

As a school our target is to achieve a minimum of 96.0 % attendance. Please ensure your child attends regularly and on time. We will be monitoring attendance carefully and any child who has attendance below this figure will trigger on our attendance warning system and you will be contacted. Last term we did issue penalty notices and referred families to the local authority attendance officer. Children must attend school, unless severely ill, otherwise their learning will be impacted. If we can support you in any way please contact us so we can work with your family.

## TERM DATES

### Academic Year 2018/19

#### School Year 2018/19

##### Autumn Term

Inset day Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018

**Children return Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Half term – Children finish Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**Children return Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**Christmas Holiday – Children finish Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

##### Spring Term

**Children return Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**Half term – Children finish Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**Children return Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**Easter Holiday – Children finish Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

##### Summer Term

Inset day Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019

**Children return Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**Half term – Children finish Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**Children return Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019**

**Summer Holiday – Children finish Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

Inset day Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Inset day Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019

Inset day Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019

Occasional day Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019

## DATES

Date/Event	Time/Description
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October:</b> Friends of Woolenwick Meeting	9.00 am. New members welcome-open to everybody.
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October</b> Individual School photos	All pupils will have their individual photos taken during the school day. Siblings can join before school starts.
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November</b> 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.
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November</b> 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.
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November</b> *Year 6 Learning Experience- All Parents Invited	2.30 – 3.15/3.30 pm: Start in the Hall then visit the classroom.
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November</b> *Year 5 Learning Experience- All Parents Invited	2.30 – 3.15/3.30 pm: Start in the Hall then visit the classroom.
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November</b> *Year 4 Learning Experience- All Parents Invited	2.30 – 3.15/3.30 pm: Start in the Hall then visit the classroom.
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b> *Year 3 Learning Experience- All Parents Invited	2.30 – 3.15/3.30 pm: : Start in the Hall then visit the classroom.
<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November</b> 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.
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b> Christmas Dinner	Pupil Christmas Dinner day
<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b> 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.
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b> Woolenwick Christmas Fayre	3.30-6.00pm

### \*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.

### Parents' Consultation Evenings

You will be sent the link and instructions to 'Parents Evening System' at the beginning of October. This will enable you to select timings for your child/children online and make any changes to these once booked.

## FINAL MESSAGE

As a school we are aiming to launch our Parent School Network Forum after half-term, where we can give more school updates and listen/discuss suggestions for improvement. There will be separate letter sent out about this. If you have any further suggestions for school improvement or would like to tell us what is working well please get in contact with us. Thank you for all of your continued support. I look forward to a very exciting term ahead.

Kind Regards,  
*G Hawkins*  
Mr G Hawkins  
Headteacher