



Woolenwick Junior School

Newsletter: January 2019

Current House Point Totals:

Cheetahs 1749	Lions 1832	Panthers 1867	Tigers 1754
-----------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------



WELCOME TO 2019!

It has been a wonderful first few weeks back and the children have been working incredibly hard and produced some amazing work across the curriculum. New staff have settled in well and we are looking forward to an industrious term of learning ahead.

DON'T BE LATE, GRAB A BAGEL AT THE GATE!

Our new exciting breakfast initiative got off to a flying start when we came back to school after Christmas. Each morning we provide breakfast bagels free of charge to children and adults from 8.30am-8.50am.

Breakfast is a very important meal of the day and sets everyone up for the day ahead. The bagels are wholemeal, very healthy, and are offered with or without butter.

This initiative is also to encourage children to come to school on time and so the bagels are offered on a first-come first-served basis. We average serving 150 bagels per day.

“DON'T BE LATE, GRAB A BAGEL AT THE GATE!”



CLUBS

MAGICAL MATHS

Some parents had enquired about a Maths club and so we are pleased to announce that we are able to offer a new and exciting after school club, via an external provider. (Please see previous email that was sent with the link to sign up or visit www.magicalmathsclub.com)

BOOSTER SESSIONS – YEAR 6

These continue to run 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 your child to walk home, but this has changed, please let the school office know of any new arrangement. *Please note there will be no booster sessions on Tuesday 5th March or Tuesday 19th March because of staff training being delivered.*

EXCITING COMMUNITY PROJECT

As a school we are strengthening further links with our local community and developing the Science provision within school, as we embark on achieving the 'Primary Quality Science Mark'. To this end, we are also enhancing the curriculum as well as working in conjunction with Stevenage Borough Council to re-design and install new play equipment in the children's play area in Torquay Crescent.

This project fits in well with our lessons as the children have recently been exploring healthy lifestyles including how physical activity is important for healthy minds and bodies. Certain year groups have also been learning about forces, friction and gravity, as well as how design ideas are transferred from the planning stage into reality.

An assembly was delivered to the children about the options for the play area and they had the opportunity to vote for five pieces of play equipment (from a choice of 23) which will cater for children from 0-12 years of age, including those with disabilities. Opinions of those living within the community were also gathered and all of these are now with our designer.

Once the blue-print has been created the children will be able to discover which items will be installed. The plan is to start constructing the play area late Spring and have an official opening in the Summer. More information will follow once when we receive it.



PARENTS' SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to all of those parents who completed the questionnaire at the last Parents' Consultation Evening. Please find below the results of those questionnaires. We always take parents/carers views into account and for those parents/carers who wrote specific comments on the questionnaire these have all been read, acknowledged and where possible actioned. It was very encouraging to have so many positive comments about how the school has improved. Thanks also goes out to parents who identified an area for improvement and their suggested solutions, which were very helpful.

As mentioned in the last newsletter we will be formulating a School Parents' Forum with all of the leadership team, including Governors, where stakeholders can put forward any suggestions they may have. A date for this will be issued in a 'News Burst' in February and this will focus on homework and information parents receive about their child's progress from the school. Please feel free to put forward any other suggestions for the next Parents' Forum.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My child is happy at this school	40%	58.7%	6%	0%
My child feels safe at this school.	47.8%	49.6%	3%	0%
My child is making good progress at this school.	34.5%	57.5%	6.6%	0%
This school ensures my child is well looked after.	40.6%	55.7%	2.4%	1.2%
My child is taught well at this school	43%	49%	5.4%	0%
This school meets my child's particular needs.	35.2%	53.3%	8.5%	1.2%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	27.2%	63%	8.5%	2.4%
This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	27.2%	58.7%	6.6%	1.8%
This school deals with any cases of bullying effectively. (Bullying includes persistent name-calling, cyber, racist and homophobic bullying).	30%	49%	7.3%	1.2%
This school is well led and managed.	32.1%	60%	4.8%	0.6%
This school responds well to any concerns I raise.	33.9%	59.3%	3.6%	1.2%
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	31.5%	55.7%	9%	0.6%

Please note that figures may not add up to 100% as not all questionnaires had every question answered.

BEING PREPARED SCHOOL

As we are now going through a very cold period please can you ensure your son/daughter is adequately prepared for school.

WARM WINTER CLOTHING

All children must wear a warm winter coat and school jumper every day. 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 25th February 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 bottle, 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 keep their son/daughters dinner money account in credit at all times. 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.

Free School Meal – The s92school 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>

IMPORTANT NOTE ON ATTENDANCE

As a school our target is to achieve a minimum of 96% attendance. All lateness/attendance is recorded and monitored by the school and the Attendance Improvement Officer.

It is very important for all children to attend school everyday and arrive on time. School starts promptly at 8.50am. Children should arrive in good time and to be in their line ready for when the whistle goes. This is essential to ensure that children benefit from a settled start.

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

We are in the process of reviewing our procedures surrounding attendance and we will be increasing home visits if there is no acceptable reason for your child not being in school, or we are not notified of their reason for absence. All cases of persistent absence for unacceptable reasons will be passed to the Hertfordshire County Council Attendance Team and parents will be fined and taken to court if necessary. You have a legal responsibility to ensure your child is in school and accessing education.

Below is a breakdown of attendance from January 2019

Year 3 Ruby	Year 3 Topaz	Year 4 Coral	Year 4 Jet
92%	96%	96.1%	93%
Year 5 Quartz	Year 5 Jade	Year 6 Zircon	Year 6 Amber
97%	94%	94%	95%

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 where 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.

FINAL MESSAGE

Thank you to all of those parents/carers who continue to support the school by giving resources to us and also those who give time. We greatly appreciate all of the positive comments on what is working well at the school, so that we can build on our successes.

It is lovely to hear from parents and professionals, beyond our immediate community, who are drawn to visit the school after hearing about some of the wonderful work taking place.

We are looking forward to a very full and exciting timetable in the Spring Term. You can see from the dates attached just some of the enriching events and learning opportunities the children will be able to experience, and there will be more to come!

Kind Regards,
G Hawkins
Mr G Hawkins
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date/Event	Time/Description
Tuesday 5th February E-safety workshop for parents	9.00-10.00am in school hall.
Tuesday 5th February Chinese New Year – themed lunch	Please send dinner money to the school office if your child does not normally have a school dinner but would like one.
Friday 8th February School Writing Project – Awards' Evening	Details of this evening to follow to winning children.
Monday 11th February Music Week	
Tuesday 12th February Year 6 Enterprise Challenge Day	All day in school
Wednesday 13th February Year 5 – Sports Hall Athletics	During the school day at Barnwell School
Monday 25th February Year 5 – Swimming lessons commence	
Wednesday 27th February Magical Maths Club	Please see information earlier in this newsletter.
Friday 1st March *Year 6 Learning Experience- All Parents Invited	2.30 – 3.15/3.30 pm: Start in the Hall then visit the classroom.
Monday 4th March – Friday 8th March Science Week	
Thursday 7th March World Book Day	Pyjama Day - All children can come to school in their pyjamas with their favourite bedtime story.
Thursday 7th March – Wednesday 13th March Scholastic Book Fair	Book fair open in the hall after school each day. More details to follow.
Wednesday 13th March Year 5 - Viking Day	All day. Please refer to letter that came home.
Friday 15th March *Year 5 Learning Experience- All Parents Invited	2.30 – 3.15/3.30 pm: Start in the Hall then visit the classroom.
Wednesday 20th March Voice in a Million – Wembley Arena	
Wednesday 20th March Mayor's Charity Concert – Gordon Craig Theatre	
Thursday 21st March Year 4 STEM Water Challenge Day	
Friday 22nd March *Year 4 Learning Experience- All Parents Invited	2.30 – 3.15/3.30 pm: Start in the Hall then visit the classroom.
Monday 25th March Year 5 - KNEX Challenge	All day
Wednesday 27th March 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 28th March 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.
Friday 29th March *Year 3 Learning Experience- All Parents Invited	2.30 – 3.15/3.30 pm: Start in the Hall then visit the classroom.
Friday 5th April Last day of term	1.30pm finish
Tuesday 23rd April INSET DAY	No school for children – staff training on the curriculum
Wednesday 24th April First day of Summer Term	

*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.