



Woolenwick Junior School

News' Burst: 8th July 2019

For Your Information: 'News' Burst'

Towards the end of term it starts to get very busy, so I thought I would do a "News' Burst" of information to help our parents and school community.

Staffing

I am delighted to announce that we are fully staffed for September, which is very pleasing as it is a difficult time nationwide for teacher recruitment. Earlier on in the year when I released teacher vacancy adverts for our school it was highly encouraging that we had an incredibly large number of high quality applicants wanting to work at Woolenwick. The number of teachers applying at our school was exceptionally high (compared to other local schools) which was very positively commented on by Hertfordshire County Council representatives. We have also, over the last few months, had colleagues from other schools come and visit us to see some of our great work, which has also spread our reputation even further amongst both teachers and leaders in the local authority.

Candidates told us that they applied to Woolenwick because of our good reputation in the community, and new whole school ideas and initiatives that have been implemented at the school. Once they had visited they were impressed with how supportive and welcoming both the children, staff and parents were and what great opportunities there were on offer to the children, ranging from exciting lessons, enrichment days, visits, experiences and clubs; I was extremely proud to receive this wonderful feedback.

It is at this time of the year where we welcome new staff and say goodbye to existing staff as they move on for either career development or because of personal reasons, like house moves. This term we have had a number of support staff join us. Mrs Emma Farrier joined us in the school and has settled in very well, making a very positive impact on learning. She is working with many children across the school and from September will be taking the lead on teaching German to our children as we embark on a new modern foreign language. Mr Sean Fitzgerald has also joined us and is working across the school; he will be supporting Mrs Jones on leading English in school and developing drama. Mrs Nadine Ball has also joined us making a very positive impact and will be working in Year 5, along with leading on DT across the school. Miss Emma Kearsey is our new Life Skills Leader and Curriculum Administrator. Miss Zoe Shaw, Miss Elysia Burman and Miss Emily Stevens will all be joining us as new teachers. We are very pleased to have such talented people join us.

We say goodbye to Miss Corrigan the Deputy Headteacher who would like to work in a faith school (a school of religious character); the new Deputy Headteacher who has been appointed is Mrs Tasleem Koser, who many of you will know as our existing Assistant Headteacher. This will ensure continuity of leadership within the school and the senior leadership team. She has an excellent track record in order to work with myself so that we can drive the school forward, developing our wonderful school further. Mrs Snelson is also relocating to another school and Mrs Estefania Rodriguez is relocating to Spain. We will also be bidding a fond farewell to Mrs Diane Kerlake, who is retiring from our school office after almost 20 years service with Woolenwick Junior and Infant schools.

We wish all of them good luck and thank them all for their contribution and hard work with the children and school community.

New Classes and 'Move Up Morning'

The county transition day is on Thursday 11th July. On this day Year 6 children will need to go straight to their new school, in uniform (unless the Secondary school has indicated differently) and once they have completed their day they go straight home. Please liaise with your child's new secondary school for times etc. as all of them are different.

As the Year 6 children are not with us on this day we have a 'Move up Morning' where children get to meet their new teachers and support staff working with them and spend time in their new classroom. On the day they will need to line up as usual in the playground and they will be taken into their existing classroom and registered.

From here all of the children will go to the Hall at 9.00am to meet all of the staff working in each year group and then each class at a time will go to their new classrooms with their adults, where they will spend the morning. Collection will be at 3.30pm from their existing classroom.

Please find attached a list of which class your child will be in next year and their new teacher; classes are staying the same and are not being mixed up as the class compositions have worked so well since last year.

All staff in the school have had several meetings with the previous class teacher and handed over important information about your child academically, socially, emotionally and medically. There are more meetings planned and the final handover will be completed on the last day of term.

If you have any questions, concerns, queries or just want to have a chat about transition please feel free to talk to your child's current class teacher. We are all here to help and want the transition to be as seamless as possible.

New Website Launch-GREAT NEWS!

Over the past six months there has been a lot happening behind the scenes on the creation of a brand new website. I have been aware for a while now that the existing one is very dated but creating a brand new website is a mammoth job as the majority of the text has to be re-written, new pictures taken, hyperlinks created etc.

I am hoping that our new website will launch at the start of next week. Please take a look and let us know what you think; it is also smartphone compatible. Once you have viewed the website if there is anything that you feel would help you as parents or anything that you think needs adjusting please let us know via the admin email address (admin@woolenwickjm.herts.sch.uk); your feedback is always welcome. I hope you enjoy it!

Welcome to the New Year 3 Children and Parents

We had a very large number of parents attend our new Year 3 meeting last week, which was wonderful. Thank you to all of you who gave up your time and came to find out information about our school and how we can work in partnership with yourselves.

This year we had our largest ever number of Year 3 applications to Woolenwick Junior School. We had an amazing 82 applications (for 60 places), with some parents applying from the other side of the town and even local villages. There is currently a waiting list for this year group.

Year 2 children have all had an opportunity to visit our school during the working day and have had an extremely successful experience getting to know everybody and where things are. I look forward to seeing them again on Thursday.

Staff Placement Allocation from September 2019

	Year Group	Existing Class & Their Name	Moving to... (New Classroom & Name)	New Teacher	Staff Working Within The Year Groups (Teachers and Support Staff)
Upper Phase	Year 6	Quartz	Amber	Mrs Karen Jones	Mrs Jenny Hepton Mrs Jo Hammocks Miss Kathleen Darby Miss Kimberley Turner Mrs Mary King
	Year 6	Jade	Zircon	Mr Mark Borland	
	Year 5	Coral	Jade	Miss Zoe Shaw	Ms Cheryl Geary Miss Gabriella Albanese Mr Sean Fitzgerald Mrs Nadine Ball Ms Clare Drummey
	Year 5	Jet	Quartz	Mrs Tasleem Koser	
Lower Phase	Year 4	Ruby	Jet	Miss Emily Stevens	Mrs Jessica Kuffour Mrs Mary King
	Year 4	Topaz	Coral	Miss Julie white	Mrs Deborah White
	Year 3	-	Topaz	Miss Jo Marshall/ Mrs Tracey Brotherton	Mrs Paula Batten
	Year 3	-	Ruby	Miss Elysia Burman	Mrs Emma Farrier Mrs Mary King
	Whole School	Miss Sarah Kearsley-Life Skills Leader Ms Jackie Birch-Family Liaison Worker			

'Meet the Teacher' Parent Meetings – Thursday 11th July

All parents/carers are welcome to attend a 'Meet the Teacher' this Thursday 4.00-5.00pm. There will be a short presentation at 4pm followed by a chance for adults to meet their child's new teacher, discuss anything with them and find out about what they will be learning about from September in their new class.

The meetings for each year group will be taking place as follows:

Year 3	All parents in Ruby classroom.
Year 4	All parents in Jet classroom.
Year 5	All parents in Quartz classroom.
Year 6	All parents in Zircon classroom.

School Production

Year 5 and 6 really enjoyed performing in their show 'Porridge' this year; there was wonderful acting, singing and costumes in each and every performance. Thank you so much for all of your support.

Reports

Your child's report will come home this Friday. It is written in a new format, pulling out the main key points that we feel parents would like to know about following parental feedback on last year's reports. I hope you enjoy reading about your child's successes and where they need to develop further. If you have any questions about the reports please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Reminder...Useful Dates

- Thurs 11th July: Moving-Up Day
- Mon 15th July: Woolenwick's Got Talent THE FINAL!!!
- Wed 17th July: Leslie Bell & Leaver's Assembly (Year 6) 11.30am
(Internal event only-no parents)
- Wed 17th July: Leavers' BBQ 5.30-7.00pm *(Year 6 pupils only)*
- Thurs 18th July: Leavers' Assembly Year 6, 9.30am - Parents' Invited
- **Thurs 18th July End of Term –School finishes at 1.30pm**

2019-2020

Please note that the new school term will start on Wednesday 4th September 2019.

Important: Monday 2nd September and Tuesday 3rd September are INSET days and the school is closed to pupils.

I hope this information has been useful for you. Any questions at all please speak to the class teachers initially, members of support staff in that year group, the family worker or the office.

Kind regards,

Mr G Hawkins

Head Teacher