

# Woolenwick Junior School

Newsletter: September 2019

## Current House Point Totals:

**Cheetahs**

**158**

**Lions**

**168**

**Panthers**

**161**

**Tigers**

**179**

**1st**

## WELCOME BACK

It has been a lovely start to the term and there have been so many highlights already, with children working incredibly hard and sharing many outside successes.

A huge welcome to the new year three children and parents, along with the children that have joined us from other schools locally, and from other countries. The children have settled in effortlessly and you are all part of the Woolenwick Junior School family.

## MATHLETICS, READING EGGS/READING EGGSRESS AND TIMESTABLES ROCKSTARS

Following on from the Parent Forum, and listening to parent feedback throughout the year, about how they can support their child's learning further at home we have invested heavily as a school in Mathletics and Reading Eggs/Reading Eggspress.

**IMPORTANT:** These are resources to support **your child** to help them develop in their learning, so please use them extensively. Each child in the entire school has a log on and password and if you were to purchase a log on as a parent it would be priced at £59 for Mathletics and £69 for Reading Eggs/Reading Eggspress per year.

As you can imagine, in the time of school budget cuts, we have invested in these resources to help support the link between what is being taught in the classroom and learning at home. Some schools do charge parents for this subscription service, albeit at a reduced rate. As a school we have decided not to charge the parents for this facility and the funding for this subscription has been partly paid for via the school budget, with the other half being match funded with money raised by the Friends of Woolenwick Junior School (PTA), which you are all part of.

The expectation is that your child will use these resources on a regular basis, as directed by their teacher or by using their own initiative and desire to learn. Please encourage your child to use these and support us, because if there is lots of inactivity, over a prolonged period of time for a child, their account will be deactivated or you will be charged as a parent. The school cannot afford to pay for a service that is not being used. More information will be shared about this during the 'home-learning experiences' that you are all invited to. For new parents, these are events whereby we show case the children's learning to you in an interactive way and replaced the old style assemblies.

### About the Resources

These resources are part of the 3P Learning Trophy Cabinet, which was the winner of the BETT Awards Show 2019. The BETT Show is the British Educational and Training and Technology Show and it is held annually in London. It is well known from research undertaken by Universities that regular use of these resources by primary school children greatly increases maths and reading skills, increasing children's ability to do well during in year tests in all year groups.

**See overleaf for further information**

## In Summary...

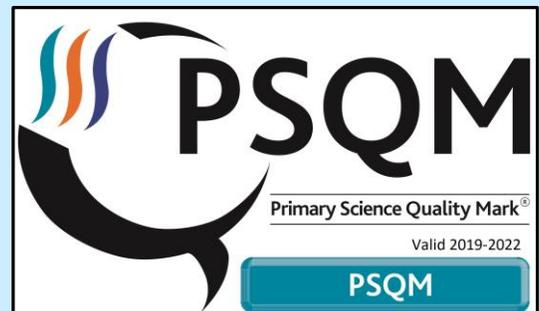
The teacher sets tasks each week for your child to complete on Mathletics.

Children are expected to be reading **every day** for approximately 20 minutes. This could be three times with their reading book and twice on Reading Eggs/Reading Express, or five times a week with their reading book and any extra reading being carried out for enjoyment using the electronic resource. This is in addition to the time the children spend reading each day at school. We do provide an area where children can read at break time for pleasure, or just because they need a quiet space, but we do not keep children in because they haven't read at home. This is your job as parents in order to support the school with the progress of your child and we want children to enjoy reading rather than see it as something they have to do because they have made the wrong choice at home.

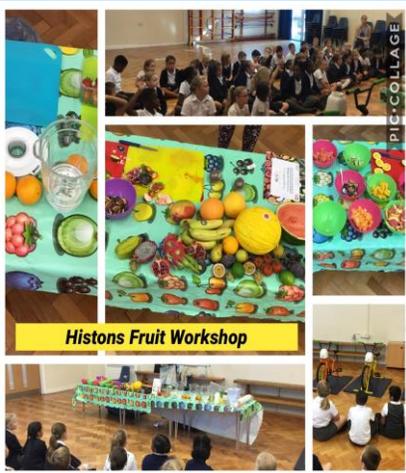
As staff we can track activity on children's accounts daily to check on their progress, anywhere in the world and at any time. If you need any help with either of these two resources please speak to your child's class teacher and they will be able to help you.

## PRIMARY SCIENCE QUALITY MARK (PSQM)

We are extremely excited to announce that we have received the PSQM (Primary Science Quality Mark). This is awarded to schools who have shown a commitment to excellence in Science teaching and learning. The Primary Science Quality Mark programme ensures effective leadership of Science, enabling schools to work together to share good practice and work in collaboration with local experts. It encourages school autonomy and innovation, recognising great Science teaching and learning taking place within a school environment. We have been invited to a special awards ceremony later on in the Autumn term to collect our school award. Well done to all the staff and children for their great scientific work!



## HISTONS FRUIT WORKSHOP – YEAR 3 & 4



As a school Year 3 and 4 children have been learning about balanced diets and keeping healthy. Histons, a company who supply our fruit to the school kitchen, kindly donated free samples of fruit to all of the children to try.

The fruits included the ones they were familiar, as well as more unusual fruits like papaya and dragon fruit.

After trying the fruits, the children had the opportunity to make their own smoothies by cycling on a bike connected to a blender. It was amazing how many miles were covered when a whole class makes smoothies!

## CRUCIAL CREW – YEAR 6

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September, Year 6 pupils were given the opportunity to participate in 'Crucial Crew'. This was an invaluable opportunity to learn about Train safety, Electrical safety, anti-drugs, first aid and much more (all in one morning)! The children worked in groups and participated in many workshops, highlighting the dangers associated with certain behaviours and learning essential skills to keep them safe in life. The experience was great and the children were a credit to the school and you, as parents.

## SUMMER READING CHALLENGE – ‘SPACE CHASE’

Thank you to all of the children and families who took part in the Stevenage Library Summer Reading Challenge –‘Space Chase’.

Please find below a lovely message from Michelle Lloyd, Library Manager at Stevenage Central Library, which was very lovely to receive.

*Dear Mr Hawkins,*

*I wanted to congratulate your school on the increase in participation this year, which is a big increase on last year. I'm also happy to announce that one of your students has won a place at the Steve Cole Mission Control event which is taking place at Welwyn Garden City library on 19<sup>th</sup> October. His parents have been informed, and have collected his ‘VIP behind the scenes pass’ this morning.*

*Only two Stevenage children won a place at this event so it's a real treat and should be a great event. Steve Cole has worked with us before and always puts so much enthusiasm into everything for the children.*

*Please pass on my congratulations to all the children who took part.*

*Best wishes  
Michelle Lloyd*

## CHILDREN’S ACHIEVEMENTS – OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

We love to help the children celebrate their outside achievements in the school newsletter.

Please send a photograph and a description of the event and 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](mailto:admin@woolenwickjm.herts.sch.uk)

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Congratulations to Shye, Year 5 Quartz, who came second in the Christmas poster competition in the old town earlier this month. She will be switching on the old town Christmas lights on 23rd November.

## 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.

## SCHOOL VALUES

As a school we are signed-up to a resource called 'Principles for Life and Learning'. Each month we have a dedicated 'value' which is taught and celebrated in assembly. There is an original song to help teach the meaning of the value and to help the children to understand and remember it through the power of music.

The monthly value is associated with our linked school values which are discussed during circle time each week. We thought it would be beneficial to share all these values with family and friends, so that you can help your son/daughter make the connection between the value and how they use it to enhance their lives. Please look out for monthly optional homework relating to 'values'.

The value for the month of **September** was **responsibility**.

The value for the month of **October** is **freedom**; and the linked school values for the month are: 'curious', 'good speaker'.

We will update you with each newsletter of the values for the month ahead. In the meantime, if you would like to share how your son/daughter has displayed these values at home or in their community please let us know by email: [admin@woolenwickjm.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@woolenwickjm.herts.sch.uk). The value for the months ahead are:

Month	Principles for life and learning	School values
October	Freedom	Curious Good speaker (freedom to have a say)
November	Democracy	Engaged Adaptable
December	Thoughtfulness	Caring Engaged Reflective

## HARVEST FESTIVAL – 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2019

Our harvest festival will take place **tomorrow, Wednesday 2nd October**, led by one of our local ministers Reverend Ruth Carroll.

Thank you to all those children and their families who have already given so generously. **We are still accepting food donations for tomorrow's celebration.** If you are able to donate please send your child into school with any non-perishable food items, for example:

- Tins of fruit or vegetables
- Tins or packets of soup
- Packets of rice, noodles or pasta
- Small boxes of cereal or oats
- Jars or packets of pasta sauces
- Packets of biscuits.

All items collected will be divided between local elderly residents in need and charities who support the homeless and families in need.

## HEALTHY BREAKTIME SNACK

We are a healthy eating school and encourage children to make positive choices with their food. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that at break time children are allowed a healthy snack; this could be a piece of fruit, crackers, vegetable sticks or something similar. Please avoid sending the children in with bags of crisps or chocolate bars.

Our school catering, Herts Catering Ltd, offer a break time snack service. For your child to make use of this service, books of 10 vouchers can be purchased online at a cost of £5 per book (50p per voucher) via the SchoolGateway. They provide a range of healthy food options like pieces of fruit, crackers and cheese spread, low-fat cheese on toast etc.

If you would like more information, please speak to Mrs Armstrong in the School Office.

## ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Each week in our Friday 'Achievement Assembly' we announce which classes (one from lower phase and one from upper phase) have the highest percentage attendance for the week. Classes who win this award are entitled to 10 minutes extra playtime and they get to keep the new attendance cup for the week!

## 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.

All pupils must arrive on time for school each day. We 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. This will ensure a settled start both for the whole class and individual child.

## 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 your 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.

If your child has been sick, had an upset stomach, or diarrhoea, they must not come into school until 24 hours after the last episode.

## FINAL MESSAGE

Thank you for your ongoing support and working in partnership with ourselves. If you have any questions, issues you wish to raise, or any good news to share, please get in contact with one of my team and they will be more than happy to help you out.

Kind regards,  
*G Hawkins*  
Mr G Hawkins  
Headteacher

## KEY DATES FOR AUTUMN TERM

- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.
  - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019
  - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019
  - Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019
  - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019
  - Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019
  - Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019
  - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019
  - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019
  - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019
  - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019
- Harvest festival assembly.** Please bring in food donations  
**Early Parents' Evening** 4.00-6.30pm  
**Late Parents' Evening** 5.30-8.00pm  
**Year 6 Learning Experience\*** 9.00-10.00  
**Year 5 Learning Experience\*** 9.00-10.00  
**Year 4 Learning Experience\*** 9.00-10.00  
**Year 3 Learning Experience\*** 9.00-10.00  
**Pantomime 'Beauty and The Beast'** at Gordon Craig Theatre  
**Year 3 and 4 Christmas Play**  
**Year 3 and 4 Christmas Play**  
**Last day of term. School finishes at 1.30pm**

\*Parents/Carers are very welcome to come to 'Learning Experiences'.