



Woodside Matters 1

from Mrs Davis

07.09.18

www.woodside.gloucs.sch.uk

Welcome everyone!

This extended newsletter is packed with information and dates about the term ahead. If you have any queries, please get in touch.

Welcome to the new term! It is lovely to see staff and children back at school and to see everyone refreshed (and cooler!) than at the end of July. The school is looking lovely after a busy holiday with work happening in three classes and a big sort out of resources. Please help us to keep the school looking smart and tidy by labelling all your child's belongings.

Information talks Parents/grandparents/carers are invited to a talk by their child's teacher on Weds 12th Sept. This is to inform you about your child's year ahead, about the curriculum expectations, homework etc and it is important that you attend. Talks will be repeated so that parents with children in different classes can move around the classes. The first talk will be 4-4:30pm; the second will be 4:30-5pm. Please make a note of this date. If children do come, they will need to sit quietly with you please as there is a lot of information to share. We really look forward to seeing you.

Parents' Handbook The Parents' Handbook has been updated and can be found on our website under 'Policies and Documents'.

Our outdoor area Many thanks to all at Ruardean Hill Sports Club for giving us picnic benches and bark chippings for around the pond. Many thanks to Martin Coleman for arranging this, fitting the benches together and making the pond area a great learning resource again. It is fantastic!

PARENT PAY Parent Pay accounts should always be in credit. Please check your account as several went into deficit at the end of term; school or Caterlink cannot pay off debts. We can't take multiple dinner bookings where accounts are in deficit except in exceptional circumstances. If you are experiencing difficulties, please let us know.

Harvest Festival All welcome on Friday 21st Sept at 2pm. That morning, children are welcome to bring in fresh or canned/packet foods and pocket money. We will set up a 'Harvest shop' for them to visit during the day and anything left will be sold at the end of the assembly. All proceeds will go to the village's Over 60s Christmas Dinner fund.

Play time snacks in KS2 should be healthy, non-processed foods please eg fruit, veg sticks, bread sticks, cheese etc. There should be no litter on the yard as crisps and chocolate bars are not allowed for snacks.

Communicating with parents and wider families

Download a free app called ourschoolsapp and type in our postcode GL179XP to keep up to date with regular alerts from school. Please ask childminders/grandparents too if they regularly drop-off or collect children as we very occasionally have to cancel clubs at short notice.

This term's school value is...**determination**

Office update

100 Club weekly draw If you would like to participate, cash payment now due for the next 2 terms £ 3.00 (Sept - Dec 2018).

Newsletters If parents would like a hard copy of any news letters please let Gina know on

gmatthews@woodside.gloucs.sch.uk

or call into the office.

Life Education Van

The Life Education Van is a great mobile resource! It's led by Julie Bignall, who brings Harold the Giraffe (a puppet) with her to teach the children age-appropriate topics about keeping themselves happy and healthy.

All the topics are to do with children's well-being and health.

I have booked this again for Weds 12th Sept. The van parks on the yard and is loved by the children. Each class has a slot throughout the day.

Parents are welcome to come for a look and a chat with Julie from 8:50 to 9:10am.

Communication with parents and families

Whilst maintaining our strong ethos, sense of community and helpful approach we are very focused on every child's education here at Woodside. Please have a look at the Parents' Handbook and a selection of policies on our website which explains this more fully. If you would like to see any more policies or have paper copies, please ask.

To ensure every child gets an equal chance at education, we offer a variety of ways for us to communicate with parents, including these newsletters, OURSCHOOLSAPP and our website. (Facebook isn't used as we cannot access it during the school day due to internet filters.)

We are very open about ways parents can communicate with us, including myself being available on the yard most mornings and for appointments; two office staff; phone and email contacts; teachers on the yard at the end of each school day. We encourage parents to make appointments for longer discussions as we prioritise the children when they are in class. If you have anything confidential to discuss at the office reception area, please ask for a quieter room to or feel free to make an appointment with Gina or Mrs Phelps.

We want parents to feel involved and informed and so the following events are happening this term:

Weds 12th Sept pop in to the Life Ed van if you can when you drop off your child.

Weds 12th Sept Information talks (see front of newsletter). These are a new offer and will help to share what your child does on a day to day basis and about the year ahead. There have been a lot of changes in education recently and this is a great way for you to keep up to date. Caterlink have been asked to attend to inform you about school dinners.

Weds 21st Sept 2pm Harvest Festival All welcome to this lovely community event

Mon 15th and Weds 17th Oct Parents' Evenings (letters to book appointments will be issued).

Woodside Families, open mornings, newsletters, posts on our website and on the APP are all ways to keep you involved. Please contact us directly if you have any queries.



School Attendance

At Woodside Primary School we believe that pupils need to attend school 100% of the time to benefit from their education and achieve their potential. Our Attendance Policy can be found on the website in 'Parents Info'. Whilst appreciating that common childhood illnesses circulate and some absence is unavoidable, please inform us if you have any issues with your child attending school. **All absences** must be reported to school before 9am on every day of absence. Due to safeguarding regulations, we must account for each child every day.

Holidays during term time

The head teacher cannot approve absences during term time for holidays. Some other absences may be authorised, such as for attending a wedding of an immediate family member or for a funeral. In the event of unauthorised absences, penalty and fines may be issued by the Local Authority without prior warning. **Each** parent would be fined £60 for **each** child's absence (eg two children £240.)

Parents, Teachers and Friends Association

The School has had an active PTFA, whose support is greatly appreciated. You are welcome to join in with social and fund-raising events so that 'added extras' can be provided for the children.

School will organise an Autumn disco (with cake sale) to top up PTFA funds so the children can see a Pantomime at Christmas! This will be on Wednesday 17th Oct so that Gina's Brownies pack can help to 'host' the event! (Gina is doing a Brownies letter).

Please could parents sign up via Gina to volunteer to supervise this event alongside school staff and/or donate cakes to be sold. More details will follow about the timings and organisation.

For information (dare I mention Christmas?!) the Panto will be on Thurs 20th Dec at the Village Hall after Christmas Dinner. At Christmas, school will organise a raffle of hampers and we'll have a non-uniform day for donations of items. All are warmly welcomed to an assembly on the last day of term, Fri 21st Dec at 2pm for a Christmas sing-along and for the raffle to be drawn! Reminders of dates will be on monthly calendars, the APP and website closer to the time.

Uniform

Children have come back to school looking super-smart! Our uniform is:

- Navy sweatshirt or cardigan
- White polo shirt
- Navy, black or grey trousers/shorts, skirts/pinafores/skirts
- Pale blue striped or checked summer dresses/shorts/playsuits
- Sensible black shoes

Uniform can be bought from anywhere and the logo is not statutory. Currently the items with school logos are ordered by parents from School Trends. I believe there have been a few issues with ordering so we will look into additional providers so parents have more choice.

Please do not allow your child to wear coloured trainers instead of black shoes.

Hygiene September is often a time when colds flare up due to children coming back together so please remind your child about hand washing and using tissues-we are doing so at school to minimise the spread of germs!

We will be using a fun e-bug teaching resource with the children, which is about keeping healthy, hygiene, hand-washing etc

Glen Cleaning has a cleaning vacancy at school for 11hrs per week. Please contact Caroline from Glen Cleaning on 077998868280 for more information.

No dogs on school field!

Common sense says that there should be no dogs exercised on the school field, but this has been reported over the summer holiday!

If you see anything, please let us know. (We have checked the field for the obvious traces!)

Thank you