



Welcome Back!

Here we are again in the last term of the year! It is a super-busy one and one that I hope everyone will enjoy. We have lots of lovely things planned, so please keep a close eye on the app, which takes you to key information on the website, newsletters and calendar.

Governors

We welcome Martin Coleman to the Governing Body and are very grateful that he stepped forward as our new parent governor. Governors meet formally at least seven times a year to work with school leaders on the strategic work of the school and we are grateful for their advice and input.

Current events

Our curriculum provision changes throughout the year to offer a wide range of opportunities. Current examples are the great clubs every day; ukulele and violin lessons; mosaic work; country dancing; swimming; investigative science work; French and lots of outdoor learning. Current topics are: Explorers in KS1 and Out of this World – planets and the solar system (KS2).

School funds

Monies raised throughout the year (eg Christmas DVDs, Photo commission, 100 Club) this year will be spend on purchasing new water bottles plus a Christmas Panto for the children. We really do appreciate the support received by our families and ensure that all the children at school benefit. Thank you

PTFA funds

Monies raised throughout the year (eg DVD club, ice pops, Sports Day BBQ) will be used for play time resources and activities that the well-being leaders help with. Thank you very much to Mrs Cottrell for suggesting and running the ice pops idea.

Battery Hunt—Recycling Project

Your child has been given a battery hunt box, to collect used batteries at home. Please return any used batteries to School by the end of term. Thank you

Traffic

We have had concerns raised at the speed that cars are driven by parents around the area at drop off and pick up times. If you are concerned about dangerous driving and speeding cars, please take action and report their number plates to the local police. Please do not put the lives of children at risk.

Holidays

Term-time holidays are not authorised and may result in the LA issuing a fine especially if attendance is below 95%. All absences must be accounted for so please complete a form for any absences, other than illness which must be reported daily by 9am. Thank you.

Uniform, hair and footwear

Please refer to the Parents' Handbook on the website regarding uniform, which is very important as it gives children a sense of identity and belonging. Any navy, blue checked, grey, black and white uniform is acceptable so we are very flexible about that and therefore expect support for the following:

- Footwear must be safe-no heels or thinly strapped sandals please as children need to be able to run on tarmac and grass safely. School cannot be held responsible if children are wearing unsafe footwear and socks **must** be worn with sandals.
- No shaved hair patterns
- No dangling earrings-small studs or hoops only
- No nail varnish
- Sun cream and hat when needed
- Jumper/cardigan every day and coat when needed

Please appreciate that we do not have spare time to monitor this regularly and contact parents for jumpers and coats all the time; we really need your support so that children feel they are part of our school community; are dressed appropriately for a busy day and come to school all sorted, ready to learn.

Thank you

This term's value is COURAGE You can do it!

'Moving up' sessions are planned for Tues 25th and Fri 28th June, when your child will get a taster of their class for September.

West Gloucestershire Schools Partnership (WGSP)

Background info:

WGSP is a strong partnership of primary schools. We started with schools in the Forest of Dean area and have now been joined by schools from beyond the Forest, so there are 41 schools currently involved. Throughout the year, a wide range of professional development courses are organised and monitored by the WGSP board, ensuring that all staff (Heads, teachers, teaching assistants and office staff) can access high quality training and implement good practice in our schools. Heads volunteer to work closely together to avoid rural isolation and ensure that our children get a good 'deal' during their primary school experience. Staff at Woodside are involved in numerous clusters, working with staff from other schools and sharing our practice often in voluntary sessions after school. We feel this is really important and our school, therefore our children, benefit too.

Some WGSP Heads are also part of Gloucestershire Association of Primary Heads (GAPH), which is an opportunity for us to meet regularly with other Heads throughout Gloucestershire to advise and work on current educational issues.

Country Dancing Festival:

WGSP volunteered to take on the running of the Country Dancing Festival a few years ago rather than it stopping, as it has been a tradition in the Forest for many, many years and is unique! We are very grateful to the volunteers who help this continue, including our staff here at Woodside. 30 schools are involved this year so it is a big community event!

For those who have indicated they are attending:

- The event field opens from 5pm if you want to go for food or take a picnic-there will be a pizza van, a burger van, coffee, sweets and ice cream
- There is plenty of car parking on Speech House field-Forest of Dean Lions and volunteers will direct cars.
- Each school has a segment of the circle, so our 'patch' will be clearly marked for you to find
- Dancing starts at 6:30pm, so please ensure you are there by 6:15pm at the latest as the event starts off with a parade of banners
- Our staff will give out country dancing skirts/neckerchiefs when children arrive-please return them before you leave
- Bring as many family members as you like-please make sure at least one member of the family stays to look after your child. Woodside staff are there to help the children enjoy the dancing but they won't be monitoring each child's whereabouts
- Woodside staff will tell you on the day which dances we are involved in, so please make sure your child is on our 'patch' ready for those!
- Bring something to sit on
- There will be portaloos and first aid support
- There will be Lucky Programme (raffle) each programme is numbered and this will be drawn at the interval with lots of prizes! Proceeds help towards subsequent festivals
- WGSP provide water, cups and biscuits for the children-and bin bags and recycling points
- Please help to leave our area tidy at the end to make it easier for the volunteers

Schools choose which dances to take part in-there are a lot and there is no expectation to do them all, so children will have breaks and a chance to be with you and have something to eat. When we see the final programme, we can let you know what time we think our children will have finished by if you don't want to stay until the end. We think the dances the children have learned are in the first section only. There will be a joint dance at the end (8:15 ish) in which families are encouraged to dance too.

Enjoy! This is a unique event and WGSP is a unique and important partnership for our schools. The event is always a great chance to celebrate our relationship with other schools and communities in the Forest. We have around 30 children going!

