



WOODHALL SCHOOL



www.woodhall.herts.sch.uk

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Tuesday 25th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your support this half-term through our full return to school following the second lockdown. It's been a very busy time! As a staff, we have carefully analysed each subject to ensure that essential concepts have not been missed through the school closure; and that time is given to revisit prior learning as well as introducing new learning. As usual, the children have risen to the challenge! This half-term has seen the introduction of subject-specific assemblies (either remote or in bubbles) in which teachers talk to children about what the subject involves, what they are learning, and key vocabulary.



DROPPING OFF/PICKING UP

For the remainder of the summer term, we will be sticking to our 'soft start' system in the mornings whereby parents/carers can drop children at school from 8.30am (Years 1-6) and 8.40am (Early Years). As you know, Woodhall Lane is a very narrow road with many 'blind corners'. A huge thanks to all of you who are extra-vigilant in the mornings. **To help us keep our children safe, please remember that although staff are on the gate each morning, we are not there to marshal traffic and (although we try) we cannot always see every child crossing the road. Please park before letting your child/ren out of the car. Do not just stop next to the school gates as this blocks the way for everybody else.**

We will be talking to each class again about road safety. Please also have a conversation with them at home. There are some great tips for parents on this website:

<https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Thank you.

FIRE DRILL

On Monday 25th May, a sensor fault caused the fire alarm to go off. The children were brilliant, thanks to previous drills. From Early Years to Year 6, they all knew the procedure well and left the building quickly and quietly so that they could be registered on the school playground. Thankfully, there was no fire and we were able to come into the building. **A special thank you to parents of Nursery children** who were picking up at the time, and all made their way back to the entrance gates as soon as they were told what was happening.

WELL-BEING QUALITY MARK (WBQM)

At Woodhall, we have decided to work towards a very special award called the 'Well-being Quality Mark'. Our focus is to raise levels of physical activity within the school community. I am currently putting together a 'working party' which will include myself and another member of staff, a group of children, and some parent representatives. The working party will meet every half-term. Between meetings, the adults will

work with 2 or 3 children on a specific action (for example, one group might be finding out about the activities children enjoy doing; another group might be writing to local sports' clubs to ask them to visit etc.) ***Are you interested in joining our working party?*** Please let me know via email or on the gate in the mornings. This will be a really exciting project for Woodhall!



SCHOOL LUNCHES

Just a gentle reminder that school lunches must be paid for **at the beginning of the week**. If you think that your children might qualify for free school lunches, please get in touch with Sue or Nikki in the school office who can advise you; or have a look at this website: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals>

GOVERNORS' DAY

On Tuesday 18th May, we held a 'Governors' Day' focused on foundation subjects. School governors spoke to children from Key Stage 2 about their learning and progress across subjects such as history, art, science and geography. Governors were very impressed by the subject-specific vocabulary used by the children; their factual knowledge and understanding about how their knowledge/skills were improving.

Here are some snippets from those conversations:

"We are learning about light and shadows but it's more developed now that we're in Year 6 – the work we did in Year 3 helped us. For example, in Year 3 we learned about looking into the sun – that it would damage our eyes. Now we are learning more deeply about light, for example we are learning about reflectors and opaque objects. I am learning more facts and developing knowledge about how things work."

"I'm better at using the vocabulary in geography – we have a vocab page in our books which we keep adding to, and we use this in our work. I'm better at finding things in an atlas, understanding about the hemispheres and Tropics of Cancer/Capricorn, and using more complicated keys."

"I like Science because it's also about how our planet works. We were learning about the history of vaccines and how Professor Gilbert invented the Astra Zeneca vaccine to help beat coronavirus."

"The work I am really proud of is my 'hunter gatherers menu' in history because we were learning about the earliest humans and how they didn't have the foods that we have now. We wrote a modern menu to compare – it was really interesting to see how different they are."

We often talk to children about English and maths...*why not ask your child about some of the other fascinating subjects that they have been learning about?* You will find a 'subject ladder' for each subject on our school website (<https://woodhall.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/>). This outlines the knowledge/skills taught in each year group for every subject.

SUMMER FAIR

Our 'Friends of Woodhall' group are busy preparing for our summer fair, which will (hopefully!) take place on **SATURDAY 3rd JULY from 11am-2pm**. Should we not be able to hold our fair due to government COVID guidelines, we will move the date to September.

In the meantime, we are asking that children bring in packets of sweets in exchange for dressing up in crazy sports' gear for our Zoom with Mr. Motivator on Friday 28th May. The class with the most sweets (by weight) will win an extra playtime!

After the half-term break, we will be asking for donations for our raffle hampers and the bottle tombola. Please look out for further information.



FUNDRAISING

In this current financial climate, we are keen to raise as much money for Woodhall as possible. On our website, you will see a letter written for companies/businesses who want to 'give something back' to the community. ***If you know about a business that might want to link with us and provide support either by funding or in other ways, please let me know so that I can get in touch.*** As usual, every little helps!

Next half-term, we will be running an ongoing fundraiser: **PENNY WAR!** This is a competition between the classes where we ask for small coins (1p-20p). Each class will have their own bucket to put their coins in. Please see the poster for further details.

COVID UPDATE

Should your child show any of the 3 main symptoms of COVID, you will need to get a PCR test and not just a lateral flow/ rapid test. You can book to attend a walk-in or drive in test centre or order a home testing kit here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Until the test comes back, the whole household must isolate. Please let us know the result as soon as you have it and call 111 or 119 if you need medical advice. If you receive a negative result, the symptomatic person may return to school once they feel well enough to do so and the rest of the household may stop isolating. However, if they have a temperature, sickness or diarrhoea, they must wait 48 hours until these symptoms have stopped. Coughs can persist long after the infectious period so your child may return to school as long as they have a negative test result and they feel well enough.

If you receive a positive test result, the whole household and any close contacts must isolate for 10 days from the date of the positive test. **Inform school immediately so we may take actions within the school.** Should the symptomatic person continue to have sickness or a temperature after the 10 days, they will need to isolate until 48 hours after the symptoms have subsided.

You must provide evidence of a negative PCR test before returning your child to school. Hopefully, the results will come back quickly and your child will be able to return to school. Thank you.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT
Monday 7th June	INSET day – STAFF ONLY
<i>Tuesday 8th June</i>	All children back to school Children's Art & Maths Week (activities in classes)
<i>Week beginning Monday 21st June</i>	National School Sports Week
<i>Friday 25th June</i>	Sports' Day – arrangements to be confirmed (depending on COVID guidelines at the time)
<i>Thursday 1st July</i>	2pm/6pm Year 3 & Year 4 production (this hasn't been possible for the past 2 years!)
<i>Saturday 3rd July</i>	Woodhall's Summer Fair 11am-2pm
<i>Wednesday 7th July</i>	2pm/6pm Year 5 & Year 6 production
<i>Wednesday 14th July</i>	School disco 6-7.30pm

Thursday 15th July	Year 6 leavers' celebration (evening)
Friday 16th July	Last day of term; school finishes at 1pm
Wednesday 1st September	Occasional Day – no staff, no children
Thursday 2nd September	INSET – staff only
Friday 3rd September	INSET – staff only
Monday 6th September	All children back to school

Please note that all planned events are subject to change in light of government COVID regulations.

Have a lovely half-term break and we'll see you on **Tuesday 8th June** (hopefully in some sunshine!)

Miss Lake

head@woodhall.herts.sch.uk



FRIDAY 28th MAY, 10am...ZOOM LINK:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85734090831?pwd=U1FEWThHWnpiYlFKM1p>
[aUm11cEhHUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85734090831?pwd=U1FEWThHWnpiYlFKM1p) Meeting ID: 857

3409 0831 Passcode: 119890

