



# WOODHALL SCHOOL



**PASSION ● RESILIENCE ● RESPONSIBILITY ● ASPIRATION ● INCLUSIVITY ● FAMILY**

Telephone: 0208 428 3447 [www.woodhall.herts.sch.uk](http://www.woodhall.herts.sch.uk) Email: admin@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

Woodhall Lane, South Oxhey, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD19-6QX.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Time flies, and we are now only a couple of weeks away from our half-term holiday! We are so pleased with the way that the children have settled in quickly to their new year groups and are focused on learning. Next week, you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and attainment with their class teacher at our consultation evenings. This is a great time to ask any questions, address any concerns, and celebrate your child's achievements! You will receive your appointment time on Friday. Please arrive promptly so that we can see you on time. Should you need to discuss matters in more depth (longer than the allocated 10 minutes at consultations), a further appointment can be made by emailing the class teacher.

**READING AT WOODHALL:** *'The whole world opened up to me when I learned to read.'* (Mary McCleod Bethune)

Something that teachers will be talking about at consultations is **READING!** Developing a love of reading fosters a curiosity about the world and a love of learning as a whole. It is an essential life skill. We are ambitious for all of our children and we make sure that reading is a great success for them. We encourage our children to read widely and often; and teachers provide children with a rich diet of literature in school, opening up new worlds to them.

At Woodhall, we lay the foundations for future success in reading through ensuring that every child masters the phonics code as quickly as possible; and can therefore decode words, read them and comprehend larger texts. Home reading books are well-matched to the phonemes (sounds) children learn at each stage and ensure that phonic knowledge is built rapidly and with clear understanding.

Phonics can be a baffling world for adults! If you would like to learn more, come to our **PHONICS WORKSHOP** on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2-3pm**, where Mrs Roby will provide a guide to how, why and when we teach children to read from Nursery to Year 2.

Teaching children to read does not stop at the end of Year 1! In each Key Stage, we have mapped out progression in the reading skills: *Word Reading, Vocabulary Development, Reading Fluency, Reading Comprehension* and the *Range of Reading*. Developing these skills not only builds solid foundations for reading, writing and spelling but enables the children to access the curriculum as a whole. You can see these for yourselves on our school website:

<https://woodhall.herts.sch.uk/english-2/>

We saturate our children in vocabulary; giving them opportunities to talk, question, listen and enquire; through the use of display, through discussion and feedback with adults in school and age-appropriate

glossaries and vocabulary pages in books. Our broad, rich curriculum has vocabulary at its heart. We know that building a good vocabulary brings confidence and enables our children to articulate what they are thinking; an essential life-skill. Through increasing our children's vocabulary, we increase their understanding of words and their ability to apply words in different contexts.



## TOP READING TIPS...

**JOIN OXHEY LIBRARY**...get your child a library card so that they can choose and borrow books for FREE!

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services>. Oxhey Library: 0300123 4049. Opening hours: Monday 2-6pm/Tuesday 9.30am-6pm/Thursday 9.30am-6pm/Friday 9.30am-6pm/Saturday 9.30am-1pm.

**ALL READING IS GOOD**...don't discount non-fiction, comics, graphic novels, magazines and leaflets. The important thing is that your child is engaged and excited by what they are reading!

**ASK QUESTIONS**...to keep them interested in the story, ask your child questions as you read such as, 'What do you think will happen next?' or 'Where did we get to last night? Can you remember what had happened already?'

**READ, READ, READ**... bring along a book or magazine for any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's surgery.

**READ IT AGAIN...AND AGAIN...AND AGAIN**... encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems. Re-reading is crucial and helps to build up fluency and confidence.

**DON'T FORGET ABOUT BEDTIME**...bedtime stories are brilliant. Read to your child; or let your child read to you! It's a great way to end the day and to spend valuable time with your child.

## ATTENDANCE: IN SCHOOL, ON TIME, EVERY DAY!

Thank you to all parents/carers who are working hard to make sure that children have improved attendance where appropriate. From Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October (the first Monday after half-term week), we will be re-launching our **STAR ATTENDANCE AWARDS**. Children will be able to colour in one star for each week that they are in school every day. We will be including punctuality, so **children will only be able to colour a star if they are in school at 8.50am**. Look out for our Star Attendance letter.

Children only get one chance at school, and your child's future may be affected by not attending school regularly. If you are worried about your child's attendance and need some support, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. We are here to help and will work with you to ensure our children have every opportunity to learn, socialise and thrive at school

## CLASS ASSEMBLIES

This term, we are inviting parents/carers/wider family members to attend themed class assemblies. This starts with Year 4 and Year 5 presenting a **dazzling Diwali assembly on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October**. Come and hear about wicked Ravana, the mythical multi-headed demon, and of how Rama, Sita and Lakshman defeated evil with the help of Hanuman's monkey army! Find out how Hindus and others all over the world celebrate this wonderful festival of light. Please sign in and make your way to our hall, where the assembly will start at 9am. We look forward to seeing you!

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

We will come together to celebrate Harvest at Woodhall on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October**. This is a very special time at school where the children always make us so proud of the way that they think about their local community and those in need. ***This year, we would like to invite our Year 6 parents/carers to join us for our Harvest assembly at 9am***. Our Harvest collection of food and toiletries will be given to South Oxhey Food Bank, whose volunteers are always very grateful for much-needed donations. Please see our Harvest poster for further details.



## MUSIC

At Woodhall, we absolutely believe in the power of music! Each week, we share our assembly tune (<https://www.facebook.com/woodhallprimaryschool>) so that you can play it at home. Children take part in music lessons in class, including a weekly Year 6 steel drums lesson with the fantastic Mr. Clarke. Very soon, our Early Years and Year 1 children will be taking part in some very special music sessions with Tansy from Herts Music Service. And now, **children in Key Stage 2 have the opportunity to take violin lessons at £52 per term** (great value for private music lessons). If you would like your child to take part, please ask for a letter, which details how to book. If payment is an issue but you would still like your child to have lessons, support is available and outlined on the letter from Herts. Music Service.

## WOODHALL MARATHON

Thank you for your support for this event. Money is still coming in, but at the last count we had raised approximately £900! This will fund new lunchtime equipment for the children, including indoor games etc. for when the weather is inclement. Our Woodhall Members of Parliament will be taking a lead role in consulting the children to find out what they would like to buy, looking at the budget, thinking about equipment that children with different needs can use and helping to order it. Look out for photos in the near future!

## SPOOKY SHOP

From **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October**, we will be opening a 'spooky shop' each day after school; selling children's Halloween novelties. A price list will be sent home next week. Once they're gone, they are gone! Huge thanks to the parents who have volunteered to help run our spooky shop.

## HALLOWEEN DRESS-UP

Halloween is on **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October**. At school, we are holding a Halloween dress-up. **£2 per child** if they would like to take part. Face paint is fine (as long as it doesn't irritate them over the course of the day) and accessories such as swords can be brought into school BUT children will **not** be able to take them out at playtime/lunchtime. If your child has PE on a Monday, please make sure that they are wearing trainers and they can stay in their costume for the PE lesson. **Children do not have to dress up and can wear normal school uniform.**

## NEON DISCO

On **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**, we are holding our 'neon disco'. Neon novelties (glow sticks, bracelets etc) will be available to buy during the day. We will send a price list out nearer the time. Children can come dressed in the brightest clothes possible and dance the November night away!

## NURSERY/RECEPTION HARVEST CRAFT WORKSHOP

Come and join in with some harvest craft! **If your child is in Nursery or Reception, join us from 8.50am on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October** for an hour of fun craft activities followed by tea/coffee. No need to sign up, just turn up! The session will finish at 11am. We look forward to some messy harvest fun!



# ★ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ★

DATE	EVENT	TIME
11.10.22	<i>Parents' Consultations</i>	Times will be sent out
12.10.22	<i>Phonics Workshop: teaching &amp; learning, how to support your child at home, phonics resources.</i>	2-3pm
12.10.22	<i>Parents' Consultations</i>	Times will be sent out
13.10.22	<i>Year 4/5's Diwali Assembly (parents/carers invited)</i>	9am
13.10.22	<i>Year 4 Tri-Golf Festival</i>	12.30-2.45pm (at St. Joseph's)
W/B 17.10.22	<i>Woodhall's 'Spooky Shop' open (Halloween novelties)</i>	3.30-4pm daily
19.10.22	<i>Years 1-6 Parents'/Carers' Reading Workshop: expectations, teaching &amp; learning, how to help your child at home.</i>	2-3pm
20.10.22	<i>EYFS Harvest Craft Parents' Workshop</i>	8.50-11am
21.10.22	<i>Woodhall's Harvest Festival</i>	9am
<b>24.10-28.10.22 HALF TERM WEEK</b>		
31.10.22	<i>Halloween Dress-Up (£2 per child - fundraising)</i>	N/A
3.11.22	<i>Year 3's Bonfire Night Assembly (parents/carers invited)</i>	9am
3.11.22	<i>Neon Disco (come wearing your brightest colours; neon novelties for sale during the day)</i>	6-7.30pm
8.11.22	<i>Nursery-6 Parents'/Carers' SEND Workshop: an overview of SEND processes, how to support your child at home.</i>	2-3pm
9.11.22	<i>'Window into Woodhall' Open Evening</i>	5.30-6.30pm
11.11.22	<i>Year 6 present 'Woodhall Remembers' (a Remembrance Day assembly; parents/carers of Year 6 children invited)</i>	10.30am (to include the silence at 11am)
16.11.22	<i>Year 6 trip to the Imperial War Museum</i>	Further information to follow
24.11.22	<i>Year 5 Fun Run</i>	12.30-2.45pm (South Oxhey Playing Fields)
30.11.22	<i>St.Andrew's Day – blue/white dress up (just for fun)</i>	N/A
1.12.22	<i>EYFS trip to local church/posting Christmas letters</i>	Further information to follow
5.12.22	<i>Occasional Day: school closed</i>	N/A
13.12.22	<i>KS2 present 'Carols by Candlelight'</i>	6pm
14.12.22	<i>EYFS Christmas story/songs</i>	11am-12pm
14.12.22	<i>Year 1/Year 2's Christmas Play</i>	2pm & 6pm
19.12.22	<i>The X-Mas Factor (talent show)</i>	Afternoon
21.12.22	<i>End-of-term</i>	School finishes at 1pm



Thank you,

Miss Lake

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<https://www.facebook.com/woodhallprimaryschool>

