

Woodlands Weekly



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Friday 14th December 2018
Newsletter No. 14



The spirit of Christmas has been flowing throughout the school this week:

- On Monday and Tuesday Y2 and Y5 brought the house down during their fantastic Nativity and Panto. With some fantastic singing, great acting, some exceptionally cheesy jokes we were treated to four great performances. Well done to all!
- Christmas lunch went down a treat – the children enjoyed a full roast dinner with all the trimmings (and crackers!), surrounded by festive music - and even some singing by the staff. Thank you to the kitchen team and all who helped.
- Last night's carols were a lovely occasion – Acorn hall looked particularly festive with twinkling lights and a crackling fire. Christmassy refreshments (mulled wine and hot chocolate) got everybody into a festive mood – and despite feeling rather poorly, Mrs Jones led the choirs and families with some beautiful Christmas music. Thank you to all who attended and performed (including the staff choir!).

Another huge thank you for your wonderful support of our Christmas charities and school music, which the office elves are busily counting. We will be able to report a total in January.

Thank you for your positive and enthusiastic support this term – we look forward to seeing you and your children back at Woodlands on Thursday 3rd January 2019.



Maths help for Parents – by the pupils!

Some of our Year 6 pupils have been playing the role of teacher recently demonstrating all four number operations, even with one of our trickiest mathematical concepts: long division! After learning the method themselves earlier in the year, they recorded videos explaining how to approach these questions using an example. We have chosen two to go on the website and we hope they will be a useful reference for you (and a reminder for your children!) should you come across all four number operations during a homework task.



Christingle Assembly – Tuesday 18th December

As usual, pupils will be taking part in a Christingle Assembly led by Rev. Sharon and Victoria from the Methodist Church. In order that all children participate, please could you send in with your child, in a **named** bag:

- an orange (or tangerine etc.)
- 4 cocktail sticks with **dried fruit** threaded on
- a birthday candle in a holder

If you are not familiar with Christingle Service, it is a simple retelling of the Nativity with audience participation! As the story of Christmas is told, the children assemble the Christingle from the things you have provided and at the end a few of them light their candles and we sing as they are lit. Sadly, we don't have room to be able to invite parents to these assemblies but photos will go on the website.



Inter-house cross country – a reminder from Mr

Levett

All pupils in KS2 (Y3-Y6) will be participating in Inter-house running on Monday and Tuesday next week. Please make sure that they have their warm PE kit and appropriate footwear with them.



A Boy Called Christmas by Matt Haig

Do you want to know the true story of Father Christmas? If so this book is for you. Nikolas is a young boy when his father leaves to go on a daring expedition to find out if elves really do exist. Left with his mean Aunt Carlotta, and struggling to survive, Nikolas sets off to find his father. Helped by his friend Blitzen the reindeer and Miika the mouse, he eventually discovers the magic of Elfhem. Can Nikolas bring happiness and goodwill back to the miserable elves and find his true purpose in the world?

I loved this book because it was fun, imaginative and full of Christmas magic and it tells the story of Father Christmas as a boy!

By Ellie, 4 Chestnut



Severe Weather Information!

May we remind you of the ways in which we communicate with parents in the event of severe weather, for example heavy snow. We always make every effort to open the school and we would only close if it is no longer safe for staff or pupils on site. However if we have to close, we publicise this in several ways:

- An emergency news item on the school website
- Parentmail - texts and e-mails sent to all parents
- Kent Closures website (www.kentclosures.co.uk)
- KMFM, BBC Radio Kent or Heart FM will also publicise closures
- ***On such occasions, please only telephone the school in an emergency. Thank you.***

Ways you can help:

When accessing the site on icy or snowy days, please keep to pathways which have been cleared and gritted around the school site.

- Children will need to have warm coats, hats and gloves as well as wellington boots (or similar) so that they can play outside - as we like to make the most of the snow.
- It is possible that you would need to provide a packed lunch, if the kitchen team are unable to cook – but we would always let you know if this is the case.
- Please make sure that if you are working some distance from the school, you have a back-up plan in place should we require to close early.

Please access www.kent.gov.uk/winter for more information about gritting routes etc. so that you can plan your journey.

Cars with engines running

Once again we have received a complaint from a local resident regarding cars parked in Sullivan Road for at least 45mins in the afternoon with their engines running. Please be considerate to our neighbours and the environment and turn your engine off as soon as you have parked.

Menu Change for 19th December

Please note that, on the last day of term, the children will be offered fish & chips or a vegetarian option as a main course (not a roast as advertised).

Staff News

We are waving a sad goodbye to Mrs Richards, our Site Supervisor, at the end of December as she leaves us to join a large local secondary school site team.

Mrs Osborne has worked fantastically as a Teaching Assistant in Key Stage 1 for over ten years and will be joining a local surgery as part of their administration team. We wish them both the best of luck with their new roles. Earlier in the month we welcomed Mrs Speiser to the school as a teaching assistant in Y1 and Y5.

Attendance News

Year Group	% Attendance
R	95.4
1	98.2
2	97.7
3	95.5
4	94.2
5	96.1
6	96.3

I'm not sure whether it is the winter weather kicking in, but attendance is looking a little low in some year groups. Remember to make medical and dental appointments out of school time wherever possible.

Date for Parent Forum – Thursday 10th January 2019 at 6.30pm

Each term we run a Parent Forum linked to a subject either requested by parents – for example, last year we ran a forum around the topic of 'Homework'- or around a topic on which we would like your input. All parents are invited to attend and take part in what is often an interesting and lively debate. In January, Mrs Hardcastle and Mrs Tarrant-Blick are leading the discussion around **'Working Together to Support Anxiety'**. Please email the school office if you would like to attend (office@woodlands.kent.sch.uk) so that we have some idea about numbers.

A parent correctly spotted that support can mean 'encourage'! We mean the opposite of this – perhaps we shall refer to the session as, **'Working Together to Reduce Anxiety'**!



FEAST is on the front page of The Times of Tonbridge this week!

It's not too late to get involved; see the newspaper, or feast.org.uk or Mrs Hardcastle for details.



Football Clubs with Mr Heath

"Unfortunately, due to my absence from school for a period before and after the Christmas break, there will be **no** Football Club on Mondays / Tuesdays until further notice. On my return, I will determine when best to start up again and let everyone know accordingly.

Please accept my apologies for any disappointment or inconvenience caused."

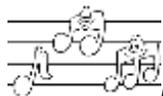
Mr Heath



Please note that there will be **no** school clubs in the final week of term (w/c 17th December 2018).
In term 3, clubs run by staff will start again in the **second full week** of term (w/c 14th January 2019).
However, all clubs run by Mrs Jones will resume in the first full week back (w/c 7th January 2019).

Admissions to school in September 2019

If your child is due to start school in September 2019 you can now make an online application for a place at www.kent.gov.uk/ola and a booklet explaining the admissions procedure is also available online. The closing date for applications is Tuesday 15th January 2019.



Music News

The Senior Choir are performing at Tonbridge School Chapel on Saturday and needed from 2.45pm, wearing their school uniform. The service should run for just over an hour. Full details have been sent by Parentmail.

Music Assembly on Monday in Oak Hall at 2.30pm. The KS2 recorder group, Senior and Junior choirs, ukulele group and school band will be performing, together with several solo instrumental players. There will be audience participation with singing! Please come along and support the children who have been working so hard at their music this term. Mrs Jones will be in the music room at lunchtime for any last minute rehearsing. Please remind the children to bring in their instruments on Monday!

The music clubs will start again in the first full week of next term.



Superstar Corner

Congratulations to Trinity in 2 Elm who recently won the Beth Gaved Trophy for under-18 horse riding at Bradbourne RDA for the progress she has made this year.

Well done to Isla in 5 Ebony, Evie in 5 Nutmeg, Sofia in 6 Peach, Jorja in 4 Chestnut, Gabriella in 6 Lime, Arianna in 4 Chestnut and Harrison in 6 Peach who all gave outstanding performances at the Tonbridge Community Pantomime, Snow White, at the weekend.

Congratulations to Taryn in 6 Peach who has passed her Grade 1 drum exam with distinction.

PTA NEWS

While you're all busy doing your Christmas shopping, don't forget to use our charity links when shopping online. We have set up the school PTA with Easy Fundraising and Amazon Smile. It doesn't cost you anything but when go to websites via these links and check out, they will donate directly to our PTA. It is small amounts but this will soon add up to be some worthwhile funds.

EASY FUNDRAISING

Please use this link before visiting retailers' websites.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/woodlandsfrieends/>

AMAZON SMILE - FREE FUNDRAISING

Please use this link to join your account with Amazon Smile.
<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1090106-0>

COMEDY NIGHT - 1ST FEBRUARY 2019

New Year, new laughs! We are holding our comedy night again at the beginning of February. This has been a very popular event for the last 2 years with a high standard of comedians currently working the London comedy circuit. Tickets are £12.50 each and available on ParentMail or via the booking form. If you would like to sit together on a table, please email details to: woodlandscomedynight@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

- COMEDY NIGHT - 1ST FEBRUARY 2019
- KS1 DISCO - FRIDAY 26TH APRIL 2019
- KS2 DISCO - FRIDAY 7TH JUNE 2019
- CLOTHING COLLECTION - FRIDAY 17TH MAY 2019
- SUMMER FAIR - SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 2019
- FIREWORKS NIGHT - SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2019

Community News

The Coca-Cola London Eye team. We have vouchers in the entrance hall for 50% discount off tickets to the London Eye. The voucher covers up to 5 people, please come and help yourself.

Premier education Group Extra-curricular courses at Woodlands Primary School. A great chance for your children to get active and have loads of fun with friends taking part in activities they love and also may not have tried before. **Clubs running at Woodlands Primary School:** Gymnastics Club – Thursday – 8:00–8:45 – Years 1-6 - Only £48 for the term (12 sessions – 10th Jan – 4th April 2019). To book, please visit www.premier-education.com/schools/extra-curricular

Come and Celebrate Christmas at Tonbridge Methodist Church:

Sunday 16th December - 10.30am Nativity for all and 6.30pm Christmas Carols.

Christmas Eve - 3pm and 5pm Christingle.

Christmas Day – 10am Christmas Day Celebration.

Letters Home

- All Comedy Night ticket form
- All Woodlands Comedy Night poster
- All Pizza Party 17th January

Diary Dates

18th Dec Christingle Assemblies (KS1 and KS2)

2019

- 10th Jan Parent Forum 6.30pm
- 31st Jan Senior Choir at Young Voices, O2
- 1st Feb PTA Comedy Night (tickets on PMail)
- 26th April KS1 Disco
- 17th May Clothing Collection
- 7th June KS2 Disco
- 22nd June Summer Fair

9th Nov

Fireworks Night

Dates/times which have been changed or added

Class Assemblies – 2.45pm

17 Jan 5 Nutmeg

24 Jan 3 Oak

31 Jan 3 Yew

12 Mar 1 Hazel

19 Mar 1 Juniper

26 Mar 1 Willow

4 Apr R Magnolia

9 May 5 Damson

23 May R Cherry

13 Jun 2 Elm

20 Jun R Tulip

27 Jun 2 Palm

4 Jul 2 Cedar

Term Dates

19th October Term Ends
29th October Term Starts
19th December Term Ends

3rd January 2019 Term Starts
15th February Term Ends
25th February Inset Day
26th February Term Starts
5th April Term Ends
23rd April Term Starts
6th May Bank Holiday
24th May Term Ends
3rd June Term Starts
19th July Term Ends
22nd July Inset Day
23rd July Inset Day

2nd Sept 2019 Term Starts
18th Oct Term Ends
28th Oct Term Starts
18th Dec Term Ends
6th Jan 2020 Term Starts
14th Feb Term Ends
24th Feb Term Starts
1st Apr Term Ends
16th Apr Term Starts
4th May Bank Holiday
22nd May Term Ends
1st June Term Starts
22nd July Term Ends

(Please note that Inset Days for the academic year Sept 2019 to July 2020 have yet to be confirmed)