

Woodlands Weekly



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www.woodlands.kent.sch.uk

Friday 29th November 2019
Newsletter No. 12

Calling all last submissions for the headteacher's photography project! Monday will be the last day. I will then make a display of the photographs which have been handed to me. Well done to all of those who took part. Kent really is so beautiful at this time of the year. It has been great to see our young photographers playing with the techniques I showed them.

In assemblies this week, we looked at the Rights of the Child, following Universal Children's Day last week. We explained what children have rights to and how these are not in place in parts of the world due to poverty and war.



The week has finished with a focus on tree-planting, as part of the Woodland Trust initiative Big Climate Fightback #EveryTreeCounts. We have taken the opportunity to plant the fruit trees gifted to the school by Mrs Priestley. The school council has also chosen the site to plant their own silver birch. They are taking root next to the vegetable garden. This is an area that is now neglected, following the departure of a keen member of staff who looked after it with the children. If you are a keen vegetable gardener and would be able to provide a weekly session working with a small group of children to tend to the area (and initially resurrect it!), please let me know. I like children to have access to outdoor learning – especially when you can eat the results!

I met with a pupil in Year 3 yesterday, who has proactively sought to initiate improvements to the outside toilets. We discussed the issues under review and have made plans together to use them and keep them better. Pupil voice in action!

Calling all pupils, parents and friends of Woodlands. Our Christmas fair is on tomorrow, from 12 until 3pm. Come along and enjoy the festive fun! Santa will be present and there are lots of prizes to be won. The PTA has been working extremely hard to make it all happen so please

come along to support. If you would like to help on a stall, please let Caroline know – it's never too late to volunteer!

Hope to see you tomorrow – Santa hats a go-go!

Vicki Lonie
Headteacher



Year Group	% Attendance
R	95.4
1	95.8
2	94.4
3	95.0
4	96.6
5	95.7
6	97.0

Staff News

Just to provide an update to all parents....

Mrs Kimber, who has taught at Woodlands for many years, will be leaving at Christmas for her next adventure. Mrs Chatley will also be leaving for a period of time to have her baby and Mr Adams will be returning next week after the birth of his. We will be joined by Mrs Helen Hunter in Reception after Christmas and Mrs Cameron will be teaching full-time in Year 5 for terms 3 and 4 until she leaves on maternity leave. Busy times and babies galore!!

Governing Body update

The Governing Body had its second meeting of the academic year last night. We welcomed our two newly elected parent governors – Lark Snow and Glenn Fisher. Thank you to both of them for putting their names forward. Thank you also to everyone who completed the parent feedback questionnaires that were handed out at the recent parent consultations. We will be considering the responses at our next meeting in January.

Data Collection Sheets

Please can you remember to return your checked data collection sheets to the Acorn school office as soon as

possible and by Friday December 6th at the very latest. Thank you.

PTA Christmas Fair filled Jam Jar competition

The winning class for collecting the largest number of filled jam jars for the Christmas fair this year is 1 Tulip Class. They collected 146 jam jars and have won an 'own clothes day'.

Christmas Productions CORRECTION

Please note that Mrs O'Keefe (one of our governors) has kindly offered to open the back gate in Sullivan Road for access to the **AFTERNOON** Christmas performances. The gate will be open 15 minutes before the start of each **AFTERNOON** performance so don't arrive too early as you will be waiting in the cold! Apologies for the confusion.

Our house names are changing and we need your help!

We have decided to change the names of our four houses and we would like the children's help! The rationale is that two of the houses share the same name as two classes and we would like the names to be both inspirational and aspirational, alongside the improvement of our curriculum. We want our new names to be **memorable, follow a theme and to be inspiring for our pupils**. Could you encourage your children to think up ideas for the four new house names and send any suggestions to mburns@woodlands.kent.sch.uk. We will choose some of the best suggestions to be put forward to all pupils to vote on their favourites. Thank you in advance!



Christmas

We want everyone in our school community to feel as excited about Christmas as we are! If you are worrying about it and would like to know what is on offer for families over the festive period, please have a chat with Mrs Hardcastle. There are plenty of schemes locally that we can refer to; from tickets to events and lunches, to food packs and toys. Perhaps you'd like to nominate someone else? That's fine too – just get in touch!

School Clubs

Please note that lunchtime and after-school clubs will **NOT** be running during the last week of this term (Monday 16th – Wednesday 18th).

In **Term 3**, lunchtime and after-school clubs will start again from the **second** week of term, **w/c Monday 13th January**, only Mrs Jones' Senior Choir will start from the first week back.



Christmas Post Boxes

The Christmas Post Boxes will be up and running in both buildings on Monday 2nd December. If your children would like to send a card to other children or members of staff, all they need to do is write the **name (and class if applicable)** on the envelope and pop it in. Our Christmas elves have asked me to remind you that we cannot send cards to mums, dads, nannies or grandads –**only to people in our school**.

Children arriving after 8.55am

Please remember that any child arriving at school after **8.55am** must be signed in at Acorn Reception stating the reason for lateness and lunch preference. Please do not knock on the closed classroom door. Thank you.

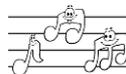
Admissions to school in September 2020

If you have a child due to start school next September 2020 you can now make an online application for a school place at www.kent.gov.uk/ola and a booklet explaining the admissions procedure is also available online. If you have any questions please contact the school office, the Primary Admission team on 03000 416111 or email primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk. The closing date for applications is **Wednesday 15th January 2020**.

We have one remaining tour of the school available on Monday 13th January 2020 at 2pm. If you would like to visit on this date please call our school office on 01732 355577.

Christmas Lunch Tuesday 17th December DEADLINE

If your child has lunch every day then they will automatically be catered for. If your child usually brings in a packed lunch **you will need to advise their teacher or the school office (office@woodlands.kent.sch.uk) that they would like Christmas lunch**. The reason for a deadline is to prevent any unnecessary food wastage and so please let us know by **Friday 6th December**. Please ensure that KS2 children have sufficient funds in their lunch account to cover the cost of the lunch. **If your child would like the vegetarian option please email their name and class to office@woodlands.kent.sch.uk by Friday 6th December**.



Music News

Senior and Junior Choir: There will be singing at the Christmas Fair on Saturday 30th November at 12.30 in Oak Hall for about 15 minutes. The children can wear own clothes and Christmas hats – word sheets will be available. Thank you for all those who have returned their slip for this and for the carol concert on 12th December.

Senior Choir are looking forward to singing at the Tonbridge Family Carols Service on Saturday 14th December at 4pm in the Tonbridge School Chapel. A ParentMail is going out shortly with the final arrangements. Because of the rehearsing needed for this and the Children in Need event we have just had, we are organising some extra lunchtime rehearsals for the Young Voices songs over the next two weeks. Mrs Jones will have two Wednesday rehearsals between 12.15 – 12.45 in the music/art room and Mrs Tucker-Bays will have rehearsals on Thursday lunchtimes, venue to be arranged. Please note Senior Choir will be starting again straight away on Wednesday 8th January as we only have two weeks to rehearse before we go!

All the music clubs will be performing for you at our first KS2 music concert (previously called music assembly) on the last day of term, Wednesday 18th December at 2.30pm in Oak Hall. You are welcome to come, although space is limited! Please encourage the children to learn their parts and song words so they are ready on the day to perform to you. Year 4 will be playing Jingle Bells and the link for this is now available on the class page on the website. Thank you for your support.



Superstar Corner

Grace in 6 Nutmeg was absolutely delighted last night to have passed her ASA Stage 7 swimming as well as receiving her 100m distance certificate AND being presented with her Bronze Stage 3 Rookie Lifeguard Award. We are so very proud of her and the commitment she shows to the sport.



Jessica and Harry in 5 Bay ran the race of their lives at the weekend when they took part in the Kent schools' race at Brands Hatch, coming 13th and 11th respectively. There were around 150 competitors in each race so we think you will agree that they both deserve huge congratulations. Well done.

PTA News

Thank you for the last of the fair donations today. We are now busy setting everything up for tomorrow. We look forward to seeing you at the fair from 12pm-3pm, 50p per adult, children free. Both the front and back gate will be open.

Father Christmas is taking up his new residence in the outside Grotto this year - head to Mrs Christmas' room to book your slot to see the big man, £3 per child. Why not mix up some reindeer food while you are there too. (3 Cedar classroom).

We have some exciting new games this year too, Racing Pigs in blankets and Rudolph's carrots. With the option for little ones to have a break out space on the ride ons, if the noise and excitement of the games gets a bit much!

And of course our fabulous raffle including prizes such as £50 Boden voucher, restaurant vouchers, Panto & cinema tickets, days out, Science museum tickets and many more, including 'be the head teacher for the day' in the children's raffle!

HELPERS

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time to make the Christmas Fair happen. It's always the hardest and most stressful part of arranging an event, but it really does make a difference to everyone involved. There are moments when we really do have to make the call if we can go ahead with an event or not. As our lives as parents are getting busier with the work, school and home life juggle, we would like to work together to make our events happen with less stress. We are bouncing some new ideas going forward but if you have any suggestions please let us know.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

If you purchased Christmas cards online they should have been sent home in your children's bag yesterday.

If you missed the fundraising deadline, fear not! You are still able to order cards up until 10th December. You will just need to pay a fee for them to be posted to your home address.

CAROL CONCERT

We like to give back as well as fundraise for the school, so the PTA will be providing complimentary mulled wine and hot chocolate at the Carol Concert. So come and join us on Thursday 12th December with a warming drink whilst listening to the children sing.

Letters Home

- All Feast Xmas flyer
- Y5 Evening performance letter
- All Creatables flyer
- All Photograph Survey

Diary Dates

2019

- 3rd Dec Year 3 Christmas Production 2.00pm
- 3rd Dec Year 3 Christmas Production 7pm
- 4th Dec Reception Christmas Production 9.30am
- 4th Dec PTA Wreath Making Event
- 5th Dec Reception Christmas Production 2.15pm
- 9th Dec Year 1 Christmas Production 2.15pm
- 10th Dec Year 1 Christmas Production 9.30am
- 10th Dec Year 5 Christmas Production 2pm
- 10th Dec Year 5 Christmas Production 6.30pm**
- 11th Dec R Baobab ALJ Session 2-3pm
- 12th Dec Year 2 Christmas Production 2.15pm
- 12th Dec Carol Concert 6pm
- 13th Dec Year 2 Christmas Production 9.30am
- 13th Dec R Marula ALJ Session 2-3pm
- 14th Dec Senior Choir Carols at Tonbridge School 4pm
- 16th Dec KS1 Christingle 9 – 9.30am
- 16th Dec KS2 Christingle 10 – 10.30am
- 16th Dec R Acacia ALJ Session 2-3pm
- 17th Dec Christmas Lunch
- 17th Dec Christmas Jumper Day
- 18th Dec KS2 Music Concert 2.30pm in Oak Hall

2020

- 22nd Jan O2 Concert for Senior Choir
- 24th Jan BAGS2SCHOOL
- 1st May KS1 Disco
- 5th Jun KS2 Disco
- 15th-19th Jun Y6 Isle of Wight trip
- 20th Jun Summer Fair
- 18th Jul Y6 Leavers Party

Dates/times which have been changed or added

Class Assemblies – 2.45pm

- 21 Jan 5 Hawthorn
- 28 Jan 3 Elm
- 4 Feb 3 Palm
- 11 Feb 3 Cedar
- 10 Mar 5 Bay
- 11 Mar 1 Cherry
- 18 Mar 1 Magnolia
- 25 Mar 1 Tulip
- 29 Apr R Baobab
- 10 Jun R Acacia
- 17 Jun R Marula
- 1 Jul 2 Juniper
- 8 Jul 2 Willow
- 15 Jul 2 Hazel

Term Dates

- 18th Dec Term Ends
- 6th Jan 2020 Inset Day
- 7th Jan Term Starts
- 14th Feb Term Ends
- 24th Feb Inset Day
- 25th Feb Term Starts
- 1st Apr Term Ends
- 16th Apr Term Starts
- 8th May Bank Holiday
- 22nd May Term Ends
- 1st June Term Starts
- 22nd July Term Ends