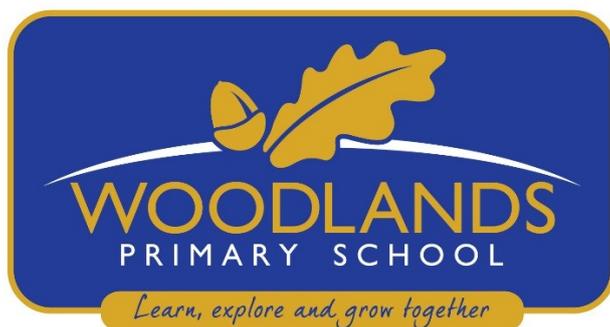


# Woodlands Weekly



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Friday 17th January 2020  
Newsletter No.17

I'm pleased to report that the weather hasn't dampened the enthusiasm for learning for teachers or pupils this week! We started the week revisiting 'Growth Mindset' in assemblies. The younger children read the story 'Giraffe's Can't Dance' and explored how success was achieved through perseverance. The older children looked at the difference between a growth mindset and a fixed one.

Year 3 pupils have been buzzing about their exciting Rock Day – read on to find out more – and Year 2 pupils have been using story maps to plan out the story of 'The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark', in preparation for writing. Our Senior Choir are also working away in preparation for the Young Voices event at the O2 arena next week. The excitement is palpable!

We also had a PTA meeting this week. Plenty of exciting events to look forward to. I hope you can make our first Family Bingo event on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Details are in the PTA section, but it should be a good opportunity for families to come together and enjoy an evening out. I will be there with my children and there will be plenty of prizes to win for the children. A jacket potato tea will also be available. Come and join the fun!



I had some useful feedback before Christmas regarding parents' understanding of what the PTA is. In a nutshell, all parents are members of the PTA automatically by being a parent of a pupil at Woodlands. There is a committee who plan events and then the committee rely on the support of the wider parent body to hold the events.

Obviously, the more volunteers we have, the bigger and better the events can be. If there are any grandparents or extended family who would like to offer their time, please do get in touch - the more, the merrier!

A huge 'Thank you!' to parents in Years R to 2 who supported us by opting for a school dinner on census day. Unfortunately, we had 13 pupils absent so the really good take-up has helped to keep funding levels fair for this academic year. Yay!

Finally, many of you will have suffered some illness or bug over the last few months. As a result of this and some individual factors, our attendance figures are rather low for the autumn term. Remember that if your child is slightly under the weather, let us know and we can support them throughout the day. Absences should only occur in the event of a contagious illness such as a sickness bug, or more serious health issue. The common cold is a regular occurrence and shouldn't require time away from learning. It's surprising how much learning takes place in a day (despite the standard 'nothing' I'm sure some of you receive when you ask what your child has done!), so children really miss out from just one day of absence. Speak to the class teacher or office staff if you are unsure.

Fingers crossed for brighter weather and improved health!

Have a lovely weekend!

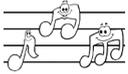


Vicki Lonie  
Headteacher

Year Group	% Attendance
R	93.5
1	93.8
2	95.8
3	95.5
4	95.8
5	97.8
6	96.8

### **Rocks, rocks and more rocks**

The whole of Year 3 have now had the full Mr Berry Rock Day experience. The screams of delight and wide-eyed wonder that Mr Berry can inspire leave the children with a lasting interest in the science behind what can appear a very dull subject. The children learnt about different types of rocks and their properties, how the Earth is formed, and what happens in a volcanic eruption. The Year 3 teachers now take up Mr Berry's *mantle* (no pun intended) and will endeavour to teach the rest of our Rocks and Soils topic with the same level of enthusiasm – no pressure!



### **Music News**

The Senior Choir are looking forward to their trip to the O2 Arena next Wednesday. Please refer to the Parentmail for information. The concert starts at 7pm and finishes at 9pm. The following week we will be starting work on new songs for the choir competition on Thursday March 26th, more information to follow shortly.

Dates for your diary: There will be another Music concert on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April the last day of term, at 2.30pm. Our annual KS2 Music evening will take place in Oak Hall on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm.

Tom Williams still has one or two spaces for Wednesday guitar lessons. If you are interested please email him on [Tomwilliamsmusic@hotmail.com](mailto:Tomwilliamsmusic@hotmail.com).

### **Dangerous driving—IMPORTANT**

**We have received a report of a child being knocked by a car on Higham School Road this week.**

I have heard from a number of very upset parents who are concerned with the number of cars pulling into Higham School Road at the start and finish of the day. Many families have to cross the road at the top to access the path or school entrance, so this causes a safety issue. Only residents, staff and those parents with special permission should be using the road to access the school car park or homes. Parents should be parking further away and walking in. On rainy days, this area can become particularly dangerous, as visibility is affected. Please leave home early and bring an umbrella to enable school to be a safe place for children to walk. Please also refrain from parking on pavements in local roads such as Sullivan Road, as this can force families onto the road to walk.

Our efforts and attention in school should be on the welfare and education of our pupils when in school. It is a shame that so much time is spent discussing the dangerous conduct of a relatively small proportion of the parent population. Any solutions to the problem, that do not

involve staff patrolling the area, would be greatly received.

**The advice we have received from PCSO Linda Baker is : 'If any parents come into the school to report any issues around the driving/parking of parents outside the school, can you please advise them to call 101 please.'**

### **Message from Tom Tugendhat's office**

'Thank you very much to the students who entered the 2019 Christmas Card competition which Tom ran.

Due to the General Election timing, this meant Tom ceased to be an MP at the start of November which to be honest caused a lot of chaos with the competition – it meant we couldn't contact anyone until after the election! That is why you won't have heard from us, for which I apologise.

However, fortunately we have been able to get certificates printed and these should be with you within the next couple of weeks. Every child who entered has one. Unfortunately the winner for this year's card did not come from Woodlands but may do next year!'

### **Car Idling**

Please remember that it is extremely polluting to leave your car running whilst waiting for your child. Both parents and local residents have been bringing this to our attention.

### **Message from School Trends**

**10% off all uniform items in January:** School Trends is running a promotion throughout January to get **10% off all uniform**. School Trends regularly run offers like this so subscribe to their emails to ensure you don't miss out. **Use the code '19XMAS'** when checking out to get a **10% discount on your order**.

### **PTA News**

#### **BAGS2SCHOOLS – FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY**

Our next collection is next Friday!

Collection bags went home last week in your child's bag but any bag is fine to use for extra donations.

We will have collection points available on Thursday 23rd January and Friday 24th January before school, and Thursday 23rd after school, with the option to drive up your donations to the school after 4pm. At pick up and drop off times on Thursday, you can leave bags by the back gate or by the yard (by the white gates opposite the Roselands entrance gate). The van arrives on Friday morning so please make sure all donations are delivered by drop off on Friday morning.

Clothing collected by Bags2School will make journeys all over the world to start their new life! This can be a purpose built second hand store in Eastern Europe or South America, or a market stall in East or West Africa, providing valuable employment for importers, warehouse staff, transport

companies and stall holders as well as affordable clothes for local people. Regardless of whether clothes are given to charities, clothing banks, or Bags2School this is where the goods are all sold.

### **FAMILY BINGO – FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 6pm**

We're excited to be hosting our first bingo night at school on Friday 7th February, doors open at 6pm with the first game starting at 6.30pm. Tickets are now on sale for £1.50 per adult and 50p per child via Parentmail or using the booking form with cash/cheque to the office.

Tickets include 1 bingo card for each game. We will be running 3 games. Additional cards can be purchased on the night, including separate tickets for our Golden game which will be a cash prize!

There will be a cash bar and we will be serving snacks and jacket potatoes.

### **COPPER CHALLENGE – TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY – FRIDAY 27th MARCH**

After the success of the 5p challenge we will be running a copper challenge. This will begin next term and run until the Easter holidays. So get saving those coppers ready for the launch.

**OUR NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:** Tuesday 3rd March 7pm in the staff room. At this meeting we'll be planning our events for the next term - everyone is welcome!

### **Community News**

**Tonbridge Parent Support Group** will be holding a drop in coffee morning on Wednesday 29th January at 9am at the Methodist Church in Higham Lane, everyone is welcome.

**Premier Education** will be running sports and dance based holiday activities this February half term at a nearby venue. Available for children of all abilities aged 4-12 with action packed days consisting of fun games and sports for your children. There will also be dance specific courses running at select venues. Venues are as follows:

- The Weald Sports Centre, Cranbrook
- Putlands Sports Centre, Paddock Wood
- West Borough Primary School, Maidstone
- Cage Green Primary School, Tonbridge

Standard days run from 9:00am-3:30pm and are £16 per child per day. Extended days run from 8:30am-5:00pm and are £20 per child per day. Book 2 weeks or more in advance to receive an automatic 15% discount or speak to a Premier Education Activity Professional in your school to receive their exclusive 20% discount code. To book your child's space, visit [www.premier-education.com](http://www.premier-education.com)

**Jigsaw Drama, Singing & Dance.** Two week trial available, contact 02084474530, email: [enquiries@jigsaw-arts.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@jigsaw-arts.co.uk) or website: [jigsaw-arts.co.uk](http://jigsaw-arts.co.uk). Local classes are held at Knole Academy in Sevenoaks, leaflets are available from Acorn entrance hall.

### **Letters Home**

- All Ultimate Activity Camp poster
- Y1 Leeds Castle trip
- Y2 Kent Life trip
- YR Chatham Historic Dockyard trip
- All PTA Bingo poster
- All PTA Bingo Ticket form

### **Diary Dates**

#### **2020**

22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	O2 Concert for Senior Choir
24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	PTA BAGS2SCHOOL
7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	PTA Family Bingo 6pm
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb-27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	PTA Copper Challenge
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Y2 Kent Life trip
3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	PTA Committee meeting 7pm in the Staff Room
4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	YR Chatham Historic Dockyard trip
4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Y1 Leeds Castle trip
26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Choir Competition
1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Music Concert 2.30pm
1 <sup>st</sup> May	KS1 Disco
5 <sup>th</sup> Jun	KS2 Disco
11 <sup>th</sup> Jun	KS2 Music Evening Oak Hall 7pm
15 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Y6 Isle of Wight trip
27 <sup>th</sup> Jun	PTA Summer Fair
18 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Y6 Leavers Party
12 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Y5 Carrotty Wood trip

Dates/times which have been changed or added in light blue.

### **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**

14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Term Ends
24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Inset Day
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Term Starts
1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Term Ends
16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Term Starts
8 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Term Ends
1 <sup>st</sup> June	Term Starts
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Term Ends

### **2020/2021**

1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Inset Day
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	Inset Day
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Term Starts
23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Term Ends
2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Term Starts
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Term Ends
4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Inset Day
5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Term Starts
12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Term Ends
22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Term Starts

1st Apr	Term Ends
19th Apr	Inset Day
20th Apr	Term Starts
28th May	Term Ends
7th Jun	Term Starts
2nd Jul	Inset Day
21st Jul	Term Ends

**2021/2022**

1st Sept	Inset Day
2nd Sept	Term Starts

**INSET Days**

We have had a few inquiries into the dates for next academic year's INSET days. This is earlier than I would usually set them. INSET days are incredibly precious opportunities for staff to come together for a whole day at a time to explore facets of education. We do not know until later in the year what the training needs will be for the coming year as these are based on monitoring and data from the current year. The training need often dictates the time of year so for this reason, planning ahead too early can be less than ideal. However, I understand that parents like to make the most of these opportunities to plan trips and holidays ahead of time, so I have set the following dates for next year:

- Tuesday 1st September 2020
- Wednesday 2nd September 2020
- Monday 4th January 2021
- Monday 19th April 2021
- Friday 2nd July 2021
- Wednesday 1st September 2021