

**Woodlands Primary and Nursery Newsletter**

**January – March 2019**

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and best wishes to you all for 2019. We have a lot of exciting things planned for this term so please keep an eye on the school app for updates.

**Staffing Update**

We currently have only one member of staff in the school office, while we endeavor to answer the phone and door buzzer as quickly as possible we would appreciate your patience as at times the office can be very busy. We also have a large number of calls between 2.30 and 3pm from parents asking us to pass messages on to their children - in most cases the children are already aware of the arrangements for the end of the day. **It is vital that parents make their children aware of the arrangements for them at the end of the day before they come to school and only contact the school if arrangements have changed at the last minute or in the case of an emergency. Many thanks for your understanding and co-operation.**

**Homework**

Full details of the Parent Council Survey of Homework can be found on the Parent Council Page on our school blog. While it is impossible to meet the requests of all parents we are keen to find an approach that best suits the majority of our Parent Forum. Understandably there are some parents for whom the more traditional approach to homework is preferred, however this is not reflected by the majority and is not complimentary to current approaches to learning in school. Therefore this is not an option that would best meet the needs of pupils or of most parents.Many have reported that they are happy with the focus on reading and with Sumdog however issues arising are with deadlines and accountability. Taking this into account our approach will be as follows:

**Homework will be issued for a term, this will be a sheet with a range of tasks and will include literacy, numeracy and health and well-being. Children should complete one task per week in any order they choose and return this to school on Monday of each week. Children will be issued with a homework jotter for this.**

**Children will have access to all areas of Sumdog which includes Maths, Reading, Writing and Spelling, this has involved the school paying for a whole school subscription and the materials have been tried out in school. Undertaking approximately 5-10 minutes on Sumdog every day will allow children to answer the same number of questions as they would in a worksheet. Children are welcome to do more than this but as a guide 5-10 minutes is ample time. Teacher are able to see how the children have got on and set challenges for them which supports their learning in class.**

**Children in the lower stages will continue to bring home reading books and common words for daily practise. Children in the upper stages will be encouraged to read for enjoyment at home and a range of books are available for them to borrow in school.**

**Breakfast Club**

In recent weeks some of the younger children have been coming into school prior to the start of the school day rather than lining up with their class which has implications on supervision arrangements. The only children who should be in school prior to the start of the school day are those in P1-3 who arrive on the school bus and those children who attend and are registered at breakfast club. Only on wet mornings or when indicated by school staff should children be brought to the main door as supervision in these circumstances is provided by SMT. Many thanks for your co-operation.

**Parent Open Morning** 

Parents are invited to visit their child’s class on Friday 25th of January between 9.15 and 10.15 to join them in their learning. This is a great opportunity for you to be a part of your child’s learning and to experience school in 2019!

**Fairtrade Fortnight **

Fairtrade fortnight commences on Monday 25th of February and during this time the children will be doing some work in class linked to fairtrade and there will be a fairtrade tuckshop operating in the school. However we will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Friday 8th of March from 9.30am – 12noon. Please come along and enjoy a fresh made pancake with fairtrade toppings and a cup of tea or coffee for a small donation to charity. Classes will be coming along to sing – performance times to be issued in advance so that you can time your visit well. All parents, family and friends are welcome!

**Parent Teacher Meetings** 

You and your child are invited to meet with your child’s teacher on Thursday 14th of March 2019. Appointments will be offered between 3.15pm and 5.15pm and then 6.30pm and 8.45pm. Appointments for children attending the nursery will be available between 9am and 5.30pm. Letters will be issued in due course and texts will be sent to confirm appointment times. I would urge you to attend these meetings as it allows us to work together to ensure the best possible education for your child, as the pupils are present this is a great opportunity for them to share their progress with you. I will be available on the evening so please speak to me if you have any concerns or queries.

**Comic Relief**

Comic Relief 2019 will take place on Friday the 15th of March. We will be having special activities day based on Children’s Rights, linked to the work of Comic Relief. Children can come to school wearing something red – they can pay £1 for the privilege of not wearing their uniform on that day!

 **Nursery News** 

On Friday 29th of March the timing of the nursery session will slightly alter to accommodate the early closure and ensure that all children are able to access their full entitlement. Children attending the morning session should come at the normal time of 8.45am and be collected at 11.55am. Children who normally attend in the afternoon should come at 11am and be collected at 2.10pm. This will allow us to enjoy some party games with all the children in the school hall from 11am until 11.45am, snack will be more substantial with lunch items such as sandwiches as some children will be attending over lunchtime.

The nursery Daffodil Tea will take place on Tuesday 16th of April, letters will be issued via the nursery in due course.

**Holiday Arrangements** 

The school will be closed on the following dates:

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| Monday 11th February | Closed |
| Tuesday 12th February | Closed  |
| Wednesday 13th February | Closed In Service Day |
| Friday 29th March  | Close at 2.30pm |
| Monday 16th April  | Re-Open |
| Friday 19th April | Closed – Good Friday |
| Monday 22nd April | Closed – Easter Monday |

As always, if you have any concerns regarding your child’s education then please do not hesitate to contact me. You can contact me in person, by phone or email at ht@woodlands.n-lanark.sch.uk

Thank you for your continuing support,

Nicola Ferguson

Head Teacher