 **Woodlands Primary and Nursery Newsletter**

**August – October 2023**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year, all of the children have settled very well into their new classes and it is great to see them enjoying being with their friends.

**Playground**

Just a reminder, that from Monday, no parents including those of our new primary 1 children are permitted in the playground in the morning as this keeps disruption to a minimum as all staff are involved in settling children into school. We do however welcome all parents to come into the playground at the end of the school day to collect their child. If you do need to speak to someone in the morning please contact the school office.

**Dog Fouling**

We have had significant issues over the last few months with dog fouling in the playground, please can we remind you that no dogs including those small enough to be carried, are permitted within the playground at any time.

**Meet the Teacher**

You are invited to come along with your child to meet their teacher on Thursday 14th of September from 3.15pm – 3.45pm or from 5.00pm – 5.30pm. This is an opportunity for you to meet the teacher, have a look around your child’s class and view some of the resources that your child will be using this year.

**Communication**

In the coming weeks we will be making a move from School App for Parents to Parent Portal Scotland. Information on how to register will be sent out and we urge all parents of both nursery and primary pupils to sign up as this will be our main form of communication going forward.

In the meantime we will continue to use the School App for Parents and the school blog.

All nursery parents will be added to the Learning Journals App where information is shared regarding their child’s learning and weekly lunch menu. Microsoft teams will be used for communication regarding what your child is learning in their primary class and ways that you can support them at home. All newsletters and core information will be sent by email, please check your email and ensure that we have correct details.

**Birthday Cakes**

Can we please kindly ask that you do not send in sweets or cakes when it is your child’s birthday.

**School Uniform**

It is a joy to see the children wearing their school uniforms. This encourages school pride and promotes a sense of belonging. Given the current challenges families are facing with the increase in the cost of living we want to alleviate as many pressures as possible, should you require uniform throughout the year please visit our uniform swap shop which is in the main foyer. We would also like to highlight that there is no requirement to purchase branded uniform. Please label all of your child’s clothing to ensure that items are easily identified.

**PE –** Children should come to school ready for PE on their allocated days. However this should be a polo/sweatshirt and leggings or joggers. This is not an opportunity for children to come in their casual clothes and they should not be wearing tracksuits or patterned leggings/crop tops or any football colours.

**Medication**

If your child needs to take medicine in school please contact the office as you are required to complete an administration of medicines form which is retained in school. To ensure health and safety of all children, please do not put any medicines in your child’s school bag.

**Car Park**

To ensure the health and safety of all children could I please remind you that the car park is for **staff only** and should not be used by parents when dropping off or collecting children from school. Our current staff numbers mean that space in the car park is limited. **In order to ensure the safety of all children and allow access for the school bus, the gates to the car park will be closed at the start and end of the school day.**

**Staffing**

The classes for this year are as follows:

Primary 1 Miss Pamela Donald

Primary 1/2 Mr Lewis Haxton

Primary 2 Miss Eilidh Murray

Primary 2/3 Miss Jennifer Donaldson

Primary 3 Miss Deborah Park

Primary 4 Mrs Fiona Pollock

Primary 4/5 Mrs Lauren McGowan

Primary 5/6 Mrs Tracy Davidson

Primary 6 Miss Lindsey Henderson (Mrs Maher covering on Tuesday)

Primary 6/7 Miss Jennifer Stewart

Primary 7 Mrs Katy Bellamy

Mr Griffin will work with all classes for PE, Mrs Maher and Mrs MacMillan will be working to support individual pupils and groups. As always, classes may be subject to change during the school year however our priority is to ensure continuity for the children and we strive to keep disruption to a minimum.

**Breakfast Club**

A breakfast club operates within the school between the hours of 8.15 and 8.50am and children are provided with cereal, toast and fruit juice. Children are supervised by Miss Kellie Cunningham and are allowed to access a range of games and activities once they have finished their breakfast. Children are allowed to go outside at 8.50 to line up with their class as all playgrounds are supervised at that time. **Please note that in order for children to have time to eat their breakfast they must come no later than 8.40am**. Breakfast club is free of charge for all children in receipt of free school meals including all children in primaries one to five otherwise the cost is £1 however the cost reduces to £1.50 for families with two children and £1.80 for families with three children.

**School Meals**

**All pupils in primaries one to five receive free school meals.** There is also a top up service which allows children who are entitled to free school meals who bring a packed lunch to school to get milk, fruit, yoghurt or a biscuit. These items can also be purchased by any child with a packed lunch who is not entitled to free school meals. Tuck runs on Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday where children can purchase milk, toast, cheesy toast, fruit or a biscuit.

**Data Check**

All children will be issued with an envelope containing a range of information including the Data check forms, permissions etc. next week, please ensure that all forms are returned to school by Friday 1st of September as these are essential should we be required to contact you in an emergency. **Should your details change during the school year it is vital that you inform the school immediately as our main form of communication is by phone or text**.

**Homework**

In order to make homework more effective and relevant to current educational practice the teacher will give pupils some areas to practice at home and some possible practical activities that will help them. While no formal written homework will be set – for those parents who still prefer traditional homework the choice is yours as to how you help your child practice. It is not a requirement that homework is uploaded to Teams as the teacher sees the impact of practicing at home in class. For pupils in primaries one to three, some lists of common words and sounds will be sent home to support learning, at this stage we will also continue to send home their reading books for them to read at home. This term children in primaries four to seven will be allowed to take their reading book home for practice however in the past this has led to books not being returned. Children will only be given new reading books when their old one is returned to the teacher. Help in looking after the books would be much appreciated.

**Parent Council**

Our Parent Council AGM will take place on the 1st of September at 1.30pm within the school and all are welcome. We currently have a number of vacancies in the parent council and would encourage everyone to think about getting involved. If you are keen to know more about what is going on in the school, keen to help us build a community around our school or a dab hand at fundraising we definitely want to hear from you. All posts are up for re-election this year and we would love to see more people get involved. If you are interested in joining the Parent Council please email us at woodlandsparentcouncil@gmail.com and let us know. Elections will take place at the AGM so please get in touch ASAP.

**McMillan Coffee Morning**

We will be having a coffee morning on Thursday 21st of September during which the children will come along and sing a wee song. Timings for each class will be sent out in due course via the school app and blog. We would encourage those who can to come along and enjoy a wee coffee and piece of cake with donations going to McMillan.

**Woodlands Tots**

Our parent and toddler group will restart on Friday 29th of September and will run every Friday morning from 10-11.30am. This will take place within the learning zone and will be supported by volunteers and school staff. We look forward to welcoming parents and any children from 0-3 years, please note that this is not restricted to parents whose children attend Woodlands and is open to the wider community.

**Dates for your Diary**

Thursday 21st September McMillan Coffee Morning

Friday 22nd September School Closed - Holiday

Monday 23rd September School Closed – Holiday

Friday 29th September Nursery Stay and Play 2pm – 3pm

Thursday 12th October Primary 1 Stay and Play 2pm – 3pm

Monday 16th October School Closed - Holiday Week

Monday 23rd October School Re-Opens

Thursday 2nd November Parent Consultations 3.15 – 7.30pm

Friday 10th November Primary 2 Stay and Play 2pm – 3pm

Monday 13th November School Closed - In Service Day

Friday 24th November Primary 3 Stay and Play 2pm – 3pm

Saturday 2nd December Christmas Fayre

Friday 8th December Primary 4 STEM and Stay 2pm – 3pm

Monday 11th December Primary 6 and Primary 7 Party

Tuesday 12th December Primary 4 and Primary 5 Party

Wednesday 13th December Christmas Lunch

Friday 15th December Whole School Nativity

Monday 18th December Primary 2 and Primary 3 Party

Tuesday 19th December Nursery and Primary 1 Party

Thursday 21st December School Closes at 1pm

Monday 8th January School Reopens

As we enter a time of even greater financial challenge for all our families we strive to keep the cost of our school day to a minimum. We also have supports available in the form of our food and clothing bank which can be accessed discreetly via the school blog or by calling to speak to a member of the management team. We strive to respect the privacy of all and any supports will be confidential.

Full details of school holidays for this session can be found on the school website and a paper copy can be found in your pack.

As always, if you have any concerns or queries regarding your child’s education, please do not hesitate to contact myself or another member of the management team at any time. I look forward to an exciting year in Woodlands Primary School.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Ferguson