

WESTWOOD NEWS

Summer Term (2) 2019

A message from
Mrs Aldous, Mrs Barnes & Mr Wilkes

Dear Families,



The second half of the Summer term has gone so quickly despite it being one of the longest of the year! This is because it has been packed full of exciting activities and learning opportunities for all our children.

The weather was kind to us for our Sports Day events this year and each one was very well attended by families. A big 'Thank You' to our PE coach, Mr Stent, and the teaching teams for organising the sports activities and races and to the PTFA for running the food and drinks stall. In total, £306 was raised - thank you for all your support!

The Summer fete was a great success, raising £810.20 which will be used to support activities and opportunities for our children. Thank you to the PTFA who organised the event, and to the volunteers, staff and families for supporting! A wonderful time was had by all.

We have a few changes to staffing for September: Miss Daly & Miss Sutliff will be joining our team over at Grove Primary School, Miss Foster & Miss Sherwood have secured positions in local primary schools, Miss Mitchell is moving into Adult Social Care and Mrs Barnes will be taking maternity leave. As a result, we are pleased to welcome the following teachers who will be joining the Westwood Team: Mrs Andrews (Nursery), Miss Clark (Year 1), Miss Willeard (Year 3) and Mrs Hinton (Year 4). Mr Taylor has been working with us since May half term and will be taking his class up into Year 5 next year. We are also pleased to welcome Mrs Bayfield, who will be the new (non-teaching) SENDCo. Mr Wilkes & Mrs Barnes have been working closely with Mrs Bayfield to ensure a smooth transition and there will be appointments available for you to meet with her in September.

We wish all our families a fun-filled and safe Summer holidays and look forward to welcoming our children back to school on
Wednesday 4th September 2019.

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Nursery

This term in Nursery, we have looked after caterpillars; the children checked on them daily and watched them turn into butterflies to then be released into our garden. We have also been recapping on all the learning we have done this year including name writing, numbers, measure, rhyming and shapes. The children have been independent when exploring the woods in Woodland School, by going on their own "adventures." Thank you to all the parents that joined us for our sports day, we hope you had a lovely time.



Year 1

This half term we have been learning about "Under the Sea". The children have looked at life cycles and food chains in Science, deepening their understanding of the world and how things change. It has been great to see the children becoming historians, learning about the famous explorer Christopher Columbus and how his exploration impacted the understanding we now have about our world and the seas surrounding it. A highlight this term, however, was our work on recycling and keeping our local environment clean. We went on a KSI litter pick to the park and raised over £250 towards an end of year school trip to the Sea Life Centre. Thank you all for your continued support this year, it has been amazing!

Reception

Reception have been learning about the life cycle of a butterfly, watching our caterpillars grow and change as they went through the different stages. Some of us were lucky enough to see one emerge from its chrysalis and we all released them into our garden, where we got to have a closer look. In Maths, we have been solving problems involving halving, doubling and sharing using our knowledge of number to help us. We have had lots of exciting writing hooks this term including a trapped superhero and a floating house which have prompted lots of wonderful writing. We visited Pettitts for our end of year trip where we learnt about lots of animals, watched a magic show and were risk taking rabbits going on some fast rides!



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Year 3 & Year 4

Year 3 and 4 have had a fantastic term learning all about the Ancient Greeks. We have learnt about Ancient Greek democracy and how this has impacted our modern day democracy. We have also explored Ancient Greek architecture and the children have had the opportunity to use Ancient Greek systems of design to create and test the structure of their own Greek building. We all really enjoyed our visit from Portals to the Past who put on an Ancient Greek day for the children. The children were immersed in Ancient Greek culture and learnt all about Ancient Greek soldiers. In Science, the children have been exploring forces and have studied the effects of friction, gravity and air resistance. The children have performed scientific enquiries to test which material would be best suited to making a bicycle brake. They have also designed a parachute that creates enough air resistance to stop an egg cracking when dropped from a height. We have had a really exciting term and look forward to all the learning that will happen next year!

Year 5

This half term, Year 5 have been looking at shapes, angles and translation in Maths. We have been: describing regular and irregular shapes; identifying, comparing and ordering angles; and describing shapes after they have been translated. In Literacy, we have worked on two pieces of writing: diary entries and persuasive speeches. Using drama, the children were able to describe the characters emotions and motives, whilst a visit to the woods enabled the children to develop their setting description. The children also worked on house captain speeches, using persuasive techniques to try and convince their house peers to vote for them. This half term, we continued our topic on Tudors. We focused on the Battle of Bosworth; how history remembers people based on their position of power; and the mark that certain historical figures left on the world. We also had a rematch of the 'battle' against the Year 6 team and unfortunately were defeated once more.

Year 6

Leadership Opportunities and Improving Citizenship

At Westwood Primary, we believe it is important to develop leadership skills alongside teaching our children to become good citizens within our school community, as well as the wider community. There are many ways that this takes place at Westwood already and we aim to further develop opportunities in 2019/20.

School Council Representatives

Each September, two children from each class are elected to be representatives on the School Council. They prepare speeches and are democratically voted in to the position. New elections will take place in September. They are responsible for deciding on a project for the year and organising activities to support this.

House Captains

Two Year 6 children from each House Team are elected by the other members of the House. Once again, they prepare speeches and are democratically voted in. They are responsible for counting the House Points throughout the year and supporting in our weekly Celebration Assembly. Next year, they will be further involved in organising House events and competitions.

Assembly Monitors

Year 5 children are asked to support the adults running the assemblies during the week. This may take the form of holding doors and taking responsibility for the music.

Playground Buddies

A group of Key Stage 2 children act as Playground Buddies, looking out for and supporting younger children on the playground at lunch and play times.

Sports Leaders

Older children will be asked to be Sports Leaders, taking responsibility for leading sporting games at lunchtimes and playtimes. They will be trained to lead children in activities and will be responsible for refereeing and organising activities.

Lunch Time Support

Our Year 6 children come into the hall at 12:00 and are assigned to specific tables (along with a friend of their choice) to eat their lunch alongside our Reception and Year 1 children. They act as good role models and support the development of a school community where everyone talks to, and supports, one another. They may help the younger children cut up their food and engage them in conversations. A group of Year 5 pupils act as salad bar monitors.

Eco Warriors

Eco Warriors is a new project planned for 2019/20. Children will sign up to be part of a team who organise and lead regular litter picking and recycling activities to help make Westwood more Green!

Junior Road Safety Officers

2 children from Year 4 and 2 children from Year 5 are elected each year to be our JRSOs. They promote road safety and organise activities throughout the year.

Mental Health Ambassadors

This is another new project for 2019/20 and will be run by Mrs Williams. The Active Learning Trust North Suffolk Hub are launching a joint initiative to promote children's mental health: CHIMP (Children's Health is Mental and Physical). Mrs Williams has already met with School Council representatives to discuss what this means for Westwood and there will be many activities, both in school and at home, for children and adults to participate in.



Attendance

We are committed to working with parents to further improve our attendance rate.

Attendance at school is very important for children's learning and development. If children are absent from school, it not only affects their education but has a negative impact on them both socially and emotionally. Poor attendance at school can lead to children's life chances and opportunities being detrimentally affected. Poor attendance can also lead to lost friendship groups and missed opportunities to take part in school events.

Punctuality matters too! Missed minutes = missed learning = missed opportunities. As a school, we are aware lateness can also disrupt children's learning and development. It is also very important that children establish good routines and habits in preparation for the rest of their lives. Punctuality is a life skill that needs to be developed whilst they are young.

An updated Attendance Policy has been agreed by Governors. This has been sent to all families via ParentMail and is available on our school website. Copies of all our policies are available from the School Office on request.

Visits/Visitors

If a visit (including a residential) takes place during school curriculum time, by law, the school can only ask for a voluntary contribution by parents. This means that every child, by law, has the right to attend the visit and, even if they do not make a voluntary contribution, they are still entitled to go.

Unfortunately, the cost of visits/visitors are rarely covered by the voluntary contribution - the school therefore has to meet the remainder of the cost.

The school no longer has the finances to be able to do this and we are, therefore, not able to run visits/visitors at a financial loss to the school.

This means that visits/visitors may not always go ahead.

Visits and activities that are organised outside of term time or after school can be fully funded by parents and we can only take those who pay. However, the school always wants as many children to be involved in the activity or visit as possible, so many of these activities are run with the goodwill of staff. Staff cannot however, be instructed to run a trip at these times.

As a result, we will continue to organise visits, visitors and activities, but they may not be as frequent as they were, or may be cancelled if funds to cover the costs cannot be secured. We will be looking at sponsorship for trips and the PTFA will be supporting wherever possible.

School Uniform Reminder

Westwood Primary School has a *uniform*, which we expect all children to wear.

This uniform is as follows:

- Purple jumper/cardigan with the Westwood logo
- White polo shirt or white shirt/blouse
- Black pinafore dress, tailored trousers, shorts or skirt (no jogging bottoms or leggings)
- Plain grey, black, navy or white socks or tights
- Black shoes (no trainers or boots)
- School book bag



In the Summer, girls may wear purple and white summer dresses

Polo shirts/shirt need to be tucked in and cardigans done up. When not worn, jumpers/cardigans need to be put in your child's school bag, not tied around their waist or over their shoulders.

Westwood logo jumpers/cardigans can be purchased from the school office.

Westwood Primary School also has a *P.E. kit*, which we expect all children to wear for their P.E. lessons.

This is as follows:

- White T-shirt
- Black shorts
- Black slip-on plimsolls
- Trainers for outdoor P.E.
- Tracksuit for the colder months



Earrings must be removed or covered with tape for P.E. lessons.

Please ensure that children come to school in the above school uniform and have their P.E. kit in school every day.

Please ensure all items are clearly marked with their name.

Pupil and Parent Support Advisor.

Mrs Dawn Williams is our Pupil and Parent Support Advisor and is available to speak to parents, carers and families on a daily basis. She is very experienced and can provide advice on a range of different parent and family matters. If you need any help, advice or just a listening ear, please contact her through the school office.



CONTACT DETAILS

Please ensure we have your up to date contact details. This includes current address and telephone numbers.



ParentMail

Please ensure you sign up to ParentMail, this is how you will receive all means of communication such as trip letters, events within school, tournaments etc. Please speak to the school office, if you have any problems - paper copies are available upon request only.



WEBSITE

Please keep an eye on the school website.

The address is:
www.westwoodprimary.org

You can also follow us:

Twitter : @Westwood
School
Facebook : Westwood
Primary School



PTFA

Our PTFA have set up their own Facebook page, please search 'Westwood PTFA' and it is the one with the purple and red logo. They post updates of upcoming events and ways in which you could get involved so please take a look. The PTFA are recruiting new members for September so if you can spare some time to help them, please do get in touch!



Arriving at School

The school doors are unlocked at 8.30am. From this time you may bring or send your child into their classroom. Teachers will be waiting for the children in the classroom from 8.30am where learning activities will be take place.(8.45am for Nursery and Reception children)

Please do not hesitate to come into the classroom to speak to your child's teacher at the beginning or end of the school day.

We have a breakfast club available from 8.00am every morning at a cost of £1.50 per day.

LOST PROPERTY

Please ensure you have labelled your child's school uniform. It is much easier to find the owners and return items quickly if they are labelled. At times we have an extensive range of lost property which we cannot keep for more than a term.

Woodland School

Next year, we will be continuing with Woodland School just in a slightly different format. These changes have been based on feedback from parents and pupils. Woodland School will take place for one six week block, every term. For example, in the Autumn Term, for one half-term there will be two discrete P.E. sessions per week and for the other half term, there will be one discrete P.E. session and one Woodland School session.

Car Park

Please be aware that the car park at Westwood Primary School is solely for staff parking and deliveries. The gates will be closed at all times. All visitors and parents/carers/families are required to park on the road outside and use the Pedestrian access.

Diary Dates

There will be more events taking place and we will let you know as soon as possible!

23rd July	Last day of term: Yippee!!!
2nd & 3rd September	PD Days: School closed to all children
4th September	All children return to school
16th-23rd September	Book Fair in School
20th September	Individual School Photographs
1st October	Year 5 & 6: Able Writers Day at Carlton Colville Primary
4th October	Flu Vaccinations: Reception to Year 6
21st-25th October	October Half Term

People who can help

In addition to your child's class teacher, who should always be your first point of call, the following people are readily available to help you with any issue, if needed.



*Mrs Rae Aldous
Executive Headteacher*



*Mrs Lauraine Barnes
Deputy Headteacher*



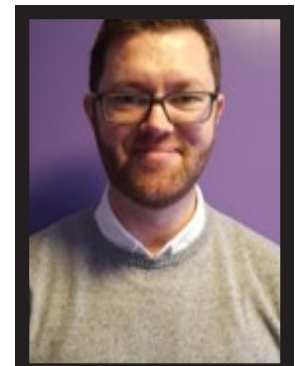
*Mr Joshua Wilkes
Assistant Headteacher*



*Mrs Dawn Williams
Parent and Pupil
Support Advisor*



*Mrs Jackie Cutchey
Chair of Governors*



*Mr Stephen Clarke
Safeguarding Governor*