

Message from Mrs Aldous



Welcome back to the new school year! We have had a great start to the new school year and all the children have settled well into their new classes. The school is buzzing with learning every second of the day.

We plan to hold several class events this year and some have already taken place. It was lovely to see so many of you supporting our Sea Shanty Day. It makes such a difference to your child when they see you actively engaging with school so we look forward to seeing you as much as possible this year.

We have an open door policy at the school and parents/carers are welcome to come in to speak to members of staff without an appointment. Generally, it is less busy at the end of the school day, so this is a good time to catch the teacher. If you are unable to come into school, please telephone or email and we will respond as soon as possible.

Please also look out for flyers and letters handed out at the end of the school day which also include important dates and information about events.

The website and our Facebook page also contain lots of current information about life at the school.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Best wishes

Rae Aldous

Sea Shanties

Wow! What a start to the school year! We were joined by some talented artist from Voice Cloud for two full days learning to sing and perform Sea Shanties.

Each class were given the opportunities to watch and perform alongside the artists as well as learn about the history of Sea Shanties and the fishing industry in Lowestoft.

These sessions have inspired the children to enquire in more depth about the history of fishing in Lowestoft. Children in Year 3 and Year 4 visited the Time



and Tide Museum in Great Yarmouth and children in Year 5 and Year 6 visited the Maritime Museum in Lowestoft. Back in school, they are now split in to enquiry teams investigating the bits they found the most interesting.

This project has launched the start of a change to the curriculum at Westwood. Children will be leading their own enquiries relating to topics of interest to them. History, Geography, Science, DT, Art etc. will be incorporated into the enquiries to ensure they still receive the important learning aspects from the national curriculum and literacy and maths will be taught both discretely and as part of the enquiry.

More about these changes to learning will be shared with you soon.



Attendance

Attendance this year has been much improved. The attendance figure for 2016/2017 is 95.6%. The national expectation is 96%.

Thank you so much for supporting your child and our school. However, please do not give up.

Each week we publish the amount of lost learning hours and display it in the front office. Some weeks the number of lost learning hours is shockingly high! That means that some of our children are missing out on learning which is seriously affecting their progress and attainment. As we know, some children are missing big chunks of learning and may never catch up!

The other serious issue for our school is punctuality. A small number of children are late every day or a few times a week. Again this means that the children are missing out. For example, in some classes children are taught to read from 8.45am and if your child is late, they are missing their reading session. If they are late everyday, they are missing their reading session everyday.

We are rewarding good attendance and good punctuality in various ways including a forthcoming Assembly for parents to attend as well as a Class Breakfast with the teachers! Year 6 and Year 3 have enjoyed breakfast so far!

We need your support! Attendance and Punctuality figures can count against the school and we do not want to be judged as a poor school because we have children arriving late for school.



Parental Involvement

Parental involvement in learning is essential. We will be holding lots of events in school and sending activities home for you to enjoy with your child. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Look out for the flyers coming home from school outlining the date of the events.

We have an 'open door policy' here at Westwood and welcome parents to come into school to discuss any concerns, share information and celebrate your child's success on a daily basis. Teachers are available at the beginning and end of the school day to talk with parents and carers; generally the end of the school day is better. The headteacher is also available on a day to day basis, without the need to make an appointment.

If you are unable to come into school to speak with members of staff, please telephone and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Alternatively email admin@westwoodprimary.org or head@westwoodprimary.org

If you think you may be able to offer support to the school by hearing children read, please contact Mrs Barnes via the school office. We already have a few parents who hear children read on a regular basis but would love to have more.



Woodland School

As we continue to provide opportunities for our children to experience and enriched, broad and balanced curriculum, we are very pleased to welcome Lindsey Andrews to the team. Lindsey is a fully trained woodland practitioner and will be leading our new Woodland School. Every class spends an hour a week at Woodland School which incorporates literacy and maths skills also. The children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the activities. The photos below show some of our youngest children enjoying this experience!



In addition, Lindsey also runs two woodland after school clubs each week. If you are interested in your child taking part in this club, please speak to Miss Brinded in the school office.

Learning at Home

Children will continue to have the following for homework:

1. Reading—every day
2. Menu of activities

Take a look at some of the wonderful work our children are producing at home!



WESTWOOD NEWS

September 2017

Nursery

The nursery children have settled really well and have been enjoying lots of new learning opportunities both inside and out. We thoroughly enjoyed our first woodland school session and look forward to having lots more fun in the woods. Remember if you have any questions please ask a member of staff.



Reception

Reception have settled in brilliantly and are enjoying learning through play. We have started to learn the story of 'The Little Red Hen' for Talk for Writing. We also loved our first woodland school session. A big thank you to everyone turned up to our Family Cafe on Wednesday.



Year 3 & Year 4

After a visit to the Time & Tide museum, Year 3 and 4 had many questions about the fishing industry and life in Lowestoft. This kicked off our new enquiry approach to teaching topic with the children following their own line of enquiry. Across both classes, the children have split into smaller groups to research; ships & boats, the fishing industry, life in Lowestoft 100 years ago and the East Anglian coastline. We have begun by using the internet, inviting guest visitors into school and enjoyed a trip to Lowestoft Museum. So far we have some fantastic questions and are really excited to find out the answers. We look forward to sharing our amazing learning with you and keeping you updated on our progress.

Year 1 & Year 2

This week the children were lucky enough to visit our local fire station. During the visit the children had the opportunity to go on board a real fire engine as well as experience spraying a real fireman's hose! Before our visit the children compiled a list of questions in which they asked the fire men during the visit to help with their enquiry, real superheroes! Wow, what a wonderful learning experience.



WESTWOOD NEWS

September 2017

Year 5 & Year 6

Years 5 & 6 have had an exciting start to the new school year. To launch our first enquiry, 'Lowestoft and the Sea', we spent a day exploring the Maritime Museum and coastline from Sparrow's Nest to Ness Point. As if that wasn't exciting enough, we then enjoyed two days of workshops with the Voice Cloud, learning about the history of sea shanties and even performing a few to our friends and families. In class, we have developed our enquiry questions around areas which interest us: fishing, boats, lighthouses, flooding, Lowestoft during the war and seas/beaches. Now we begin the most important task: deciding how to gather the information about these topics we need to enable us to present our findings to others. We are really enjoying working together across the two classes as it gives us the chance to work with different people and develop our learning behaviours, particularly how to build new relationships and take risks.



Reading Challenge

Leader Board

Year 6; 1 tube

Year 5; 1/2 tube

Year 4; 1/2 tube

Year 3; 1/2 tube

Year 2; 1/2 tube

Year 1; 1/2 tube

Reception; 1/2 tube

Nursery; 1/2 tube

Well done everybody,
keep reading!

Junior Road Safety

The Junior Road Safety Officers are being elected in Year 4 & Year 5 and will be introduced during assembly.

School Council

The new school council representatives have been elected by their classes now and we will be meeting altogether soon for our first meeting. In this meeting we will be talking about what's good at Westwood and what we would like to focus on improving over the next year.

Sports News

Good luck to the Year 3 boys who are taking part in an Active Learning Trust Football Tournament at Red Oak Primary School on Friday 29th September.
Go Team Westwood!

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.



SCHOOL PLACES

We have places available in Year 3. We also have a waiting list for children for our Nursery who are not quite old enough at present. Please spread the word to friends, family and neighbours.

CONTACT DETAILS

Please ensure we have your up to date contact details. This includes current address and telephone numbers. We often contact parents by text.



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



PE Kit

Please ensure your child has, in school every day, the following PE kit:

- Black shorts
- White T Shirt
- Trainers
- Sweatshirt/Jogging Bottoms (optional)

Please ensure all items are named.



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.



School Uniform

We have a strict School Uniform Policy. Please ensure your child is dressed in the following named school uniform:



Boys

- * Black tailored trousers or shorts (no jogging bottoms etc.)
- * White polo shirt
- * Westwood Primary School Sweatshirt with logo
- * grey/black/navy socks
- * Black shoes (No trainers)
- * School Book Bag

Girls

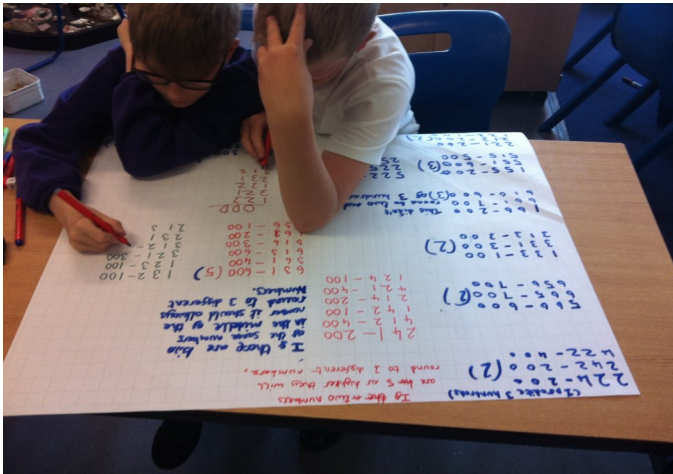
- * Black tailored dress, skirt or trousers
- * Purple checked summer dress
- * White polo shirt
- * Westwood Primary School Sweatshirt
- * Westwood Primary School Cardigan
- * grey/black tights or white socks
- * Black shoes (No trainers or boots)
- * School Book Bag

- For further information about school uniform requirements please contact the school office.
- Sweatshirts/Cardigans/Book Bags/PE Bags/Water Bottles are available from the school office.
- School uniform bursaries will be given at the discretion of the Headteacher

Diary Dates

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

3rd October	Woodcraft Folk - Outdoor Activities Year 5 & Year 6
6th October	Reception, Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 Harvest Festival at St Marks Church
9th October	2 x Year 5 children & 2 x Year 6 children to Carlton Colville Primary - Able Writers Day
13th October	KSI Football Tournament at Red Oak Primary
16th & 17th October	Parent Interviews
19th October	Year 6 Tag Rugby at Lowestoft Rugby Club
23rd—27th October	Half term
30th October	Back to School



People who can help

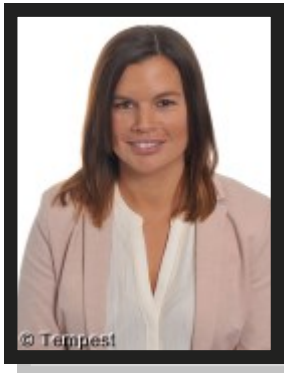
In addition to your child's class teacher, who should always be your first point of call, the following are readily available to help you with any issue, if needed.



Mrs Rae Aldous
Headteacher



Mrs Jackie Cutchey
Chair of Governors



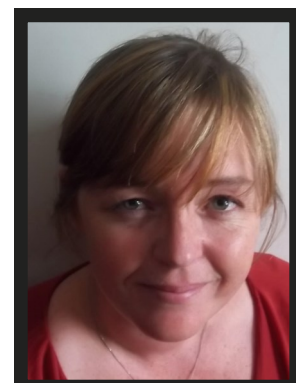
Miss Kerry Read
Deputy Headteacher/Head of
School



Mrs Dawn Williams
Parent and Pupil Support Adviser



Mrs Lauraine Barnes
Senior Teacher
&
Lower School Lead



Miss Louise Creed
Senior Teacher
&
Upper School Lead