



## KEY DATES IN THE SCHOOL YEAR.

Please note that dates are provided in advance to try and ensure that communication is as efficient as possible, but may be subject to change. Where possible, the school will try to stick to all indicated dates.

<b>12<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Book Fair</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Year 1 Thameside Nature Reserve trip
<b>18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Early Years & KS1 Decoration Morning
<b>18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	KS2 Carol Concerts at Westwood 1.30 and 5.30
<b>19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	KS1 Christmas Productions 2.00 and 5.00
<b>19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christmas School Dinner
<b>20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Nursery Christmas Production 1.45, Reception Christmas Production 2.30
<b>21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	Christingle Services at Hadleigh Baptist Church
<b>21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	Last day of term in school and Bridging Club and Woodys closed.
<b>7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Back to school.
<b>25<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Bridging Club and Woodys CLOSED.

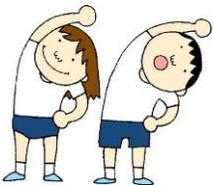
## Coming up in the next few weeks...

12 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> December	Bookfair
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 trip to Thameside Nature Reserve
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Early Years and KS1 Decoration Morning
18 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Carol Concerts at Westwood, 1.30 and 5.30
19 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Christmas Production 2.00 and 5.00
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas School Dinner
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Christmas Party
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Production 1.45, Reception Production 2.30
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1-Year 6 Christmas Party
21 <sup>st</sup> December	Christingle Service at Hadleigh baptist Church, <b>Last day of Term.</b> (No Bridging Club or Woodys)
<b>7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Return to school.</b>



## Water Bottles and Snacks.

Please send your child to school with a named water bottle that can be kept in the classroom. Please ensure children only have water and **NOT** squash or juice. Please make sure that snacks are healthy – sweets and chocolate are not acceptable and we are a **nut free** school. Thank you.



## PE Kits.

We do not keep spare kits at the school for PE. Please ensure that all pupils are provided with PE kit throughout the school year. If there are any issues providing a PE kit, please speak to the school office to make us aware of them. PE kit is part of the school uniform, details of which can be found [here](#).

## Parking and road safety outside school.

Please park considerately if you need to drive to school. We have a long history of good will from our neighbours and it is something that we hope will continue in the future. If parents have any concerns about dangerous parking or driving outside the school, call the non-emergency police number to report them on **0300 333 4444**. It is essential that the pupils and their families are safe – please park and drive safely around the school. Thank you for your continued support.



## Newsletter – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

### In this edition:

- Attendance.
- Online safety.
- Use of social media.
- Bridging Club and Woodys 21<sup>st</sup> December and 25<sup>th</sup> January.
- Out of School Achievements.
- School Dinners.
- Healthy Lifestyles – **CHANGES TO SNACKS IN SCHOOL.**
- Christmas Productions.
- Christmas Parties.
- Mr Archer ugly Christmas jumper.
- Starting school September 2019.
- PTFA News.

### Attendance - We expect pupils to be in school everyday, and aim for 97% attendance for the year.

Attendance this week was **95.7%**. Quite below our target unfortunately. Regular attendance helps support the learning of the pupils. **Year 5** are this weeks winners, and the only class above the 97% target this week, at **99.2%**. Well done year 5. They may have just edged into the lead for this half-terms attendance award too...

### Online safety tip – we know it is a regular feature but it helps you to know how to keep children safe.

It is worth knowing that many social media sites have minimum age requirements for users. These are put in place to protect children from inappropriate material or risk of grooming, offering sensible guidance to parents just as film certificates and PEGI ratings do. Here are some examples of the minimum ages for popular social media sites: -

**Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Facebook**

**Minimum age 13.**

**WhatsApp**

**Minimum age 16 (to register) 13 to use.**

**YouTube**

**Minimum age 18 (or 13 with parental permission).**

Do your children have access to these services? If so, were you aware of the minimum age requirements and, what they are using them for? This is a good example of how one of our regular e-safety tips can be used: -

# 1. Set boundaries in the online world just as you would in the real world.

Help keep our children safe whilst using technology – check out the new resources and advice about e-safety on our website at <http://www.westwoodacademy.org/about/e-safety/>

### Use of social media.

As a school, we always welcome communication that involves how we operate, how we can improve or how we are doing. Early next term there will be a parent survey for example to try and get a view of how effective you feel we are.

If you have any comments about the school or things that you feel you would like to raise, please speak to a member of school staff directly rather than posting comments on social media. We have never turned anyone away that wanted to talk to us or raise a point (you may need to make an appointment and come back, but we think that's reasonable), always act in good faith to try and do what is right for the pupils and in truth, when we hear about either positive or negative comments on social media, try not to be distracted from our main purpose – the positive learning experience of the pupils.

Some recent posts have upset parents and staff at the school – please be mindful that things posted on social media travel quickly.

### Bridging Club and Woodys – AVAILABILITY NEWS 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018 and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Both Woodys and bridging club will not be open on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018 and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019. This is for works on the school site and a whole trust training session. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

### Out of School Achievements.

Bailey, Year 4 has been awarded the Bronze Award from Beaver Scouts (the highest award you can achieve in Beavers and his certificate was signed off by Bear Grylls - Chief Scout). The award is given for being adventurous, for helping in his community and for having completed his Challenge Awards and all 4 staged activity awards. Bailey has moved onto Cubs and is working towards gaining his Silver Award. Well done Bailey.



Oliver, Year 3 has earned one of the three available trophies from swimming club this term, the Endeavour Swimmer Award. There are a significant number of children who take part in weekly lessons so this is a real achievement. They are particularly impressed with his breast stroke and butterfly. Fantastic effort Oliver, love that you are persevering!

Grace, Lexi and Scarlett from year 5 have raised £42 by making bookmarks in school and gave the money raised to Little Havens Hospital, who bought the two blankets shown below. They were given to Billy, a 19-year-old boy, and Chloe who is an 18-year old girl. Both are disabled people and the girls worked hard to try and help them and Little Havens. What a fantastic thing to have done, well done girls.



If you have any out of school achievements that you would like mentioned in the school newsletter, please email the office at: [office@westwoodacademy.org](mailto:office@westwoodacademy.org) by the Thursday before the Friday publication date. We love to hear about what the Westwood community have been up to! Thank you.

### School dinners.

School dinners next week will be Week 2 from the new Winter Menu, which can be seen [here](#). We will be having our Christmas dinner on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

### Healthy Lifestyles.

We are promoting healthy lifestyles across the school. As well as encouraging the recommended 60 minutes of exercise we are also promoting healthiness by changing the snack rules at break time. The new expectations are as follows:

- Fruit or vegetables only;
- Food that has a 'green' or mostly 'green' label;
- No foods with red labels i.e high in sugar and saturated fats.



Thank you for your support in this: it is really important that our pupils learn healthy habits with exercise and nutrition early so that it can become a pattern through life.

### Christmas Productions.

For the KS2 evening performance on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, please bring children back to school no earlier than 5.00pm.

For the KS1 evening performance on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, please bring children back to school to get changed for the evening performances no earlier than 4.30pm. After the evening performance children will be brought back into the hall to be collected at approximately 5.30pm.

### **Christmas Parties.**

Reception Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December PM  
Year 1 to Year 6 Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December PM

On your child's party day, they may wear non-uniform.  
The school will provide drinks but any small donations of party food would be gratefully received. Many thanks.

### **School Council: Mr Archer and his ugly Christmas jumper.**

To support Christmas Jumper Day and fundraising for Save the Children, the School Council members have persuaded Mr Archer to sport an ugly Christmas jumper on the last day of term. Feel free to pop by the School Office from Monday to vote (by way of a small donation) for the jumper you would most like to see Mr Archer wearing at the school gates on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December. If you do in fact have any particularly ugly Christmas jumpers which you think Mr Archer would look fantastically festive in, please feel free to lend them to us... it's the season of goodwill after all!

### **Starting school in September 2019.**

If you have a child starting school in school in September 2019 all applications must be made by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019. If applications are not made in time, it will impact on the likelihood of you getting your choice of school for September 2019 starters.

## **PTFA NEWS**



For updates and more PTFA news, please join the [Westwood PTFA page on Facebook](#). Please note that this page is intended for the use of PTFA members to **organise and promote events for fundraising**. It is **not** monitored by the school, so if there are any other issues or questions that you would like to discuss, please contact the school directly. Thank you.

Thank you for supporting the Carols around the Christmas Tree event last Friday. It was a lovely way to end the PTFA events for 2018.

Thank you to the everyone that contributes to the PTFA events throughout the school year. The things that you help make happen really enrich the experience of the pupils, and everyone at the school is genuinely grateful for the hard work and organisation that goes into every event.