



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.

21st September	Jeans for Genes Day
25th September (NEW)	New starters in reception photograph in the Echo
26th September (NEW)	Reception/Year 5 Road Safety walks
8th October	Y5 Planetarium trip
9th October	Y4 Colchester Castle trip
10th October	Open morning for 2019 intake
12th October	Last day of term in school
15th-26th October	Half Term – school closed
30th October (NEW)	Parent Consultations – SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 1.30
9th November	Open morning for 2019 intake
13th November	Individual Pupil Photos
29th November (NEW)	Autumn Term exhibition evening 3.30-4.30
21st December	Last day of term in school
24th December – 4th January	Holiday - School closed

Coming up in the next few weeks...

21 st September	Jeans for Genes Day.
25 th September	New starters photo in the Echo.
26 th September	Reception/Year 5 Road Safety Walks.



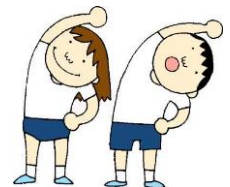
Water Bottles, Snacks and Sun Cream.

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 – 14th September 2018.

In this edition:

- Attendance.
- Online safety.
- **MONDAY** Please drop children at the school gate.
- Jeans for Genes Day.
- Applications for Secondary Schools – Y6 **IMPORTANT**.
- Y5 Planetarium, Y4 Castle trips.
- Out of School Achievements.
- School Dinners.
- Bridging Club and Woodys fees from September 2018.
- Clubs start next week.
- Gardening Club.
- PTFA news.

Attendance - We expect pupils to be in school everyday.

Attendance this week was **99.05%**. **THANK YOU!** It is brilliant to see such high levels of attendance and it, of course, helps support the learning of the pupils. Our target is 97%. Both year 4 and 6 had 100% attendance this week – really setting the pace with a great example, well done. Afternoon tea/Daily Mile Pacman beckons for the winners of the attendance race each half term.

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/>

From Monday – please drop your child at the school gate.

We are encouraging parents to drop their children at the school gate from Monday, and not walk across the playground beyond the reception gate. This is to help develop independence and helps to ensure that the site is safe. If, for any reason, you need to accompany your child into the school, please sign in at the office and go in through that door. For the early years pupils, separate arrangements may be put in place but always with a goal of getting pupils to come in on their own. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Jeans for Genes Day – 21st September 2018.

We'll be supporting Jeans for Genes day again this year – next Friday, pupils are invited to wear their jeans to school on a non-uniform day, for a voluntary donation of £1 for this great cause. Staff joining in too, it's always good to see everyone taking part in these events that support brilliant causes.

Applications for secondary schools for Year 6.

As you may be aware, the new secondary school admission round opens on Wednesday, 12 September 2018, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2019.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 31st October 2018.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 98% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

Essex County Council are not sending letters to parents about making an application. All application information is available on the website above.

The website also has a copy of the Secondary Education in Essex 2019-20 booklet which contains details of all secondary school admission policies. I provide a link to the booklet below.

http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Admissions/Documents/econdary_Admissions_Booklet.pdf

Year 5 Planetarium Trip (8th October), Year 4 Colchester Castle Trip (9th October).

Details have been sent out regarding the trips for year 4 and 5. Please make payment as soon as possible, else the trip may be unfeasible and cancelled. These events add so much to the subjects taught in class and the pupils love the excitement of them. If there are any issues with payment, please speak to the school office as soon as possible. Thank you.

Out of School Achievements.

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 by the Thursday before the Friday publication date. We love to hear about what the Westwood community have been up to! Thank you.

Bryce in year 5 competed in his first Karting race last weekend at Rye House Race way. He drove his Honda Cadet Kart in a grid of 28 other Karts with a top speed of 50 mph. He finished all 3 races and made various passes during the race. A fantastic achievement!

School dinners.

School dinners next week will be Week 3 from the new Summer Menu.

Bridging Club on Friday afternoons.

Bridging club for Friday afternoons now has a £1.50 charge (unless pupils are attending Woody's afterwards, in which case it is free). Attendance needs to be confirmed by Wednesday each week with the office, and payment can be made via parentmail. Thank you.

Clubs.

All clubs will be starting next week.

Gardening Club.

Will restart on Friday 21st September from 1.30-2.45. Places are limited so please let the office know if your child is interested and they will be told by Wednesday 19th September if they have a place. The cost is £25 for 10 sessions which includes a drink and biscuit and payments can be made via parentmail.

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.

Halloween Colouring Competition

Keep your eyes peeled for this spooktastic Competition coming home soon, 50p to enter with winners chosen from KS1 and KS2, open to all children

Picnic Bench - the first of the new picnic benches have been delivered and will be assembled soon for the children to use, thanks again for everyone's support in raising funds for the children for items such as these!

Fancy Dress Disco - Info and tickets coming soon just finalising the date, looking forward to welcoming all the children

Christmas Craft Afternoon

Friday 23rd November tickets and info coming soon for this lovely little festive afternoon, 1:30-3:30pm

Our next meeting is Tuesday 25th October at 7pm all very welcome, we will be putting together all the planning for our forthcoming events....

We will also be holding a coffee morning (with cake) on Thursday 11th November would be great to see you there...