



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.

7th January	Back to school.
25th January	Bridging Club and Woodys CLOSED.

Coming up in the next few weeks...

21st December

Christingle Service at Hadleigh baptist Church, **Last day of Term.** (No Bridging Club or Woodys)

7th January

Return to school.

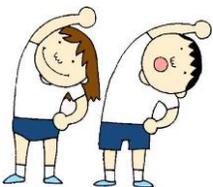
25th January

Bridging Club and Woodys CLOSED.

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 – 20th December 2018.

In this edition:

- Attendance.
- Online safety/Christmas presents.
- Bridging Club and Woodys 21st December and 25th January.
- Out of School Achievements.
- School Dinners.
- Healthy Lifestyles – **CHANGES TO SNACKS IN SCHOOL.**
- Christmas Productions, PTFA thanks.
- Mr Archer ugly Christmas jumper - **£139.22 raised for cancer research.**
- Starting school September 2019.
- PTFA News.



To all our pupils, families and friends, everybody at Westwood Academy hopes that you have a fantastic, restful Christmas and that 2019 is full of happiness and good luck. Thanks for all your support in 2018 – it really means the world to us. We hope that you have enjoyed the last week of school in which we have concentrated all our celebrations and performances. They have been exhausting, but hopefully you will agree, there were so many great performances by the pupils – without doubt the best singing we have heard in a long time and justifying all the hard work put in by pupils and staff.

Enjoy the holiday period and come back refreshed and ready to learn on **Monday 7th December.**

Merry Christmas!
Happy New Year!

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

Attendance this week was **92.4%**. Significantly below our target unfortunately, and low enough to take our attendance for the year to date to 96.84% overall, which is close to but below our target. Regular attendance helps support the learning of the pupils. **Year 4** are this weeks winners, and the only class above the 97% target this week, at **98.2%**. Well done year 4.

It is really close also for the half term attendance award – currently, just 0.01% separates 2 classes... It will be down to Friday, the last day to decide the winner.

Online safety tip – this is particularly important if children receive new electronic devices for Christmas.

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/>.

Bridging Club and Woodys – AVAILABILITY NEWS 21st December 2018 and 25th January 2019.

Both Woodys and bridging club will not be open on 21st December 2018 and 25th 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.

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.

School dinners.

School dinners when we come back will be Week 3 from the Winter Menu, which can be seen [here](#).

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, thanks to the PTFA.

From nursery to key stage 2, via reception and key stage 1, the Christmas productions this year have been brilliant and have genuinely captured the real spirit of Christmas. It looked as if the pupils really enjoyed them – which is really what they are all about. Well done everyone that participated or who helped in anyway – great job!

Thanks also to the PTFA for donating funds for Christmas decoration morning, prizes for Christmas parties, and for mince pies for parents attending the afternoon Christmas performances. We love you guys, thank you!

School Council: Mr Archer and his ugly Christmas jumper.

The School Council members have persuaded Mr Archer to sport an ugly Christmas jumper on the last day of term. You have been voting (by way of a small donation) for the jumper you would most like to see Mr Archer wearing at the school gates on Friday 20th December and the votes have been counted, verified etc... He will be sporting a 2XL size (e.g. very large) "Happy Christmas You Filthy Animal" jumper on the last day – a Home Alone reference, a classic Christmas film. Most importantly, your' generous donations have led to a donation to Cancer Research of...

£150.72!

Thank you everyone that contributed. It's another cause that has resonance with our school community and so we are very proud and grateful to be making this donation. Well done to everyone involved in the school council for organising this.

Starting school in September 2019.

If you have a child starting school in school in September 2019 all applications must be made by 15th 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 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.



Do you want to train to be a Teacher?

The Benfleet Teaching School Alliance will be hosting a Recruitment Event for applicants to learn more about Primary and Secondary places for our Initial Teacher Training programme for 2019/20.

This event will include a short presentation about the various routes into teaching and how the teacher training programme works at BTSA. There will also be an opportunity to observe lessons.

The ITT Coordinator will be available to discuss the questions you may have regarding the application process, funding and bursaries.

Our next Information and Recruitment Event is on:

Wednesday 23rd January 2019 at 10.30 am

**At
Woodlands School
Woodlands Approach,
Basildon
SS16 5BA**

To request a place at this event please email:

mhoward@theappletonschool.org

(Please state your subject specialism for secondary teaching)

Or

**If you are unable to make this event or wish to discuss further
Contact Maxine Howard ITT Administrator on 01268 794215 ext. 210 /
mhoward@theappletonschool.org**