



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.

Carols around the Christmas Tree.

Join us for the last PTFA event of 2018 on **7th December! TODAY!**

Come along from 5.00-6.30pm for hot chocolate, mince pies and cakes in the small hall.

There will be great Christmas activities including: -

- Letter writing to Santa;
- Making jingle sticks;
- Glow stick sale;
- Christmas Lucky Dip;
- Chocolate Tombola.

There might even be some Christmas magic as we are strongly predicting snowfall at 5.45pm when we all head out to the Christmas tree to sing Christmas Carols!



7th December	Carols around the Christmas Tree (PTFA event)
12th-17th December	Book Fair
13th December	School Choir performance including to parents of choir members 2.30
14th December	Christmas Jumper Day
17th December	Year 1 Thameside Nature Reserve trip
18th December	Early Years & KS1 Decoration Morning
18th December	KS2 Carol Concerts at Westwood 1.30 and 5.30
19th December	KS1 Christmas Productions 2.00 and 5.00
19th December	Christmas School Dinner
20th December	Nursery Christmas Production 1.45, Reception Christmas Production 2.30
21st December	Christingle Services at Hadleigh Baptist Church
21st December	Last day of term in school and Bridging Club and Woodys closed.
7th January	Back to school.
25th January	Bridging Club and Woodys CLOSED.

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.

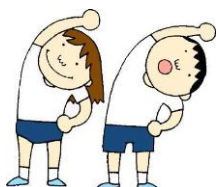
Coming up in the next few weeks...

7 th December	Carols around the Christmas tree (PTFA event)
12 th -17 th December	Bookfair
13 th December	School choir performance to their parents 2.30
14 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
17 th December	Year 1 trip to Thameside Nature Reserve
18 th December	Early Years and KS1 Decoration Morning
18 th December	KS2 Carol Concerts at Westwood, 1.30 and 5.30
19 th December	KS1 Christmas Production 2.00 and 5.00
19 th December	Christmas School Dinner
20 th December	Nursery Production 1.45, Reception Production 2.30
21 st December	Christingle Service at Hadleigh baptist Church, Last day of Term. (No Bridging Club or Woodys)
7th January	Return to school.



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 – 7th December 2018.

In this edition:

- Respectful conduct
- Building work.
- Attendance.
- Online safety.
- Bridging Club and Woodys 21st December and 25th January.
- Out of School Achievements.
- School Dinners.
- Healthy Lifestyles – **CHANGES TO SNACKS IN SCHOOL.**
- Christmas Productions.
- Choir Performance.
- BATIC carol concert.
- Nursery News.

Respectful conduct towards our staff.

Please remember that we are a school for young children, and that our behaviour and language as staff and parents sets an example to the pupils of how to behave. Please ensure that when dealing with our staff, the conversations are polite and civil and that communication is conducted in the way that you would want to be treated yourself. Thank you.

Work on new library and facilities.

From Monday 26th November 2018, work has started on our new library and other facilities at the back of the school. This will mean that throughout the year there will be changes to the routes used to enter and move around the school particularly at the beginning of the day. So far, this has not meant changes to routes into and around the school, but we will update you via the newsletter if that changes.

Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

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

Attendance this week was **95.2%**. Quite below our target unfortunately. Regular attendance helps support the learning of the pupils. **Year 6** are this weeks winners, and the only class above the 97% target this week, at **97.8%**. Well done year 6. You might have another chance to try and beat Pacman at the daily mile...

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: -

9. PEGI ratings advise which games are appropriate for which age: they protect children from extreme scenes in many cases, so **TAKE NOTICE** of them.

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.

Year 4 Finlay is playing his first season of football as goalkeeper for Canvey Island's U9 team. In his first match he saved a penalty and was Man Of The Match. He loves playing football and can't wait to play for the school team next year. Well done Finlay!

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.

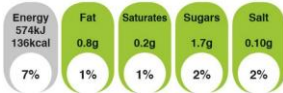
School dinners.

School dinners next week will be Week 1 from the new 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 and **TICKET INFORMATION (NEW)**.

This year the Christmas productions will all be held at Westwood:

Nursery will be performing a few Christmas songs on Thursday 20th December at 1.45pm

Reception will be putting on a Christmas performance on Thursday 20th December at 2.30pm

Key Stage 1 will be performing 'A Christmas Toy Story' on Wednesday 19th December at 2pm and 5pm.

Key Stage 2 will be performing a Christmas concert on Tuesday 18th December. There will be 2 performances. 1 at 1.30pm and another at 5.30pm. Parents are invited to join us following the first performance for Mince Pies.

Tickets for the Key stage 1 and key stage 2 performances will be available through our Parentmail app from today and will be **limited to 2 tickets per family per performance**. This limit is to meet fire regulations and in the case of the key stage 2 production, because we simply will not have enough chairs/space for more than that! For reception and nursery productions, tickets will not be required, and a maximum of 4 per child will be able to attend.

If you are attending with younger children, please make sure they are sat on your lap unless one for the 2 tickets is for them, and if they become unsettled during the performance can they please be taken out of the hall to be settled so that the pupils can give their best performances. Thank you.

Choir Performance.

The choir will be doing a performance for parents on Thursday 13th December at 2.30pm in the hall. If your child is in the choir please feel free to come along and listen to them.

BATIC carol concert.

The choir did a fantastic job of representing the school this week in the BATIC carol concert. The 13 members of the choir sang Away In A Manger (fortunately accompanied by Mrs Bradon, unfortunately accompanied by Mr Archer!) in front of the assembled hundreds, as well as delivering readings and taking part in the other group carols. It was a great event, as it is every year, and our pupils made us very proud with their superb behaviour and performances.

Nursery News.

The Nursery children are excited to perform the Christmas songs they have been learning, to their parents and carers at our very special 'Christmas Sing-Song', on Thursday 20th December at 1.45pm in the school hall. Please arrive at the school reception from 1.30pm. If it's not your child's normal session, they can come along with you at this time and join staff and friends for the 'Sing-Song' in the hall which will last approximately ten minutes. We do not envision over running as Reception will be using the hall for their production directly after. We would encourage the children to wear whatever they feel confident in, and would ideally love to see them in party clothes, a costume or a Christmas jumper perhaps. Our nursery pupils are very excited and will no doubt make us all proud with a great singing performance.