



KEY DATES IN THE SCHOOL YEAR.

10 th September 2.45-2.55	R/1/2 Welcome Meetings
11 th September 2.45-2.55	3/4/5/6 Welcome Meetings
21 st September	Jeans for Genes Day
8 th October	Y5 Planetarium trip
9 th October	Y4 Colchester Castle trip
10 th October	Open morning for 2019 intake
12 th October	Last day of term in school
15 th -26 th October	Half Term – school closed
9 th November	Open morning for 2019 intake
13 th November	Individual Pupil Photos
21 st December	Last day of term in school
24 th December – 4 th January	Holiday - School closed

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...

10 th September 2.45-2.55	R/1/2 Welcome Meetings.
11 th September 2.45-2.55	3/4/5/6 Welcome Meetings.
21 st September	Jeans for Genes Day.



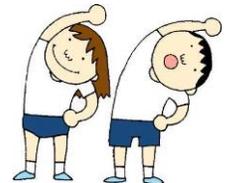
Water Bottles, Snacks and Sun Cream.

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. When the weather is fine, we hope to spend as much time outside learning as possible so sun cream applied appropriately is essential, as is a sun hat if the forecast suggests sun. 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.



We are a nut free school. Please check that there are no nuts in snacks, lunches and birthday treats.



Newsletter – 7th September 2018.

In this edition:

- Attendance.
- Online safety.
- Welcome back.
- Welcome meetings.
- Nut free school from September 2018.
- Y5 Planetarium, Y4 Castle trips in October.
- Out of School Achievements.
- School Dinners.
- Bridging Club and Woodys fees from September 2018.
- What's going on this term in the classrooms.
- PTFA news.

Attendance - We expect pupils to be in school everyday.

Attendance through until the end of Thursday this week was **94.9%**. Our target is 97%.

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/>

Welcome back.

We hope you all had a good six weeks summer break and that everyone is refreshed and ready for the new school year. Pupils are settling well in new classes, quickly into their learning and the expectations of their new teachers.

Welcome Meetings – Monday 10th September (RN/1R/2W) and Tuesday 11th September (3D/4S/5B/6F).

There will be brief meetings (approximately 10 minutes) held on Monday 2:45pm and finish at 2:55pm (for Reception, years 1 and 2) and Tuesday 2:45pm (years 3, 4, 5 and 6) next week to explain to parents what will happen in classes this term with regard to curriculum and regular arrangements e.g. homework, PE days etc. We have listened to our parent consultation group and tried to run these sessions differently this year, so they will take place while the pupils are in assembly so that parents and the teachers are able to share information effectively. **These sessions are based on, and in addition to the “What’s going on this term” updates included below** – they will focus on the same information, so if you cannot make it, you will still have the same information available to you both here and on the website.



We are a nut-free school.

Our school is nut-free – please make sure that any pack lunches, birthday treats and snacks that are sent in do not have nuts in. This is to safeguard the pupils in the school that have nut allergies. Any lunches or snacks found in school containing nuts will be removed. Thank you for your support with this.

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.

School dinners.

School dinners next week will be Week 2 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.

What's going on this term.

Reception.

Welcome to Reception! This term our topic will be 'People who help us' at home, school and in the community followed by 'Celebrations'. Phonics will start in the first few weeks of term and we use the Letters and Sounds phonics scheme. We will begin with rhyme and alliteration, before moving onto the sounds in words and eventually learning to read and write sounds by the end of term. In Maths we will be focusing on counting forwards and backwards as well as 2D and 3D shape. P.E is on Fridays, so please make sure your child has their kit at school. When we start to send reading books home, please ensure you read with your child at home. The class snail, Brian, goes home with a different child each Friday with details in a letter to follow.

Year 1.

Welcome to 1R. We are beginning the year with our first topic which is 'All about me'. Our next topic is 'Going Green'. In phonics we are recapping our phase 2 and 3 sounds and will be learning our phase 5 sounds. Phonics play is a great website with free resources to support phonics and reading at home. We will have handwriting practise each week to encourage correctly formed and neat letters. Further practise at home will be fantastic. In literacy we are beginning with a poem linking to our topic. We will then focus on 'The Elves and the Shoemaker'. After that we will move onto spelling using different suffixes. In Autumn 2 we will learn how to write instructions and a persuasive letter. In numeracy we are going to be very busy focusing on place value, addition, subtraction and reasoning in Autumn 1. In Autumn 2 we will continue with addition, subtraction and place value but will also learn about different shapes. PE will be on Tuesday and spelling tests will be every Thursday. Earrings need to be taken out at home if the children are unable to remove them on their own at school. Homework will be handed out every Thursday and is due in on the following Monday. Lastly our school library sessions are every Wednesday afternoon.

Year 2.

An exciting term is in store for Year Two with an exploration of houses and homes through history in the first half of the term and a trip to a Winter Wonderland in the lead up to Christmas. In English lessons we will be writing our own versions of The Three Little Pigs, exploring persuasive texts and writing reports about different polar animals. In Maths, we will be focussing on our understanding of number and calculations, and pushing ourselves to conquer larger numbers. In Science we will be developing our knowledge of animal habitats, linking it to both our themes. Watch this space for upcoming events, trips and dates for diaries- help is always warmly welcomed! PE days: Tuesday and Thursday- please make sure your child has their FULL PE kit in school at all times. Please also be advised that children are no longer permitted to cover earrings with tape so they must be removed before every PE session. Library session: Thursday. Homework to be handed in every Thursday.

Year 3.

Our topic this half-term in 3D is “Rock of Ages.” In Science we will explore and classify different types of rocks and soils and learn about fossils. In History we will research where and how people lived in the Stone Age to Iron Age era. During Art we will be developing our drawing skills, but also using chalks and pastels to create cave paintings and designing and creating stained glass windows which links to our RE, where we will learn about life as a Christian. The next half-term, the topic is “Mighty Mountains.” In Geography we will then be looking at the features of mountains, rivers and volcanoes. Literacy over the whole term will find us delving into the world of myths and legends and writing stories, instructions, reports and poetry. Our Maths work will involve us developing concepts progressively throughout the year which will provide the children with frequent opportunities to consolidate their previous learning in all aspects of the Maths curriculum. In French we will be learning how to use appropriate greetings, learning numbers to 30 and beginning to have a short conversation with each other. In computing we will be learning about E-safety and practising our research skills. 3D will have PE on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please ensure your child has their named PE kit at school. Homework will be given out on a Thursday and will be due back the following Tuesday. Times tables will be practised in class as will spellings, there will be weekly spelling tests based on these lessons.

Year 4.

In **Literacy** this term our story writing will focus on characters and settings. Our non-fiction writing will be a recount and instructional text. **READING:** Children are reminded to take their reading book and reading record home every night and they should be brought into school every day. In year 4 it is still very important for children to read to an adult as much as possible (even if they are a free reader). We expect them to read to an adult at least 3 x a week. In **Numeracy** we will be covering the following areas of mathematics: place value and understanding of number, mental and written methods of all four operations and also measurement including length and perimeter. Mental calculation skills are very important in year 4 so please support your child in learning their times tables. **Autumn 1 topic: Rotten Romans.** This is a history-based topic where we will be learning about the Roman Empire. This will include: The Roman invasion of Britain and why the Romans came to Britain, a comparison between the Romans and the Celts, Boudicca’s revolt against the Romans and also what the Romans did for us. On the 9th of October we will be visiting Colchester castle. Your child received a letter about this yesterday. **Autumn 2 topic.** The second half term topic is **Switched on!** This is a Science and DT based topic where we will be learning and investigating about electricity. This work will involve lots of practical investigations into how circuits work. We will be investigating conductors and insulators of electricity and how to make a switch for a simple circuit. At the end of this topic the pupils will apply their knowledge to create an electrical device.

Weekly reminders for year 4

- PE Thursday – All jewellery needs to be removed. Indoor and outdoor PE kit will be needed in school all week.
- Homework: is to consolidate learning from the week. The homework is set on a Friday and needs to be handed in on the following Tuesday. If there are any problems about the homework task, please get your child to speak to Mrs Smith on Monday.
- Spellings: given out on a Monday and tested on a Thursday.
- Times tables: tested on a Thursday.

Year 5.

Our topic this half term in 5B is “To Infinity and Beyond.” In Science, we will be learning about Earth and Space and to enrich our learning, we will be visiting the Planetarium in Greenwich. Next half term, the Geography topic is ‘Extreme Earth.’ Here we will be learning about weather patterns, world environments and widening our knowledge of geographical terms, we will also be looking at forces and magnets in science, exploring and understanding gravity, air and water resistance and friction. During Art, we will be using different mediums to produce art work, learning about different artists and linking our art to our topics. Literacy over the whole term will find us learning and performing poetry, writing memoirs of an astronaut and then...writing a Tale of Fear! We will also be writing instructions and a journalistic text. Our Math’s work will involve us developing a deeper understanding of number and effective methods to solve the four operations, (+, -, x, ÷). We will then be interpreting data and calculating perimeter and area. We will link to our topic work in French, by learning nouns and simple phrases about the planets. R.E. will find us looking at the religions of Christianity and Hinduism. 5B will have PE on Wednesdays this term, where invasion games will be taught. Please ensure your child has their named PE kit at school at all times. The school rule is that no earrings are allowed to be worn during PE, therefore it would be appreciated if children remove their earrings before they come to school on PE days. Homework, will be given out on a Thursday and due back the following Tuesday. Pupils will be given one set of spellings each week and will be tested on Thursdays, sometimes using dictation.

Year 6.

We are beginning the year with our topic which is 'Lest we Forget'. Within this, we will study World War 1 and World War 2 and learn about the effect of these on the lives of children and families left behind, rations and the evacuation. We will use this as a stimulus to inspire our writing, where we will be writing from the point of view of those that experienced the wars. As well as this, we will make our own trench in DT and produce some propaganda posters. Science will be focused on light, how it works and shadows. To begin with, homework will be set weekly on a Thursday and due in the following Wednesday at the latest. This will become more frequent as we move through the year with homework being set twice weekly by term two. We are encouraging daily home reading by rewarding children with lots of house points and inviting those who do not read regularly at home or, who do not complete their homework to a 'reading club' during Friday's break time. Home reading should be evidenced with an adult signature in the pupils reading record books. PE lessons will be on a Monday, spellings will be given out and tested every Friday.

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.

Hope everyone had a fab summer!

The PTFA have ordered new picnic benches for the children to use, thanks to the monies raised over last year's fundraising efforts...

Lots of events coming up for the diaries, we will be releasing dates shortly for;

- Halloween Discos
- Christmas Movie Night
- Carols by the Christmas Tree

Looking forward to raising lots more funds for our children, thank you for your support.