



Westwood Academy

Friday 9th September 2022.

The newsletter is our weekly, main communication with parents – please take time to read the latest messages about school life here every week. Thank you.

Queen Elizabeth II

Along with the rest of the nation, we are saddened to hear about the passing of queen Elizabeth II and have celebrated her life in assembly today. At the time of writing, we do not know what arrangements may impact on the school but will let you know as soon as we find out.

Welcome back.

It's been lovely to see everyone back and to see everyone safe and healthy. It has been a positive and calm start as the pupils settled well into new year groups and, for some, their first day at school. We thank you all for your good sense at the start and end of the day, particularly by: -

- avoiding crowding outside the school; and
- making sure that pupils are not entering the grounds of our neighbouring retirement home or their car park next to the school; and
- keeping dogs away from the main gates (some of our pupils are very nervous of dogs) and off the school grounds; and
- not parking over the drives of our neighbours around the school.

School uniform.



We expect full school uniform to be worn correctly at all times.

The exception to this is on PE days or club days when **school PE kits only** should be worn. Please ensure correct PE uniform is worn, plain t-shirts only, no big logos, cropped or sleeveless tops, and no football kits. Information about our uniform can be found by clicking [here](#) We

have reviewed our uniform policy recently, and have made minor changes – branded/badged school items are not essential, plain jumpers and cardigans, and PE t-shirts are fine. Where correct uniforms are not being worn, pupils will be asked to ensure this changes, and parents will be contacted where necessary if uniform guidance is not followed.

Start and finish times

Arrival/start time for all students will be 8:45, when the gates open;

Registers open from 9:00-9:15;

Monday to Thursday finish time for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 is 15.10 and for Years 3-6 is 15.20;

Friday finish time is 13.25 for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 is 13.30 and Years 3-6.

Attendance.

We expect pupils to be in school everyday. We can not authorise term time absence except in exceptional circumstances and where appropriate, Essex County Council will issue fines. Our target for the whole school is 97% attendance, and we are expected to promote positive attendance and support all pupils to be able to attend school regularly. We monitor attendance weekly and will invite parents and carers of pupils who have attendance that causes concern to meet with us to improve. Attendance for each pupil is included in the year end school report – the chart on the right gives an indication as to how much missed learning time each child's percentage equates to each year. We have a statutory duty, as parents do, to ensure that pupils are at school every day. Thank you for understanding and supporting our whole school community by ensuring attendance whenever possible.

Attendance: Our school target is 97%

This week: **97.38%**

Year to date: **97.38%**

We expect pupils to be in school everyday. We will not authorise term time absence except in exceptional circumstances and where appropriate, Essex County Council will issue fines.

This week, through to Thursday, **Year 1** got **100.00%**, the highest in the school. Well done! The attendance reward will be coming your way...



Key Dates

- 13/9/22 Welcome meetings 3:30 (see below).
- 14/9/22 Year 2 Trip.
- 17/9/22 The Circus at Westwood! (See PTFA news).
- 20/9/22 Year 6 Trip Chelmsford Museum.
- 23/9/22 Jeans for Genes – **non-uniform £1.**
- 4/10/22 Parent Consultations 13:40-19:00 – **school closes at 13:30.**
- 5/10/22 Year 2 Trip.
- 17/10/22 Start of half term.
- 31/10/22 Return to school after half term.
- 4/11/22 Possible Halloween discos tbc.
- 17/11/22 School photographs.
- w/c 28/11/22 Book Fair.
- 15/12/22 Exhibition Evening.
- 23/12/22 Start of school break.
- 9/1/23 Return to school.
- 13/2/23 Start of half term.
- 20/2/23 Return to school.
- 23/3/23 Exhibition Evening.
- 28/3/23 Parent Consultations 13:40-19:00 – **school closes at 13:30.**
- 3/4/23 Start of school break.
- 17/4/23 Return to school.
- 29/5/23 Start of half term.
- 6/5/23 Return to school.
- 28/6/23 Sports Day tbc.
- 29/6/23 Year 5 Danbury Trip.
- 13/7/23 Exhibition Evening.
- 14/7/23 Reports out.
- 21/7/23 Start of summer break.

Attendance	Hours missed	Weeks missed	Missed days
100%	0	0	0
97%	30	1 week 1 day	6
95%	50	2 weeks	10
90%	95	3 weeks 4 days	19
86%	135	5 weeks 2 days	27
80%	195	7 weeks 4 days	39
75%	242.5	9 weeks 3.5 days	48.5
70%	290	11 weeks 3 days	58
60%	390	15 weeks 3 days	78
50%	485	19 weeks 3 days	97

Class Welcome Meetings: 3:30 – 3:45 Tuesday 13th September 2022.

We try to ensure strong communication between home and school, and so have organised welcome meetings for new parents in classes next week. These will run for 15 minutes at the end of the school day on Tuesday 13th September and are an opportunity to come into school to hear the key messages about how the new year groups will run. Attendance at these sessions **is not essential**, and if you have children in different year groups it will not be possible to attend more than one session simultaneously of course. To help with this, if parents/carers cannot split into different year groups to attend, we will share the key messages from every class in next week's newsletter - so if you cannot make it, you still have exactly the same information as everybody else that attended.

Important Dates including parent consultations on 4th October 2022 – school closes at 13:30.

We've begun to enter the important dates you will need to note on the front page of the newsletter – we'll highlight new ones each week to make them stand out in the list.

On 4th October, school will close at 13:30 to enable parent consultations to take place. These will be in school, starting at 13:40 through to 19:00. We will Parentmail the appointment schedule in the next couple of weeks. Consultations will be by appointment only, so please make sure you make an appointment, which will be for 10 minutes each.

Essex Secondary School Places September 2023. Important for year 6 parents.

From 12 September 2022 you can apply online for your child's secondary school (year 7) place. Read about the [secondary school \(year 7\) place application process](#).

Applications received after the 31 October 2022 will be considered late and you may reduce your chance of being offered a place at your preferred school.

Year 6 parents – your responsibility.

It is your responsibility to apply for a school place at the correct times. Essex county Council will not send you any letters to inform you to apply for your child's school place, so failing to act in time may mean not getting a school place where you want.

Outstanding Monies.

We are not able to provide credit and where our costs are not recouped, it puts services provided by the school **at risk of closure**. Please ensure that all outstanding monies for trips, dinner monies, Woody's etc are paid and accounts are kept up to date otherwise we will have no option than to withdraw these facilities.

Woodys.

Our Before and After School Provision, Woodys, is available for families who need to drop off early or pick up late from school. It is a paid service and **places have to be booked in advance**, so that we have information about each child that will be attending and to be sure that we have the right number of staff available. If a place is not pre-booked, it may not be possible to accommodate pupils that turn up unbooked and entry may be refused. If there is a last minute need for a Woodys place and one has not been booked, please call the school office (01702 559467) or the Woodys phone (07580 461715) to check ahead.

To book places at Woodys, please follow this [link here](#). This link is always featured in the "Regular Information" section at the end of the newsletter.

Nursery News.

A warm welcome to our new starters in nursery and a warm welcome back to those who have returned! Children are settling well, and we will update you of what is going on in the nursery over the coming weeks through this newsletter.

The nursery key workers are able to be contacted via Tapestry or if you have a more specific question, the Nursery email is checked regularly: nursery@westwoodacademy.org

Jeans for Genes day – 23rd September – non uniform day.

On Friday 23rd September, it is Jeans for Genes day, a fantastic cause which Westwood has supported for many years. We would like to invite children to wear jeans on this day. To go with jeans for the day, we ask if possible for pupils to donate at least £1 to this brilliant cause. Many thanks for your cooperation with this.

Water Bottles and Sun Cream/waterproofs and jumpers...

Please make sure that pupils are prepared each day for the joys of our English weather – in the last week alone it has varied from almost 30 degrees and bright sunshine to ferocious thunder and lightning storms... Please make sure pupils have sun cream and hats if it is hot, waterproofs and jumpers as the weather turns colder, and always have a bottle for water with them in school.

Thank you.

Thank you to our wonderful PFTA for providing ice lollies for year 2 for their trip to the seaside.

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Dogs at the school gate.

Could you please avoid bringing dogs in through the school gates, and leave the gate area clear of dogs, as some pupils are very nervous of them. Many thanks for your understanding.



Our School is NUT-FREE.

Please be mindful that there are allergies in the school and so it is a nut-free environment. That means for all food coming into the school, whether it be packed lunches, snacks or for events like Children in Need or at Christmas. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Clubs.

After consulting with pupils, we have arranged the following, most requested clubs for this term. The split in boys and girls football is to reflect the way competitions are run in the local area and we hope to have teams representing both the boys and girls in the local school competitions this year.

Years 1 & 2	Streetdance	Tuesday	3.15-4.15
Years 3 & 4	Football (boys)	Tuesday	3.15-4.15
Years 3 & 4	Football (Girls)	Wednesday	3.15-4.15
Years 5 & 6	Football (boys)	Friday	1.30-2.30
Years 5 & 6	Football (Girls)	Friday	1.30-2.30

Parentmail messages have been sent with the club application details – it is a “first come, first served” arrangement, so sign up quickly. These clubs are paid for through our Sports Premium Funding, to enable as many pupils to participate in quality sport and develop healthy lifestyles as possible. As a result, there is no charge to parents and carers, which we hope is valuable during the difficulties associated with rising prices and the cost of living.

Rising Prices.

Hopefully the situation will change, but as I write this, every school in the country is struggling to understand how they can continue to operate in the same way given that energy and other prices are rising so dramatically, so quickly. We are going to try to conserve energy, which will potentially mean trialling using the heating differently as it gets colder (on for less time at a lower temperature for example), so **we will really require all pupils to have jumpers or cardigans available in school at all times**. We will not turn the heating off! In honesty, without the way schools are being funded changing, it is one of a number of necessary and unavoidable adjustments we will have to make, as I am sure all of you are thinking about at home too.

We will also try to be considerate about what we ask for from you in the future – in truth we always have tried to do this, but I have asked class teachers as we move forward to focus trips and enrichment more on the local area where possible to reduce the need for transport, to support businesses locally and to reduce the impact of rising costs on members of our own school community, ensuring that if we ask for a contribution towards the cost of something then it is as low as possible. As the situation develops, we will of course keep you up to date.

Earrings.

If children wear earrings to school, **they must be removed for PE/on PE days**. If pupils have to keep them in as part of the 6 weeks after having them pierced, we will apply tape for that period to cover them, and try to reduce the risk of pupils bumping into each other/equipment catching them during PE through the activities chosen. Essex County Council recommend that earrings are not worn during PE and so as soon as pupils are able to have them removed on PE days, or are able to remove and replace them themselves, that needs to be in place.

If you are planning to have your child/ren's ears pierced, please can it be arranged for the start of the 6-week summer holiday to reduce potential risk during PE lessons. Thank you.

Please park and drive safely around the school.



Thanks to everyone who has contributed to a safer environment at the front of the school, by parking responsibly and being considerate of the needs of our pupils (who need to be able to cross roads safely) and our neighbours in Beresford Close and Beresford Gardens. Within Beresford Close in particular, there are vulnerable residents, so please can you make sure you are not blocking access to their properties and driveways, as for some of them mobility is an issue.

Please park considerately if you need to drive to school. If parents have any concerns about dangerous parking or driving outside the school, please call the non-emergency police number to report them on **0300 333 4444**.

Achievements

Send in your achievements outside of school to office@westwoodacademy.org and we'll publish them in the newsletter.

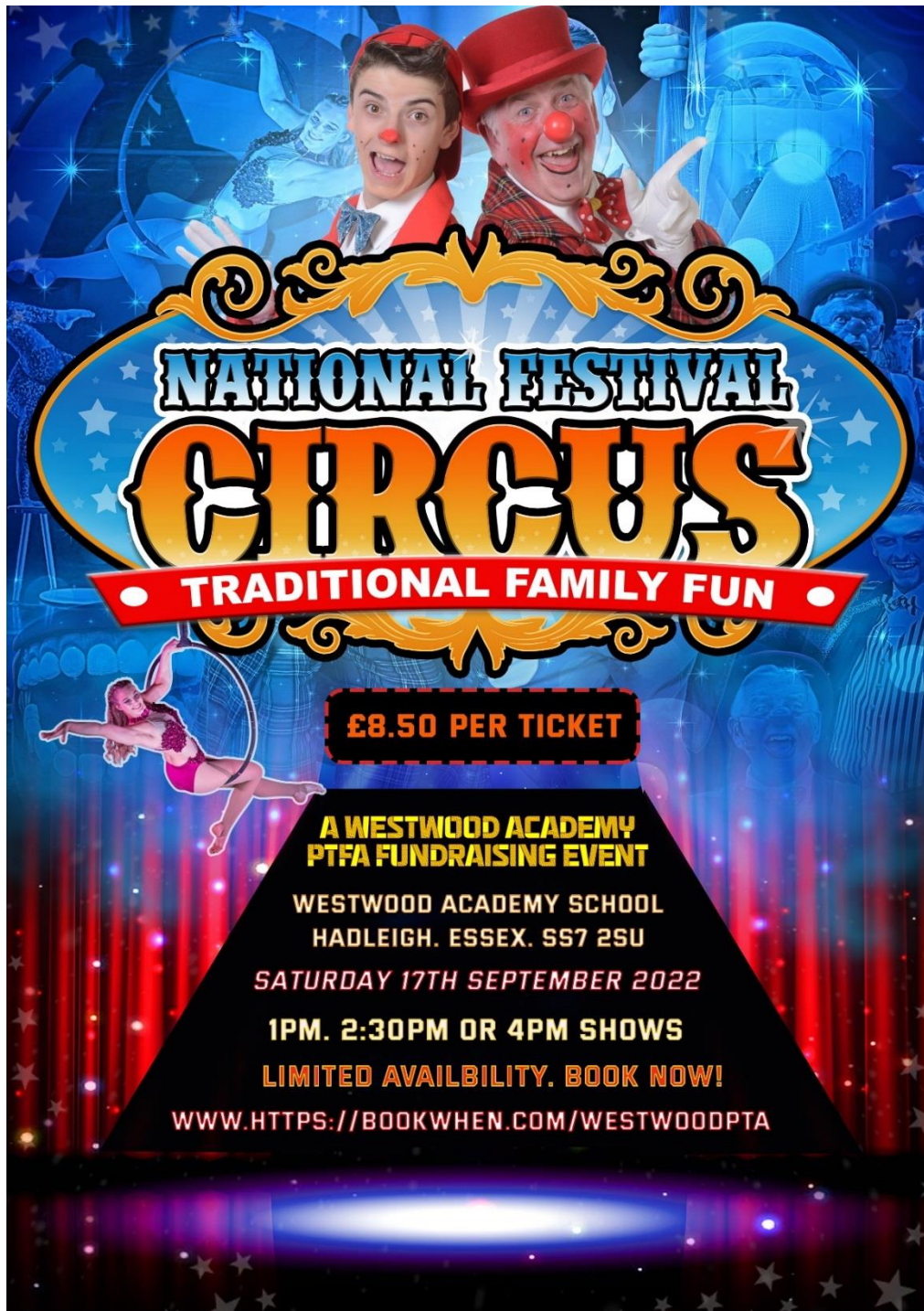
PTFA NEWS.

17th September Circus

We are very excited to announce that we are having a circus come to Westwood!! Please follow the link below to book your tickets.

The National Festival Circus is a magical mix of laughter and excitement. Slapstick clowns, balancing equilibrilists, fast tempo juggling, baffling magic, high flying diabolos, mesmerising spinning hoops and bucketfuls of fabulous fun. The show is presented authentically under the Big Top bringing a colourful rainproof attraction to our School.

Book here: <https://bookwhen.com/westwoodpta>

A vibrant poster for the National Festival Circus. At the top, two clowns with red noses and hats are smiling. Below them, a woman in a red leotard is performing a hoop act. The background is a collage of circus scenes and stars. The text is arranged in a central, stylized font with a red banner and a black box for the ticket price.

**NATIONAL FESTIVAL
CIRCUS**

TRADITIONAL FAMILY FUN

£8.50 PER TICKET

**A WESTWOOD ACADEMY
PTFA FUNDRAISING EVENT**

**WESTWOOD ACADEMY SCHOOL
HADLEIGH, ESSEX, SS7 2SU**

SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2022

1PM, 2:30PM OR 4PM SHOWS

LIMITED AVAILBILITY. BOOK NOW!

WWW.HTTPS://BOOKWHEN.COM/WESTWOODPTA

Future events.

Plans have begun for Halloween discos and upper school youth club – come back for more details as they are confirmed.

Regular Information – click on the links below for more help.

**Woody's Care Provision
Details.**

T: 07580 461715

Opening Hours.

Mon-Thu 07.30-08:45, 15:10-17:00

Fri 07.30-08:45, 15:10-16:00

Bridging Club Fri 1:30 – 15:10

(Woody's is closed during lockdown).

Home Learning.

When available, can be found on our website by clicking this icon:



This week, school dinners will be from the Summer Menu, Week 2 – click below. Click icon below to see menus.



Click below for...

**Woody's Care
Provision
Booking Info**

For support with home learning, email:

nursery@westwoodacademy.org

reception@westwoodacademy.org

year1@westwoodacademy.org

year2@westwoodacademy.org

year3@westwoodacademy.org

year4@westwoodacademy.org

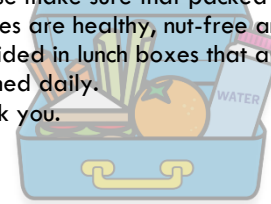
year5@westwoodacademy.org

year6@westwoodacademy.org

Packed Lunches.


Please make sure that packed lunches are healthy, nut-free and provided in lunch boxes that are cleaned daily.

Thank you.



Please remember **snacks** and **water bottles** each day, as well as appropriate **coats** for cold weather and **sun cream** when it's warm.

We **DO NOT** keep spare PE kits. Please ensure pupils are provided with PE kit throughout the school year. Please speak to the school office to make us aware of any difficulty with this. PE kit is part of the school uniform, details of which can be found [here](#).



Online Safety.

MINIMUM AGES.

Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter and Facebook

13

Whatsapp, Tik Tok

16 to register

13 to use


YouTube

18 to register

13 with parental permission.

Games – check PEGI rating.

Click [here](#) for more on online safety.



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

We are nut free. Help us safeguard those with allergies and please do not send any products containing nuts into school.




Follow us on Facebook – we use it to post regular and emergency messages. Click below to go to our page.



Click our logo to go to our website.



Click [here](#) for details of our school uniform.



T: 01702 559467.

E: admin@westwoodacademy.org



The Castle Point & Rochford School Sport Partnership

The Deanes

Daws Heath Road, Benfleet, Essex SS7 2TD

Tel: 01268 773545 Fax: 01268 776860

Website: www.cprssp.co.uk Email: cprssp@thedeanes.essex.sch.uk

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Deanes LTC – Open Day

We are pleased to announce that The Deanes LTC is hosting a Tennis Open Day on Sunday 11th September 2022. This is open to adults and children of all ages and abilities.

The day will commence at 10am and the sessions will run as follows:

10:00-10:45

11:00- 11:45

Throughout the duration of the day there will be a bouncy castle, games and food & drink.

If you or your child wish to attend our open day, please email thedeaneltc@outlook.com and we will book you onto a session.

If you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Will Roberts

The Deanes LTC Tennis Coordinator