



# Westwood Academy

## Westwood Weekly

### Friday 11th November 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.

### Headteacher message

It's been another busy week at Westwood. As I've walked round the school, I have seen preparations and plans beginning for Christmas, children dressed as Greeks, bread making in early years as well as children engaging positively with the Zones of Regulation.

I was also lucky enough this week to spend some time with our PTFA whose efforts in raising funds for our school continue to be relentless. This week we spoke about future projects and decided that our next events will raise money for a much needed outdoor shelter for the field or playground. As you know, budgets continue to shrink, expenses continue to grow which makes the work of the PTFA more important than ever. With this in mind, we would like to reach out once again for anyone with the skills or connections to support the PTFA with sourcing or building outdoor shelters. We are simply not prepared to let stretched funds impact on your children's opportunities and provision, so drawing on the talents in our community feels like a good starting point. A huge thankyou to anyone who can help.

I have had the pleasure of showing round a large number of prospective parents this week and last with overwhelmingly positive comments which, once again have made me feel extremely proud of our school.

Once again, please accept my thanks for your continuing support. Have a lovely weekend.

### School Photographer

If you have children of non school age and wish to have their photo taken with older siblings please come to school office at 8.30. All other siblings at school will have their photos done during the day.

### Children in Need

#### The Great SPOTacular!

Once again Westwood is supporting this event by holding a bake sale and a 'Design a T-shirt for Pudsey' competition. Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November will be a non-uniform day and the staff and children can dress up in yellow clothes, spotty clothes, yellow and spotty clothes, dress as Pudsey Bear, or wear Pudsey merchandise.

The design a T-shirt competition is 50p and there will be prizes for the winners from KS1 and KS2, the entries will be judged by the School Council. Pictures should be given to School Council representatives by Friday 18<sup>th</sup>.

Home-made cakes and shop bought cakes are welcome, however, if home-made, all ingredients used must be displayed. Cakes will be sold at 20p each.

**Attendance: Our school target is 97%**

This week: **95.57%**

Year to date: **95.31%**



**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 or take legal action.

Any pupil with below 90% is considered as a case of "persistent absence".

This week, through to Thursday, **Year 1** again got **99.67%**, the highest in the school. Well done!

### Key Dates (new/changes this week in bold)

17/11/22 School photographs.  
w/c 28/11/22 Book Fair  
**18/11/22 Children in Need**  
2/12/22 Red white and blue day  
5/12/22 Robin Hood Panto in school  
7/12/22 Flu Vaccine.  
8/12/22 Christmas Jumper Day  
8/12/22 Decoration morning  
**13/12/22 Yr 3 school trip**  
13/12/22 Christmas Dinner  
15/12/22 Exhibition Evening.  
16/12/22 PTFA Christmas event  
21/12/22 KS1 Production 1.30 & 5.30  
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.  
27-28/6/23 Year 6 secondary transition days to local schools.  
21/6/23 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.

## Reception admissions for academic year starting in September 2023

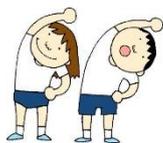
As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opened on Monday 7 November 2022, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2023.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 15 January 2023.

From 7 November 2022, applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions). 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

All of the application information is available on the website above.

## School uniform.



**We expect full school uniform to be worn correctly at all times, including PE uniform.**

On PE days or club days, **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. If clubs are being attended, the school PE kit can be worn on those days if needed – again, please follow the guidance on our website and do not wear football kits etc. 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 contacted where necessary if uniform guidance is not followed.



## 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, the Nursery 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.

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](mailto:nursery@westwoodacademy.org)

## Earrings.

If children wear earrings to school, **they must be removed for PE/on PE days**. 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.

**We have been lenient with earrings this half term and have been taping those children who haven't taken them out. After half term all earrings will need to be removed prior to PE lessons for safety reasons. If children have their earrings in on the day of PE they will unfortunately not be able to take part. If you have any concerns regarding this, please contact us prior to the PE lesson.**

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.

## Football League.

I am happy to announce we have joined the Football League for Yr 5/6 boys 9 a-side and Yr 5/6 girls 7 a-side. We are in the process of organising matches with the schools in our league.

We are looking for volunteers to help support our Football teams, offer additional training prior to matches and/or help referee games. If you know of anyone who would like to support our school community, please contact Miss Reynolds through the school office.

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



### 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 we have been made aware of several pupils who 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.

## Please keep our school community safe.



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 a number of vulnerable residents, so **please do not block access** to their properties and driveways.

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**.

We also 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.

## Achievements

Send in your achievements outside of school to [office@westwoodacademy.org](mailto:office@westwoodacademy.org) and we'll publish them in the newsletter.

Well done to Aspen who passed her first grading in Kung Fu. Fantastic Aspen.



## PTFA News

We are pleased to announce that over £300 was raised at the disco last week.

**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

**Home Learning.**

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



This week, school dinners will be from the Winter Menu, Week 3 – 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](mailto:nursery@westwoodacademy.org)

[reception@westwoodacademy.org](mailto:reception@westwoodacademy.org)

[year1@westwoodacademy.org](mailto:year1@westwoodacademy.org)

[year2@westwoodacademy.org](mailto:year2@westwoodacademy.org)

[year3@westwoodacademy.org](mailto:year3@westwoodacademy.org)

[year4@westwoodacademy.org](mailto:year4@westwoodacademy.org)

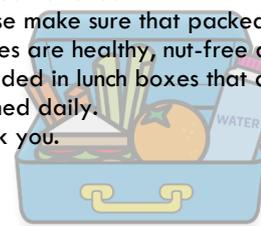
[year5@westwoodacademy.org](mailto:year5@westwoodacademy.org)

[year6@westwoodacademy.org](mailto:year6@westwoodacademy.org)

**Packed Lunches.**

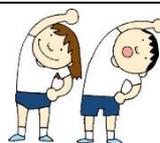
Please make sure that packed lunches are healthy, nut-free and provided in lunch boxes that are cleaned daily.

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](mailto: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.

Contact us



T: 01702 559467.

E: [admin@westwoodacademy.org](mailto:admin@westwoodacademy.org)

