



Westwood Academy

Westwood Weekly

Friday 18th 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

The wintery weather certainly seems to have made an appearance this week! The children have managed some changes to their routines extremely well and our playground leaders have really stepped up to support the wet lunches.

We have been lucky enough this week to begin the first 2 sessions of our mental health first aid training course for parents run by Mrs Kreyling and her team at B Mindful. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and I know the parents involved are looking forward to the final sessions next week. A huge thank you once again to Mrs Kreyling for offering us this fantastic opportunity.

Wellbeing and mental health is at the forefront of all our minds more so than ever. With this in mind I am thrilled to announce that Mrs Tong has taken up a new position as our Wellbeing Manager. We hope this will add further capacity allowing us to continue with our personalised approach to supporting SEMH across the school as well as working with our children with additional needs and support staff to ensure high standards across all our provision.

We also welcome Miss Reynolds and Mrs Beale to our leadership team where they will be temporarily supporting SEN and Maths leadership across the school.

I have been fortunate enough to have many visits from the children this week, sharing amazing work and explaining how they are committing new learning to their long term memory. Year 1 have been teaching me all about 3D shapes and children in every year group have been able to talk about their learning to a variety of visitors in the school this week.

Following plans made with the PTFA last week we are thrilled to announce that some amazing outdoor shelters have already been sourced and we hope to begin construction in early Spring. Already, the PTFA are looking at new projects and have been deep in discussions around carpenters, further outdoor equipment and more. We are really excited about the upcoming Christmas events where we hope to add further funds to support the school. Another huge thank you to this wonderful team of parents!

A huge thank you to you all for your generous contributions towards Children in Need today and for the fabulous outfits across the school! We hope you have a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing you next week. I have spotted some Christmas song words on the photocopier this week. I predict your home may be subject to Christmas songs very soon.....

Christmas decoration day

We are so excited this year to be able to invite all parents to our Christmas decorations day on Thursday 8th December. Our wonderful PTFA have kindly donated money to each class to purchase activities to complete with you. We would like to invite you to join your child/children in their classes to make some festive crafts to take home with you.

We are conscious of sibling overlaps and have tried our best to split the classes decoration slots across the day.

Year 3 and 4 - 9:30-10:30

Year 1 and 2 - 10:45-11:45

Nursery and reception - 1:10-2:10

Year 5 and 6 - 2:15-3:15

This day also coincides with Christmas Jumper day which will of course extend to parents!

Attendance: Our school target is 97%

This week: **91.33%**

Year to date: **94.84%**



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 **98.67%**, the highest in the school. Well done!

Key Dates (new/changes this week in bold)

w/c 28/11/22 Book Fair

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, whole school.

13/12/22 Christmas production, Nursery & RW

13/12/22 Year 3 school trip

14/12/22 Christmas Dinner

15/12/22 Exhibition Evening.

16/12/22 PTFA Christmas event

20/12/22 KS2 Production 2.30 and 5.30

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.

Christmas carol concerts

We are thrilled to finalise our plans for this years Christmas performances.

Nursery and reception

Performance to parents on Tuesday 13th December at 2:30. All nursery children are welcome to attend with a parent even if this is not your session.

Year 1 and 2 performance - Wednesday 21st December at 1:30 and 5:30

Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Carol Concert. Monday 20th December at 2:30 and 5:30.

Teachers will be in touch with further details nearer the time.

Date change

We have moved the Christmas dinner this year to Wednesday 14th December.

Reception admissions for academic year starting in September 2023

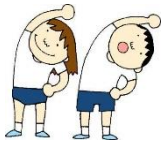
As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opened on Monday 7 November 2022, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2023.

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. 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

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.

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	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



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.

Art Sale.

Phoebe, Sophie and Frankie in year 3 have been busy making art work to sell. They will be selling the things they have made on Friday 25th November if anyone would like to bring in money to support this.

Achievements

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

Well done to Archie Year 1, he came 4th in his first gymnastics competition.



Children In Need!

Thank you so much for your generosity today. We've had a great day as you can see!



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 1 – 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

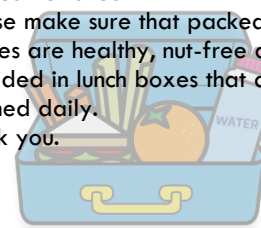
year5@westwoodacademy.org

year6@westwoodacademy.org

Packed Lunches.

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

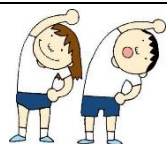
Thank you.



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.

Contact us



T: 01702 559467.

E: admin@westwoodacademy.org

