



# Westwood Academy

**Friday 23rd 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.*

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

This week: **96.79%**

Year to date: **96.62%**

**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 legal action.

This week, through to Thursday, **Reception** got **99.20%**, the highest in the school. Well done! The attendance reward will be coming your way...



## **Year 1 welcome meeting.**

Parents of year 1 pupils are able to visit the classroom and meet the class teacher on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 3:30, this is a rescheduled event from last week when we had to cancel. We hope to see lots of year 1 parents there for an update about the curriculum and also how the class will be organised throughout the year.

For those who cannot make it, don't worry! The information that will be discussed was included in last week's newsletter and is available on our website.

## **Important Dates including parent consultations on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – school closes at 13:30.**

Already there are some additions to the key date list – changes and new additions will be highlighted in bold so that you can see what the latest changes are.

**On 4<sup>th</sup> 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 – apply now for secondary school places.**

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.

## **Cycle to school week**

The 4-8<sup>th</sup> October is cycle to school week which Westwood Academy are proud to be a part of. If you would like more information on this please click on the link below.

[Cycle to School Week - Bikeability](#)

## **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.

## **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.

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)

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

Please make sure that pupils are prepared each day for the joys of our English weather. 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.

## 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.

## 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 contacted where necessary if uniform guidance is not followed.

## 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.



Congratulations to Jessica Potter for receiving these awards for her effort and dedication in gymnastics.

We are incredibly proud of Lottie and Sydney from year 2 who both competed at Herne Bay, Kent last weekend and walked away with a couple of medals each. They have both shown hard work and dedication, demonstrated by the wins in both the waltz and cha cha group dances where they were partnered together. Pupils of the western dance academy Hadleigh and love every moment they dance week in week out. Great job girls!



**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

**(Woodys 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 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](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.**

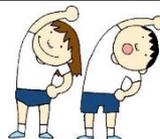
Please make sure that packed lunches are healthy, nut-free and provided in lunch boxes that are cleaned daily.

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)

## PTFA News

The PTFA would like to say a huge thank you for all your support recently, we have ran lots of successful events throughout this year including Mother/Father's Day, Valentine's day, Discos, Break the Rules, Tuck Shop/Ice Lolly sales to name a few, and our most recent larger events the Summer Inflatables & The Circus raising over £2500 between them, all of which goes straight back into the school for the children to benefit. None of this would be possible without your support and help, whether it's buying an ice lolly or volunteering to help at a disco.

We are proud to say that this year alone we have already been able to supply the children with easter eggs, new toys and equipment for Woody's, water & ice poles at sports day/district sports, Year 6 leaver hoodies, we were able to give the school £500 towards new books for the library and much more.

After liaising with the school this week we have agreed to pay for a mobile pantomime to come for all the children to enjoy in December & also buy some new playground equipment for the children to play with on their break & lunch times.

We will be holding a PTFA meeting in the coming weeks to discuss what we can do for Christmas this year, we would love any new & current members that want to help to attend, as this will determine what we can/can't do.

Once again Thank you 😊

## Welcome Meetings/Curriculum updates for parents/carers, September 2022.

### Reception.

The children are settling in well to the routines and expectations of school, we are very proud of how well they come in from the school gate. All children have completed a baseline assessment; we will share more information about this soon.

This term our topic is 'all about me' where we will be finding out about each other and our school environment. We have already been busy creating self-portraits and drawing family pictures where we have celebrated our similarities and differences. We have also looked at feelings and how to express this effectively. In this topic we will also cover healthy eating and oral health. It would be lovely if you could upload family pictures to Tapestry or send photographs in for the children to share with each other.

In literacy we will begin learning sounds following the Twinkl scheme. We have already completed some phase 1 activities and we will shortly begin phase 2 where we will learn the individual letter sounds s,a,t,p,i,n,m,d,g,o,c,k and more. We will then use these sounds to begin reading simple words.

Maths has been very practical so far as we look to include concepts while the children are involved in play. We will then begin looking at sorting objects according to colour, size, shape etc. Whilst completing these activities we will be embedding further number skills including counting, number recognition and formation.

We will begin PE after the October half term. Our PE day will be Friday; the children will need to come dressed in their PE kit on this day.

### Year 1.

A very warm welcome to 1C. We are excited to commence the year with our first topic, *Marvellous Me!* Other topics through Year 1 include; *Going Green, Exploring China, Plants and Animals, London's Burning* and *Oh I do like to be beside the Seaside*. In Maths we are going to be focusing on a range of areas this term, including; place value, addition, subtraction and shape. In English we have a strong focus on phonics as well as covering many different genres such as poetry, fairy tales, instructions and creative writing. We also look at comprehension and reading skills as well as segmenting and blending. Year 1 PE day will be on a Monday, so please send your children into school in their PE kits with no earrings. Spelling tests will be every Monday morning and new spellings will be issued on the same day. Any support you can give at home with forming letters and numbers accurately would be fantastic and it is really important that the children continue to read at home. Reading books will be changed every Friday. Our school library visit will be every Friday morning too, so please could library books be back in school each Friday so children can swap them. Please ensure reading folders and spelling books are in school daily. If you have any questions you can reach me on [year1@westwoodacademy.org](mailto:year1@westwoodacademy.org)

### Year 2.

#### **PE days:**

Our PE day is now a Monday. Children must be sent into school in their PE kits on Monday with no jewellery.

#### **Library:**

We have a library session each week, which is on a Friday morning, where we will explore different books.

#### **Home learning:**

Daily home learning:Sumdog and reading.

#### **Topics:**

#### **Autumn 1: Who lives in a house like this?**

This topic is all about animals and their habitats.

### **Autumn 2: New York.**

This topic is all about New York and what it is like there.

### **Spring 1: Winter Wonderland.**

This topic is all about Winter animals and the Winter season.

### **Spring 2: Castles.**

This topic is all about castles from the past. We will learn about the different parts of a castle and why they were built.

### **Summer 1: Growing Green.**

This topic is all about plants. We will be growing plants, naming plants and identifying how to care for plants.

### **Summer 2: Time Travellers.**

This topic is all about historical events. We will be going back in time to explore events beyond your living memory.

### **Writing until Christmas will cover:**

Creative writing, Summer writing, recounts, The three little pigs, poetry, Snow White in New York, persuasive writing, Christmas poems.

### **Mathematics until Christmas will cover:**

Place value, addition and subtraction, money, multiplication and division and time.

## **Year 3.**

In **Literacy** this term our writing will involve poetry writing, dictionary work. Our non-fiction writing will be non-chronological reports and instructions. **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 3 it is still very important for children to read to an adult as much as possible (even if they are a fluent reader). We expect them to read to an adult at least 3 x a week. Please sign and use the Reading Record book. In **Numeracy** we will be covering the following areas of mathematics: place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division.

**Autumn 1 topic: Our local area.** This topic is all about where we live and the local area.

**Autumn 2 topic.** The second half term topic is about the wider world we live in.

### **Weekly reminders for year 3**

- **PE Thursday:** All jewellery needs to be removed.
- **Homework:** Sumdog, learn spellings and reading. If there are any problems about the homework task, please get your child to speak to Miss Redwood
- **Spellings:** given out on a **Friday** and tested on the following **Friday**.
- **Times tables:** test on a **Friday**.
- **Library: Thursday**

## **Year 4.**

In **Literacy** this term our story writing will focus on Roman myths and legends, characters and settings. Our non-fiction writing will be a recount. **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 fluent reader). We expect them to read to an adult at least 3 x a week. Please sign and use the Reading Record book. 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 area and perimeter. Times tables 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. **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 Tuesday:** All jewellery needs to be removed.
- **Homework:** x tables sheet, Sumdog, learn spellings and reading. A times tables sheet is given out 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 **Friday** and tested on the following **Friday**.
- **Times tables:** test on a **Friday**.
- **Library: Tuesday**

## **Year 5.**

Here is a brief outline of the work we will be doing in Year 4 during the Autumn term:

**Literacy:** During the Autumn term, literacy will be linked to our topic –Space.

The children will work on their creative writing skills; writing about characters and settings and using their imagination.

**Mathematics:** The children will be developing a variety of mathematical concepts throughout the year beginning with number and place value. They will be provided with frequent opportunities to consolidate their previous learning and to work independently, applying the skills they have learned.

Our topic is Science based: “Space.”

This is very much a cross curricular topic and will feature in Literacy, Science, Geography and History lessons. We will be finding out about the history of space travel, the Earth, Moon and Sun as well as the other planets in the solar system. If the children would like to do extra research at home, that would be great!

During Art lessons, the children will be improving their mastery of Art and Design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials such as pencil, charcoal, paint and clay. They will be introduced to observational drawing and the work of artists such as Paul Klee.

Other subjects we will be covering include:

- French – we are fortunate enough to once again welcome a French teacher from the King John School once a week to deliver lessons to the children.
- Computing – learning about E-safety, coding and practising research skills.
- PE – will be on Tuesday afternoons this term. Children can continue to wear their PE kit to school on the day they have PE.
- Earrings must not be worn for PE, please ensure they are not worn on these days or that the children are able to remove these themselves prior to the lesson.

**Homework** – the expectation for this remains the same:

Daily times tables practice – the children were fantastic in Year 4 learning their tables but practice will help them remember them this year !

Children can practise in a number of ways:

- Online activities such as Sumdog, MyMaths, Purple Mash, BBC Bitesize etc.
- Quick fire questions.
- Writing them down – repetition.
- Children will also continue to have a homework book for Maths.
- This will consist of a times tables sheet and some Arithmetic questions.
- This will be handed out on a Tuesday and they will have until the following Tuesday when we will mark it together in class, working through the answers and strategies they can use.

**Spellings** practise – new spellings are given every Monday in class, these are practised daily as part of handwriting but the children should still be practising them every evening. Spelling test is on a Friday morning.

**Reading** – please read with your child regularly. They will have a reading book from school and a reading record book for you to date, comment in and sign when they have read. Please try and discuss the books with the children, asking questions about the text and making sure they understand any new vocabulary.

**Things to look forward to .....**

Year 5 are lucky enough to be invited to the **Young Voices** concert next year in February. This will take place at the O2 arena in London and is always a fantastic night for all involved. More details will be sent out soon and you can look forward to the children practising the songs day and night !!

**Danbury.**

I know it's a long way off but what a nice way to end Year 5 this will be, I'm genuinely really pleased with the response to this trip and the enthusiasm it generated. As always, if you have any concerns or you need to discuss anything with me please use the Year 5 email address and we can arrange to meet after school or liaise via email.

**Year 6.**

Our topic this term in 6B is “Lest we Forget.” The theme encompasses both World war 1, (this half of the term) and World War 2 for the second half. This topic lends itself well to a cross curricular approach, where aspects of Art, Design and Technology, Geography and of course History, weave through the subject matter.

In Science, we will be learning about ‘Humans including Animals’

Literacy over the whole term will find us writing Trench poems, letter writing, reports and diary entries.

In Maths, we are consolidating our skills in Number, which will include place value and recapping the methods of the four operations – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

After half term in Maths, we will be looking at Fractions, Position and Direction.

6B will have PE on Wednesday's term, where Gymnastics will be taught alternatively with Netball (King John Specialist). Please ensure your child attends school in their PE kit. The school rule is that no earrings can be worn during PE, therefore it would be appreciated if children remove their earrings before they come to school on PE days.

Homework this term, continues to be regularly reading, practising set spellings and Times tables. Children will be given one set of spellings each week and will be tested on Fridays. Homework in preparation for the SATs will be slowly introduced before half-term, this will be accessed online.

# TOURS OF THE DEANES

SEE THE SCHOOL IN ACTION

01268 773545



CALL US  
TODAY  
TO BOOK  
A TOUR



THE DEANES