



Westwood Academy

Friday 30th 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.

Price Increase for school dinners.

Unfortunately with rising costs we have no choice but to increase the cost of school meals. With effect from 31st October, when we return from half term, school dinners will increase in price to £2.30 a day.

Important Dates including parent consultations on 4th 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 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.

After School Clubs.

There will be no after school clubs on Tuesday 4th October as school closes at 13.30.

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.

Census Day.

We are having a special themed lunch on Thursday 6th October for Census Day. We ask parents to encourage their children to have lunch this day as our funding is affected by these numbers. Many thanks. Please see menu at the end of Newsletter.

Open morning.

We have 2 open mornings planned for parents of new starters to come in and have a look round the school and ask any questions. These will be 12th October and 2nd November at 9.30 and 11.00. The tours will be by appointment only. If you require an appointment, please contact the school office.

National Child Measurements.

National Child Measurement Programme will be in school on Friday 14th October to take Year 6 Height and Weight. A letter with the full details has been sent out to Year 6 via Parentmail.

Cycle to school week

The 4-8th 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](#)

Please send any photos of your child cycling to school to office@westwoodacademy.org so we can celebrate the children's participation!

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.

Attendance: Our school target is 97%

This week: **96.43%**

Year to date: **95.50%**

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, **Year 3** got **100%**, the highest in the school. Well done! The attendance reward will be coming your way...



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

Update – We have been exploring different options to secure some additional enrichment activities for the children in the local area. We are in the process of securing some visitors from King John to further enrich our curriculum. Watch this space!

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

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

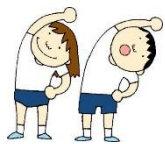
Please make sure that pupils are prepared each day for the joys of our English weather. Please make sure pupils have sun cream and hats if it is hot, waterproofs and jumpers as the weather turns colder, and always have a bottle for water with them in school. Thank you.

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.

Mini Marathon

We are taking part in the mini marathon again this year following the huge success in previous years. Sponsorship forms have been sent out to children this week and we look forward to once again raising money to buy outdoor resources. The marathon covers 2.6 miles and will take place over the next 2 weeks. Thanks, as ever for your support.

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.

Achievements

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

Ford Community Project

After years of planning, this week we finally started our community project with Ford Motor Company! We initially requested the project late in 2019 and had plans to begin in early 2020. COVID hit and the project was delayed. We eventually managed to rebook for the work to start at the end of last summer and were once again delayed this time due to the 40-degree heat! On Thursday this week the work finally started and will continue next week. Around 20 Ford employees will be joining us over 3 days to completely revamp the pond area and make it into a Sensory Garden! Not only are Ford giving us their time, they have also donated £200 from their charity funds for resources. We will keep you updated on the progress of the project but for now we can share the before and after photo of the work to date!



The team presenting the cheque to Mrs Clarke and some of our house captains and deputy's.

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 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

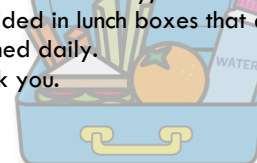
year5@westwoodacademy.org

year6@westwoodacademy.org

Packed Lunches.

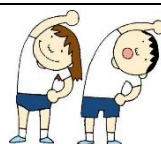
Please make sure that packed lunches are healthy, nut-free and provided in lunch boxes that are cleaned daily.

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.

Contact us



T: 01702 559467.

E: admin@westwoodacademy.org



**HARRY
POTTER
THEMED
LUNCH**

THURSDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2022

**CHASERS CHICKEN NUGGETS OR QUORN
NUGGETS**

WEASLEY WAFFLES

GOLDEN SNITCHES

SLYTHERIN SPONGE CAKE

LIQUID LUCK IN A CUP

**COST: £2.20 FOR YEARS 3 TO 6,
FREE OF CHARGE FOR EYFS AND YEARS 1 & 2**