



Westwood Academy

Westwood Weekly

Friday 15th December 2023

Dear Westwood Families,

Wow, time has flown by, we can't believe that next week is our last one before Christmas. School will be finishing up for a well-deserved winter holiday on Wednesday 20th, at the usual collection time.

Our Christmas lunch in the school hall this week was a true highlight, filled with laughter, cracker pulling, delicious food, and festive tunes. An enormous thank you to everyone who added to the joy of the occasion.

Congratulations to our top Enterprise week class...Year 5!! Year 4 and EYFS were hot on your tails, with all three year groups raising over £100, including their float. It's inspiring to see our young minds embracing entrepreneurship!

The Omnia Community Sports coaches brought a burst of energy on Tuesday and Wednesday, engaging our pupils in a range of sporting activities. We eagerly await their return each week to continue to build on our skills and celebrate all things active at Westwood.

The nursery and reception nativity performance was simply enchanting. Seeing our little ones shine with enthusiasm and sparkle was a true delight. Thank you, families, for making them look spectacular. A round of applause to our fantastic staff who worked behind the scenes to create such a wonderful show.

Our attendance afternoon tea class winners were year 2 this half term! We will be rolling out the finest biscuits and beverages, ready for your first day back at school on 4th January.

Enjoy the wintery weekend ahead everybody,

Mrs Perryman



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

This week: **93.27%**

Year to date: **95.62%**



We expect pupils to be in school everyday.

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

This week, **Year 3** got **97.74%**, the highest in the school. Well done!

Key Dates (new/changes this week in bold)

18.12.23 KS1 Dress rehearsal to pupils
19.12.23 Christmas Productions to parents (y1 & 2)
2pm, 4.15pm
20.12.23 – Non-school uniform day!

21.12.23-3.1.24 Christmas Holidays

4.1.24 Return to school
4.1.24 Top Attendance Class Afternoon Tea
11.1.24 Reception Road Safety workshop PM
16.1.24 Football match 3pm Wyburns – boys 5/6
18.1.24 New library books delivery from HM library service
17.1.24 RockSteady pupil workshops
9.2.24 Year 1 Chinese Dance Workshop
6/7/13/14th Feb – Parent mental health first aider w/s
14.2.24 Badminton comp at Deanes 5/6
23.2.24 – Junior Music Festival (year 5)
26.2.24 – Y6 Resilience workshop
28.2.24 – KS2 cross country comp
28.2.24 – SEND parent coffee morning

19.2-23.2.23 Half Term

26.2.24 Return to school
7.2.24 – World Book Day!
11-15th March – Science Week
13.3.24 – Year 2 football comp
14.3.24 – Year 2 Colchester Castle trip
15.3.24 – Red Nose Day
19.3.24 – Class/group photos
21.3.24 Exhibition Evening

29.3-12.4.24 Easter Holidays

15.4.24 Return to school
13.5-17.5.24 SATS week
13.5-17.5.24 Book Fair

27.5-31.5.24 Half Term

3.6.24 Return to school
17.6-21.6.24 Yr 6 Residential
27.6.24 Exhibition Evening
19.7.24 Last day of term



Instagram

Check out our Instagram page @WestwoodSEAT and our academy page @South_Essex_Academy_Trust. We will also continue to share updates on our Westwood Academy Facebook page too. Tune in to see all of the exciting learning we are getting up to at Westwood!



A gentle reminder: Please ensure your child's jumper or coat has their name, and we'll take care of reuniting it with them promptly if it does get lost.



Please be mindful of our pupil safety at drop off and collection. Please ensure that our school is a safe place for children and families by parking in the correct zone.

We are counting on our families to set a good example and to help us keep our school community safe.

Thank you to all who are already doing this.

**FAMILY READING AFTERNOONS! Fridays 1pm reception, 11.30pm nursery
Wednesdays 2.55pm nursery**

Merits and Reader of the Week

You are all superstars, and a special well done to the following children who all received Merits and reading awards this week.

Reception- whole class for their Nativity

Year 1- John and Amelia Ezra

Year 2 – Jackson and Abel Neve R

Year 3 – Harry and Eva Scarlett

Year 4 – Emily, Austin and Aimee Brooklyn

Year 5 – Fabio and Stanley Samuel

Year 6 – Jessica B and Max Alana

Lunchtime- Dylan year 4 and Eli E year 1



Reporting absence.

If your child is absent from school, please contact the **office directly** as soon as possible to make the school aware of the absence and the reason why. Class Dojo is an excellent platform to communicate with the class teacher regarding class based tasks, please do not share absences over Class Dojo.

Sickness

If your child is off school due to sickness the guidelines have changed. You now only have to stay at home for **24 hours** and not 48 hours

PE

As the cold weather takes hold we may face unexpected changes to our PE sessions. To ensure children are able to take part in their weekly exercise, could we please request that a pair of trainers or plimsols are in school to remain in class. Many thanks for your support.



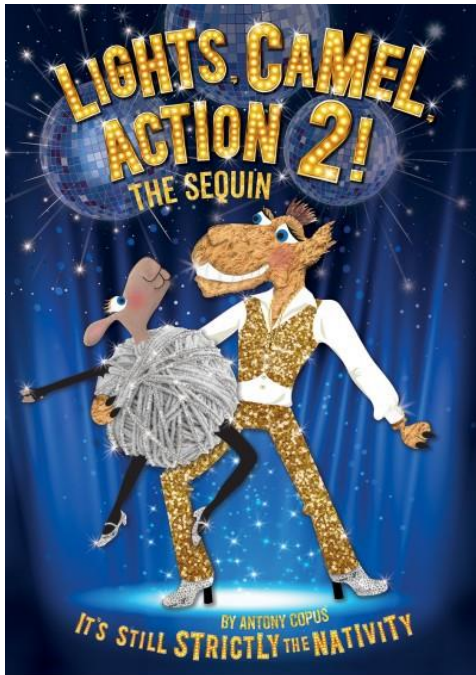
Change to lunch menu.

Please note a slight change to the lunch menu for next week only:

Monday- Pasta with tomato sauce

Tuesday- Chicken burger and chips

Wednesday- BBQ chicken and rice



Key stage 1 production

Year 1 and Year 2 are ready to show you all how fabulous they are in our Christmas production;

LIGHTS, CAMEL, ACTION 2! THE SEQUIN

Showings:

Tuesday 19th December 2023

Afternoon: 2pm

Once the afternoon show has finished, the children will be taken back to their classroom to get changed. Once they are changed, parents who watched the show can collect the children. Others will be taken out as normal at 3.10pm.

Evening: 4.15pm

For the evening performance the children can return to school from 3.45pm but must be at school no later than 4pm to get ready. Make your way to the reception and the children will be let through to their classrooms to change into their costumes.

You can book your tickets on parent mail from Monday ☺

Achievements.

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

A huge well done to Lily and Sophie who raised £245 plus gift aid from their loom band sale and just giving site.

This will be split between HARP homeless charity and Neptune children's ward at Southend Hospital.



☀️Calling all Parents and Guardians!☀️

We have a special request that can make a big difference for our nursery and reception classes.

We're in need of wicker baskets/bins for storing resources in.

Also, if any families have any spare Astroturf sections – this would be warmly welcomed!

If you have items you might be able to spare, please drop them off at the school reception.

Thank you for helping us create an engaging learning environment for our little ones! We are so grateful for all of the generous donations families have already made.



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 excellent attendance whenever possible.

Attendance	Hours missed	Weeks missed	Missed days
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

Earrings.

A friendly reminder that earrings need to be studs and not hoop or dangly 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.

Nail Varnish and other jewellery

May we remind families that nail varnish should not be worn and the only other jewellery that is allowed is a watch.



We expect full school uniform to be worn correctly at all times, including PE uniform. On PE days children should be dressed in correct Westwood Academy PE kits. This consists of navy shorts/joggers, a white t-shirt, white socks, navy fleece and appropriate trainers. No branded clothes should be worn.

Nursery News: The nursery key workers are able to be contacted via Tapestry or on class Dojo – please feel very welcome to reach out with questions or updates regarding your child. Any admission queries, please kindly contact nursery@westwoodacademy.org.



Enquire about lettings! Prices per hour:

Westwood Academy

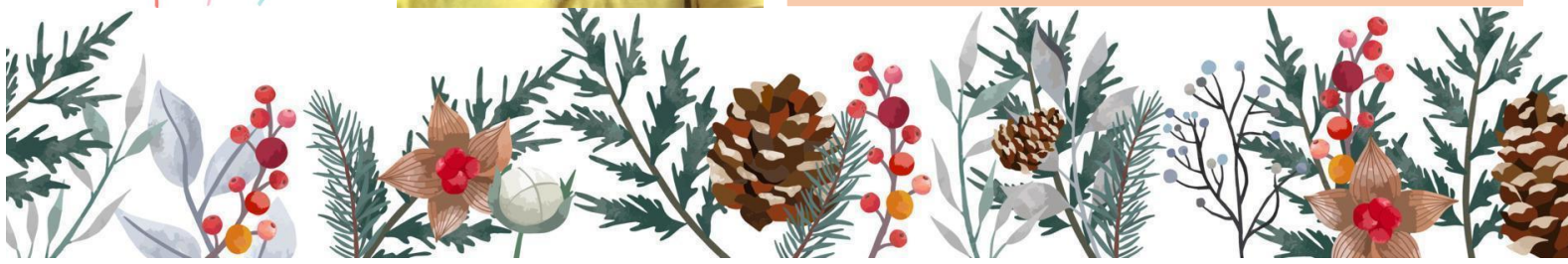
AREA	COMMERCIAL
Main (Small) Hall	£25
Sports Hall	£45
Football Pitch	£25



An enormous Westwood thank you and congratulations to the extraordinary Mrs. Zoe McDermid!

After nine years of invaluable contributions to Westwood, she is embarking on a full-time role at the council.

As the friendly face for new families in the nursery, Mrs McDermid's wizardry in financial matters, communications, and nursery operations has left an indelible mark. You will be so missed by all of us and we are wishing you all the very best on the next stage of your career!



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, click icon below to see menus.



Click below for...

Woody's Care Provision Booking Info

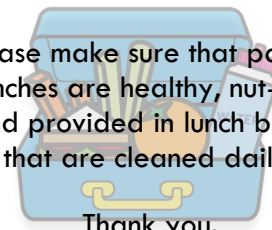
For support with home learning,

Please send a message to your child's class teacher on Dojo, or speak at the gate.



Packed Lunches.

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

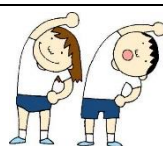


Thank you.



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

Please ensure pupils are provided with a 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 – Click below to go to our page.



Click our logo to go to our website.



Westwood
Academy



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



Working with locally trusted organisations across the county, Essex ActivAte run face to face activity clubs during the school holidays and half term breaks. These clubs are FREE for children and young people who're eligible for benefits based free school meals.

We are also able to extend this support to a number of other children and young people who may otherwise experience inactivity or social isolation without access to this free support. This is decided on a case by case basis, therefore please speak to the organisation running the club you are interested in to book on or ask any questions you may have, using the information below.

If you need further support, information or guidance regarding your Holiday Activities voucher code, click the link below.

How do I book onto a winter HAF club?



- If your child/ren receives or is eligible for benefit based free school meals, you be emailed a Holiday Activities voucher code from your school
- You will receive one code, per child, each holiday – each easter, summer and winter holidays, you will be sent a new code for each child
- Click the green box to log in, claim your voucher and book your child directly onto a local club
- If you are still waiting for a voucher code, please contact your school who should be able to provide this for you
- We offer limited spaces for young people who are not eligible for benefits based free school meals, but are from 'low-income' working families, may be vulnerable and/or experience inactivity and social isolation without access to this free support
- Therefore to book your child/ren onto a local club, you will not receive a Holiday Activities voucher code, and you will need to contact the club directly by finding their contact details below

<https://www.activeessex.org/children-young-people/essex-activate/winter-holiday-clubs-essex-activate/>

Are you planning on giving your child a new games console, mobile phone, tablet, or computer game this Christmas? Or do you have friends or family who are?

Visit www.essex.police.uk/sortyoursettings for practical things you can do to help make your child's new device safer when they are online. #StaySafe