



# Woodlands' Newsletter

14th September 2020

Phrase of the Week: *Winners don't quit: quitters don't win!*

## Contact us

Breakfast club bookings [bc@woodlands.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:bc@woodlands.staffs.sch.uk)

[HSL@woodlands.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:HSL@woodlands.staffs.sch.uk)

All other enquiries: [office@woodlands.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@woodlands.staffs.sch.uk)

Telephone : 01827 429020 (office open 8.00am—  
4.00pm)



## At The Woodlands We value:



Resilience Empathy Self Awareness Passion Excellence Communication Teamwork

Dear Families,

It is great to have all the children back in school, to see their smiling faces and to hear their laughter. All of the staff have been so excited to see them and are very impressed with how they have all settled so quickly and adapted to the different conditions. Our Reception children have also started school extremely well and are building up to full time. They will be staying for lunch this week.

The risk assessments and protocols that have been put in place are keeping the children safe and minimising the impact on their day to day school experience. Thank you to all the families for your understanding and co-operation with staggered starts and social distancing at the gates, this is an essential element of keeping children safe. We ask you to continue to arrive at the allocated time and not before to avoid groups or gatherings at the gate.

## Attendance

If your child will not be attending school for any reason can you please call the school before 9.00am each day of illness.

If your child is unwell and you feel that they need to be tested please contact the school. Whilst waiting for test results the whole household must remain in self isolation.

The children can access Remote Learning on the school website- each class is preparing weekly learning and activities for those children who are off school for a few days- either waiting for a test or if suffering from a cold and can't attend. School will make contact daily to assist with this learning.

## School Website

We have been updating and adding to our school website- this is the first place to look for any information It includes dates, newsletters, letters home and class information.

It also includes Remote learning and a host of links to other activities

[www.woodlands.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.woodlands.staffs.sch.uk)

## Communication

We want to make communication with families even better and easier. Over the last few months we have been collecting and checking family email addresses.

Our plan is to use email to send information to families- this will include notes, letters and newsletters. All information will also be added to the website so that there is constant access and families need not worry if they have lost a letter.

We aim to not send paper copies unless needed. Attendance checks will still be via a text/call in the morning to ask why a child is not attending school.

## Leave of Absence during Term Time

As you will be aware, current attendance regulations stipulate a Head Teacher may not grant a leave of absence during term-time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what he/she views as 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion, if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. If the leave is granted, the Head Teacher is able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for Leave of Absence can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s). Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued and not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Staffordshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Parents are asked to respect the new regulations under which the school must work and if there is a need to take a child out of school during term-time, an application or request must be made in advance and make clear how the circumstances are exceptional.

## PE

We see PE as a vital part of the curriculum and are providing 2 PE lessons a week. We ask that the children keep their PE kit in school so that they can access, it as and when needed.

## FSM

If you think your may be entitled to Free School Meals then complete a brief form on [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals). This will only take about 5 minutes to complete and you will get an instant decision. Please remember that all children that have gone into our year 3 will no longer be entitled to the Universal Free School Meals Scheme as this is only available from Reception to year 2.

## EY

Early Years pupils are entitled to free lunches- this includes sandwiches. We encourage families to order a school dinner, whether hot or sandwiches for their child.

## Secondary School Applications

Year 6 should have received a letter from their appropriate County Council with unique logon reference number for application to secondary schools. Please remember that you need to make your application online by 31st October 2020 and offers will be made on National Offer Day 1st March 2021.

You are strongly advised to make more than one preference and list the order that you would most prefer. It is recommended that you include your catchment school as one of your preferences.

If you do not make an application your child may be disadvantaged as children whose parents have applied will be given priority for popular schools.

To apply online use [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions) and use your UIS number stated on your letter.

## School Dates:

Tuesday September 22nd - School Photos: bring your best smiles.

Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October - school closed , half term.

Monday 2nd November - new half term starts.

Tuesday 8th December - flu vaccination (all school); more information will follow nearer the date.

Monday 21st December to Friday 1st January—Christmas Holidays.

Monday 4th January 2021 - Spring Term starts.