



The Woodside Word



Autumn 2011: Issue 1

Friday 23rd September 2011

Dear Parents

I have waited until this week to send my first newsletter as you were sent your Home School Packs last Friday and that was enough to be getting started with. So, a belated welcome back to the Autumn Term. In school it has got off to a very good start with the children settling in well and demonstrating enthusiasm for their learning. We all look forward to a very successful term.

Congratulations to....



Recent recipients of commendation certificates:

16th September: Josh Block-Dodson, Jarvis Simmons, Sepehr Bagheri, David Weatherburn

Elections have taken place for our new School Councillors and House Captains. They are:

School Council:

Lina Hughes, Harry Ashwin, Susannah Catling, Raif Aitchison, Jasmine Spencer, Sepehr Bagheri, Zoe Hammond, Henry Pham. We look forward to them serving your children well.

	House Captains	Vice Captains
Beech:	Billy Barrett	Paige Jones
Oak:	Autumn Knowles	Max Halton
Ash:	Caitlin Frank	Jake Aitchison

Last Thursday our football squad took part in their first tournament of the season. They won two matches, drew one and lost one. Unfortunately they lost on overall goal score but Mr Gocher commended them for their play, sportsmanship and good behaviour. Jake Russo as Captain led the team particularly well and took care to look after the younger players in their first competition.

School Library

We are very fortunate to have the library facility that we have but we are **desperate** for parents to run it for one afternoon a week so that children can change their books. If you feel you would be able to help with this, please do contact Mrs Barry as soon as possible. Thank you very much.

Harvest Assembly

This year we will be supporting a local organisation, Chesham foodbank. Donations of food enable them to provide three days emergency food to local people in crisis. We will send home a list of non-perishable goods that they need and I hope that you feel able to send something in during the week commencing 10th October for the assembly on Friday 14th. Year 6 will be leading our assembly and a speaker from Chesham foodbank will be joining us too. You are warmly invited to come along at 9.15am.



Email communication

As we move to more and more electronic communication, I would remind you that you don't need to send in a written reply to these. An email response is encouraged and doesn't need to be on the original letter.

Woodside's Marketing Group

We are always trying to raise the profile of our school in the community and there is a small group of us who meet to come up with ideas and work on this aim. This is a very relaxed gathering but we need more people to be involved. If you have experience or particular talents in the area of marketing, design or sales, or just feel passionately about supporting the school in this way, it would be lovely to hear from you. Please do contact me to find out more.

School Uniform and other kit.

Most children have returned to school in the correct school uniform but there are a few reminders I need to make.

If children want to wear a gold polo shirt up to half term, this must be one with the school logo on, available from the office. White polo shirts should not be worn. The alternative is a standard school shirt with a tie or a blouse.

School shoes should be black, closed in and supportive. Ballet style slip-ons, platform soles, high heels, open toe sandals or boots are **not suitable** for school wear.

PE t-shirts should be replaced with the green polo shirts when it is time for you to buy a new one. If anybody has any green polo shirts that they are already replacing we would be pleased to receive them for 'spares' in school.

Please check that your children's PE kits and swimming kits still fit them after the summer holidays. Some do seem rather small!

I would remind you that children should be bringing coats to school as the weather starts to turn chilly. It may be warm leaving your home and getting in to a car but the weather can be so changeable that it is often cold while the children are out playing.

Children who have **packed lunches** must not bring them to school in a carrier bag. They are stored in crates for the morning and you can imagine how unappetising a squashed sandwich looks. Packed lunches should not contain sweets or chocolate bars.

E Safety

Naturally, many parents like to take photographs of their children at school events and in assemblies and other productions. If a photo or video is shared online that could put a member of the school community at risk.

Please consider the following before sharing online: Once posted and shared online any image or video can be copied and will stay online forever.

Some people do not want their images online for personal or religious reasons.

Sharing images online can have unforeseen consequences where children, families and staff may have a complex family background.

Some children and adults are at risk and **MUST NOT** have their images put online and you will not always know who they are. Always ask permission before sharing images on line.

In order to keep all members of the school community safe we must all 'THINK BEFORE WE POST' photos and videos online.

Year 6 SATs

I have now been notified that the year 6 National Tests will take place during the week commencing 14/5/12.

Furthermore, there will be not be a statutory writing test this year. We will have the option to give the children a test which will be externally marked but this will inform teacher assessment and the results will not be published.

As with the science, there will be a sample of schools asked to take a writing test for moderation purposes.

Behaviour Management

Each year we review our Behaviour Policy and this time have made no changes. A summary is attached for your information.

Dates for your diary

Autumn Term 2011

Friday 30th September

Dahlicious Day

Monday 3rd October

School Photographer 1.15pm

Thursday 6th October

11+ test 1

Tuesday 11th October

Year 4 to St Albans

Wednesday 12th October

11+ test 2

Friday 14th October

Harvest Assembly – Parents invited

Wednesday 19th October

Deadline for Secondary Transfer paper forms to be returned to school

Friday 21st October

Break up for half term

NB: St George's INSET only, Woodside children in school

Monday 24th October – Friday 28th October

Half term holiday

Monday 31st October

Deadline for Secondary Transfer applications

Tuesday 1st November

Open sessions for prospective parents

10.45am – 12.15pm & 1.45pm – 3pm

Monday 7th November

Parent teacher consultations 5.00 – 8.00pm

Thursday 10th November

Parent teacher consultations 3.30 – 7pm

Monday 14th – Friday 18th November

Anti Bullying Week

Monday 21st November – Friday 25th November

Road Safety Week

Tuesday 22nd November*

Year 6 to RAF Hendon

Friday 25th November

11+ results released

Week commencing Monday 28th November

Last After School Clubs* and homework set for this term.

(*some clubs finish on different dates, you will be notified if your child attends)

Monday 28th November*

Year 5 to Hampton Court

Friday 2nd December

Year 3 & 4 Christmas production dress rehearsal 1.30pm

Tuesday 6th December

Year 3 & 4 Christmas production 7pm

Thursday 15th December

Christmas Assembly

Friday 16th December

Break up 1.30pm

* New or amended dates

Term dates 2011-12

Autumn Term 2011

Monday 5th September – INSET

Tuesday 6th September – INSET

Wednesday 7th September – children return to school.

Monday 24th October – Friday 28th October – Half Term

Friday 16th December – Break up for Christmas

Spring Term 2012

Tuesday 3rd January – INSET

Wednesday 4th January – Children return to school

Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February – Half Term

Friday 30th March – Break up for Easter

Summer Term 2012

Monday 16th April – INSET

Tuesday 17th April – Children return to school

Monday 7th May – Bank Holiday

Monday 4th June – Friday 8th June – Half Term

Friday 20th July – Break up for Summer

Monday 23rd July – INSET

Best wishes

