



Woodcote Weekly

4th November, 2016

Dates for the Diary

November

Mon 7th – KS1 trip to Beaumanor
Fri 11th – Hawthorn class assembly
Weds 16th – Year 6 visit to Warning Zone
Fri 18th – Sycamore class assembly
Fri 25th – Ash class assembly
Weds 30th – Pre-school Stay & Play session

December

Fri 2nd – Pine Class Assembly - rearranged
Sat 3rd – Cross Country at Viscount Beaumont
Tues 6th – Key Stage 2 Carol Concert 6.30pm
Tues 13th – Ash class and Key Stage 1 nativity 2pm & 6.30pm
Weds 14th – Ash class & Key Stage 1 nativity 2pm
Fri 16th – Last day of term

January 2017

Weds 4th – Children return to school

February

Sat 4th – Cross Country at Woodstone (new date)
Fri 10th – Last day of half term
Mon 20th – Children return to school
Mon 27th – Sycamore & Ash parent consultation day
Tues 28th – Rowan & Willow parent consultation day
Sat 25th – Cross Country at Woodstone

March

Weds 1st – Pine & Hawthorn parent consultation day
Weds 1st – Parent Consultation Evening (all years)
Thurs 2nd – Oak & Birch parent consultation day

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Sickness in School

As you may be aware, we've had a particularly nasty sickness bug travelling through the school this week. At the moment Pine Class seem to be the most affected with only 9 children out of 31 left in the class this afternoon! Mrs Wilcox has been on the telephone to Public Health Authority several times over the past couple of days and they have advised us to send all children home as soon as they complain of feeling unwell in an effort to halt the spread of the virus. We would like to thank the parents who have collected their children promptly following a telephone call from school. We do appreciate that it is not always easy to do this, particularly when parents are working, however we do only send children home when necessary.

We have also been asked to state that children cannot return to school for 48 hours after the last episode of sickness and we appreciate your help with this. We have been advised to change our currently policy of 24 hours and so this will be implemented from this week. The Public Health Authority have asked us to pass on the following link which gives advice to parents if your child is unwell: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/gastroenteritis/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

In order to try and prevent further spreading of the virus, Mr Brown, Mrs Thompson and Mrs Craner have carried out a deep clean of the school and all handles, tables etc. have been disinfected. The children have also been reminded about handwashing and not putting pencils, fingers etc. in their mouths.

We hope that you have a healthy weekend but **please** do not send your child to school on Monday if they have been sick over the weekend at all.

School Developments

We are constantly driving forwards school improvements so that we can give your children the very best education. Every year we focus on specific areas of development and all staff have continued professional development to address these. This year we are specifically focusing on the following areas:

- Developing spelling, handwriting and reading
 - Teaching key skills
 - Focusing on improving spelling, specifically boys
 - Promoting reading throughout the school
 - Having higher expectations for the quality of independent work
- Ensuring that all groups of children achieve and make better than expected progress
 - Completed the Achievement for All Programme
 - Closing the gaps between children, focusing on the youngest children
 - Closing the gender gap using boy-friendly interventions, topics and tasks
 - Behaviour for learning improved through Character-project work
- All staff and governors working together to enable us to drive forward school developments
 - Developing Foundation subject assessments
 - Focusing governance through focusing on three key areas
- Continuing to develop teaching & learning
 - Use of coaching across the school
 - Developing computing and design & technology teaching and learning
 - Developing the learning environment

The governors are also looking at a 5 year plan as part of the strategic planning process. We are hoping to have this on the website by the end of this term.

The school development process is completed following in depth analysis of data, as well as school monitoring by the senior leaders of the school (Governors, Mrs Jones, Mrs Ramsell, Mrs Palumbo, Mrs Butler and Mrs Oselton). A breakdown of the 2016 statutory assessments is published on the website in the 'Useful Information' tab.

We were saddened to find out that Julie Sembi, one of our previous parents, lost her battle with cancer this week. Our thoughts and prayers are with the whole Sembi family.

Wishing you all a happy and safe bonfire weekend!

