



*'The pathway to success'*

# Woodhouse Community Primary School

[www.woodhousecommunity.durham.sch.uk](http://www.woodhousecommunity.durham.sch.uk)

Weekly Newsletter – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Autumn Term  
2014

**Welcome back!** It was wonderful to say 'welcome back' to pupils, staff, parents and governors last week and also to welcome so many new pupils to our school. So far, we have had an additional 15 new pupils join us since last Wednesday, with more places being requested. I have never known such a demand for places at Woodhouse Community Primary School and am proud that we are fast becoming parent's first choice of school for their children.

**New improvements:** over the summer, I am sure you will have noticed we had a fantastic outdoor TV installed, as well as updating our indoor TV both of which play 'The Life Channel'. This provides parents and children with a wide selection of videos and information on areas such as health, education and current issues. The exciting part is that we can add our own celebratory work, with children's video's, photographs and work they have been doing in school. The information 'tickertape' that runs along the bottom will be regularly updated to give school information, such as clubs, trips and events. We hope to upload our 'Stars of the Week' pupils on it every Friday, so keep an eye on it! We have also had new windows installed throughout the school which has made an enormous difference in our classrooms: the children can now actually see out of the glass, whereas they couldn't before! I am a firm believer that the environment we live and work in is crucial in how we perform and feel and we are determined to continue to improve our school both inside and out.

**SUDs Project:** exciting news came this week in that our SUDs (Sustainable Drainage System) project has been accepted by Northumbrian Water and work will commence in October half term. This will include the creation of a natural drainage system in our school grounds, incorporating a marsh and bog area, a wildflower meadow, a pond for dipping and a fantastic 'rain garden'! Our Eco Warrior team (voted by their classmates) are excited to get started and will be working with our project manager and staff members over the coming weeks. We will keep you posted on progress...

**Collection at home time:** I am aware that this week there has been some significant congestion at the entrance to school at home time. Our priority is always the safety of your children so I would ask that all parents please wait on the path adjoining the green fence and not crowd to the top of the steps. This makes it very difficult for staff to monitor who is collecting the children and also, for the children to see you. Please can I ask for your patience and cooperation in this matter: as I explained earlier, we have had a significant rise in pupil numbers and this in turn means it may take a little while longer to collect coats and leave the building. I am sure you will agree that it is better to wait a few extra minutes and ensure every child is collected safely and calmly than to put anyone at risk. Thank you.

**After School Clubs:** our after school clubs are well and truly under way again this term with a wide range of clubs planned across the year by all staff. We are very fortunate to have staff in our school who are so dedicated and will give extra of their time in order to plan, organise and run clubs and residential trips. Can I please ask that you always keep the portion of the information letter about clubs, to reduce the number of telephone calls asking for finishing times, costs etc. All information can also be found on our school website: [www.woodhousecommunity.durham.sch.uk](http://www.woodhousecommunity.durham.sch.uk) under Parent Information. Please also ensure that children are collected promptly at 4pm when clubs finish.

**Uniform:** I would like to say a big 'well done' to the children and an even bigger 'thank you' to parents and carers for ensuring uniform is worn every day in school. I would ask that Flossies and sandals are not worn by the children and please ensure that shoes are black in colour. I have also noticed a huge improvement in the number of children now wearing school PE kit: apart from looking really smart, it makes us look very professional when attending sports festivals, of which we take part in many. If you still need to buy any uniform, please see Mrs Dixon at the school office.



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**Library Drop-in's:** We have decided to operate Library Club slightly differently this year. The library will be open for parents to come as a drop-in with their children (not children on their own, please) every day from 8.30-8.50am. Tea and coffee will be available and this is a lovely chance to spend 20 minutes with your child, enjoying a book and a cuppa. Library Club for pupils will be on a Monday and Wednesday night, 3-4pm where parents of course are welcome to accompany their children and choose a book from our parent selection too.

**Water Bottles:** please remember to provide a water bottle for your child. They are available to buy at the office for £1.20 or you can provide your own. No juice, please.

**Voting!** Last week the children in all classes were asked to vote for School Council reps, Eco Warriors and House Captains and Vice Captains. All votes were a close run thing, with so many children putting themselves forward to stand. Again, this is testament to the excellent attitudes shown by the vast majority of our pupils and their keenness to be ambassadors for our amazing school. Well done to everyone who was successfully voted!

**Astronomical Attendance:** This week, the winners of Astronomical Attendance are Class , well done!

## Reception: %

**Y1:** %

**Y2:** %

**Y3:** %

**Y4:** %

**Y5:** %

**Y6:** %

## Our 'Stars of the Week' this week are:

Y1:

Y2:

Y3:

Y4:

Y5:

Y6:

**Dates for your Diary:** (please also check the school website diary pages for key dates throughout the year)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> September                            | Parents Meeting for Y4 & 5 Residential Trip (forms to be completed at meeting) |
| Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September                           | Y6 visit to Staindrop Comprehensive School for Enterprise Day                  |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> September                          | 1.30pm – 2.55pm: 'Little Green Riding Hood' Theatre Show                       |
| Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September                            | 9.15-10.15am Macmillan Coffee Morning Fundraiser: all welcome!                 |
| Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October                             | 3.15pm PACT meeting for parents (refreshments served)                          |
| Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October                              | Y6 trip to Beamish Museum all day  |
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October                              | 1.00pm: E -Safety Assembly for Parents   |
| Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October | Y4 & Y5 residential trip to Ford Castle, Scotland                              |
| <b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October</b>                        | <b>School Closed for Staff Training</b>  |
| Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October                             | 9.10am Year 1 Class Assembly, refreshments served afterwards                   |
| Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October                            | Am: Y6 visit to Pizza Express & Durham Cathedral                               |
| <b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October</b>                        | <b>2.55pm: School Closes for Half Term</b>                                     |



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Mrs Page  
Headteacher



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