

'the pathway to success'



Woodhouse Community Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs T. Page B.A.(Ed.) Hons; NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs R. Smith (B.Ed.)
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs. V. Hindmarch (Cert.Ed.)
Assistant Headteacher / EYFS Manager: Mrs V Byrne (BA Hons)

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Spring Term 2 Week ending 10th March 2017

Rights Respecting Focus this half-term: Article 12

'Children have the right to say what they think should happen when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.'

Year 1 Assembly: Thank you to all who attended our Year 1 class assembly this week: what a wonderful turnout! The children were absolutely fantastic in their retelling of the story 'The 3 Horrid Pigs and the Friendly Wolf', with clear, confident speakers and fluent reading. Their singing (and dancing!) was first class and they clearly enjoyed telling everybody all about the exciting learning opportunities they have enjoyed this term. Well done to everyone (and many thanks to all the hard work and rehearsals that go on behind the scenes with staff).

Attendance: This week I met with Karen Shipley who monitors our school attendance with the Local Authority. We have one of the highest rates of persistent absence in County Durham, which is clearly a serious concern. PA is any attendance which falls below 90% (not 95%, as used to be). In light of this, we will be contacting parents and carers as soon as we see any patterns of absence which is causing concern and ensuring we can work together to improve attendance quickly. Medical evidence must be provided in order to authorise a child's absence. If this is not the case, the absence will be classed as unauthorised and may trigger enforcement. If you need to discuss issues surrounding your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to contact Kirsty: we are here to help and support.

Robin Wood Residential: Year 6 (and some Year 5's) set off this morning to Robin Wood on their residential this weekend. I have never seen so much luggage! I am sure they will have the time of their lives and learn so many new and valuable skills and experiences. My grateful thanks goes to Mrs Smith, Miss Dargue and Mr Sanders, without whom this trip would not have been possible: the staff willingly give up time with their own families in order to allow our children to have such a fantastic experience. They are not paid to do this and certainly not all schools offer this level of dedication and support to their pupils. I am sure the parents and carers of the children who attend will appreciate the fact that without our staff, such events just would not happen.

Liz Million Illustrator: All classes enjoyed a session with Liz Million yesterday, as part of our World Book Day celebrations. Liz shared some of her illustrations and created bespoke ones with each class, as an aid to encourage writing. The children thoroughly enjoyed working with her and she with us!

Y3/4 Residential: On a slightly less positive note, I was very disappointed with the reaction from a small number of parents this week as a result of some children not securing a place for the Y3/4 residential. As I stated on last week's newsletter, we had 5 additional places for Y4, which (instead of simply limiting the trip to Y3), we thought we would offer out to Year 4. As the interest was far higher than anticipated (and because 17 letters arrived in school all at once), it was impossible to fairly say who the first 5 back were. Consequently, to try to ensure absolute fairness, the decision was made to pull all names from the hat, in front of the children. Although I understand that some children were disappointed not to get a place, I feel that the reaction of some parents was unnecessary, unfair and in some cases, wholly unacceptable. As I mentioned above, our children are extremely fortunate to have staff who are prepared to give up their own time - and families - to organise, lead and be wholly responsible for your children, thus giving them a wealth of exceptional learning opportunities and new experiences. As a result of this, I will be carefully reconsidering the organisation of such extra-curricular opportunities in the future. It would be a huge shame and extremely disappointing if, as a result of a very small minority, such amazing opportunities were lost to pupils in our school. I sincerely hope this will not be the case.



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Attendance:

Classes with attendance last week above 95% get a ☺ and those under 95% get a ☹

Reception: 91.9% ☹
Y1: 92.0% ☹
Y2: 97.8% ☺
Y3: 96.2% ☺
Y4: 98.9% ☺
Y5: 96.4% ☺
Y6: 96.1% ☺

Well done to Class 2, who had the highest attendance last week and will look after the Astronomical Attendance trophy for the coming week!

Good Manners Award this week goes to Darci Wilkinson for being polite and helpful and a fantastic role model!

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

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| Friday 10 th Sunday- 12 th March | Year 6 Residential trip to Robin Wood |
| Thursday 6 th April | Class 4 Assembly |
| Friday 7 th April | Easter Egg Tombola / Coffee Morning Easter Egg Raffle (for children) Eggs Factor 1.15-2.45pm Break up for Easter |

Mrs Page
Head teacher

