



'the pathway to success'

## Woodhouse Community Primary School

# NEWS LETTER

Autumn 1 Week 3 and 4 27.9.19



**New Headteacher:** After a very rigorous interview process on Tuesday in school, the governing body appointed a replacement for Mrs Page. I am extremely pleased to officially inform you all that I will be taking over permanently as Headteacher of Woodhouse Community Primary School. I could not be happier: this is a very special school with wonderful children, staff and parents and I look forward to seeing you all at the many events and celebrations over the coming year!

**Tag Rugby:** Our Key Stage 2 Tag Rugby team are currently playing in a league this term. On Wednesday, they played two matches, winning one and losing one (it was close!). Mr Lockey was particularly impressed by the behaviour and attitudes of the children taking part. Congratulations, you are a credit to our school!

**Breakfast Club:** We have a fantastic breakfast club in school which runs every morning from 8:10am. We offer a wide variety of cereals, toast, pancakes, bagels, fresh fruit and juices for just 50p a day. This is amazing value: I currently pay £3.50 a morning for my son's breakfast club, which does not have as much choice! As well as getting breakfast, it is also a good opportunity for your child to catch up on their reading as we are well staffed every morning.

**Reading: There are still a number of children in school not reading regularly.** I cannot emphasise enough the importance of reading, above everything else. Research has proven that children who are read to regularly at home or who read themselves regularly have a larger vocabulary, are better communicators, understand more about the world around them and develop much stronger writing skills, which will allow them to achieve highly. Please work with us to ensure your child reads at least 3 times a week, but 5 times is the ideal amount! This includes all reading, not just the book your child brings home from school.

**Dojo Points and consent letters:** If you still have not signed up to our Dojo Points system, please can you do so ASAP: this is a great way for us to let you know the great things your child does at school and for you to let us know about anything we may need to know at home, too. As well, there are still some children who have not returned photographic and computer consent forms. **PLEASE complete these and return to the office ASAP.** Texts have gone out to those who have not yet returned them.

**Punctuality:** I am concerned about the punctuality of a number of our children in school, particularly in Key Stage 2. If your child is regularly late for school, it means they are missing out on learning time which can affect their achievement. It also means that they may miss important class messages and sets them up for a poor start to the school day. I will be sending letters out where punctuality is a concern and hopefully by working together in partnership, we can ensure that children come to school on time.

**Collection at home-time:** Please ensure that you wait outside the school gates, when collecting your children at home time. The gates will remain closed until home-time to ensure your child's safety. There are a lot of children leaving the building at once and it is crucial we know who every child is being collected by so we would ask for your patience in waiting a few extra minutes for each class to get through. If you do need to speak to the office staff, we would ask you to wait until all classes have exited the building as this causes huge congestion. Please do not wait on the opposite side of the road and ask children to cross to meet you: this is a major accident risk. Thank you for your support in this matter. I am currently reviewing how we leave at home time with staff so will let you know of any changes as we decide them.

**OPAL appeal:** We are currently updating our OPAL resources in school. If you have any old/unwanted but good quality outdoor toys, plastic toys, books/ children's comics, scooters, skateboards etc, please bring them into school. I will be using the opportunity myself: clearing out some of my little boy's toys, bringing them into school, preparing to make room ready for Christmas (Sorry for saying it this early!)



**Judo Sessions:** Yesterday, our children from Y1-Y6 took part in a Judo taster session in the hall. They looked fantastic in their kit and thoroughly enjoyed learning some skills and moves.

**Governors:** I am extremely pleased that we have been able to strengthen our school governing body further this term, welcoming 3 new members to the team. We still have a vacancy for a parent governor and would love to get this filled. If you are interested, please come and speak to me about it. Being a parent governor means that you really get an insight into the workings of our school. We have three meetings a year and it is also an excellent item to put on a C.V!

**Recycled Art:** Year 5 were lucky enough to work with an artist this week, to design and create cushions out of recycled materials ( paper, boxes, bubble wrap ). If you are in Bishop Auckland at the weekend, their work will be on display in the Newgate centre. Please go down and take a look!

**European Day of Languages:** To celebrate European Day of Languages yesterday, each class chose a European country and learnt some new facts about it, taking part in a range of activities. Year 6 enjoyed some taste testing of French cuisine, Year 1 found out about carnival celebrations in Portugal, Year 4 enjoyed singing nursery rhymes in Dutch, Year 2 learnt about Italian food, Year 5 learnt about traditions in Poland, Year 3 sang in Swedish and EYFS enjoyed learning some Spanish and eating Paella

**Astronomical Attendance:**

<b>WEEK 4 w/c 23.9.19</b>	Whole class % attendance	100% attendance	Minutes late /No.children
Reception	93.7	83	<b>0 WOW!</b>
Year 1	94.2	85	86 x3
Year 2	<b>100 AMAZING!</b>	<b>100 GREAT!</b>	4 x1
Year 3	90	75	52 x5
Year 4	88.6	75	43 x 3
Year 5	86.3	74.1	44 x 3
Year 6	87.2	72.4	63 x 3
Total:	Weekly Ave. = <b>91.4%</b>		292 minutes lost!

The threshold for what is termed as persistent absence has been determined as 90%, as opposed to 85% previously. Unfortunately, we are unable to authorise term time holidays as we have to follow the Government and Durham County protocol. The Durham County protocol explains that penalty notices must be issued 'in instances of unauthorised holidays in term time (where the holiday gives rise to 7 days or more unauthorised absence in any period...). The school processes absences and then the County Council pick up on unauthorised absence and this will be enforced by penalty payments and even court action.

**Average attendance this week for Rec- Y6 = 91.4%: this has fallen and is well below the target of 97%**

**Lateness: 292 minutes lost due to being late: this is a huge amount of learning time lost and really needs to improve. Continued lateness will be followed up with letters/meetings so please make sure children are in on time. Thank you!**

**Diary Dates:**

<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Year 5 Viking Workshop in school
<b>25<sup>th</sup> October 2019</b>	Fire Service Assembly in school Break up Half Term

**Mrs Smith**  
**Acting Headteacher**