



'the pathway to success'

## Woodhouse Community Primary School

# NEWS LETTER Autumn 1 Week 1 and 2 13.9.19



**Welcome back!** : After a very short maternity leave, I am really pleased and excited to be back in school as Acting Head teacher. It has been lovely to see all of the children looking so smart and with big smiles, ready to work hard. They have settled back into routines and new classes excellently. We have had some work completed on our Key Stage 2 toilets over the summer. They are looking bright and fresh and the children are really pleased with the results!

I would like to say a big thank you to Carol, Mr Walker and Mrs Wall for their hard work in cleaning the school, ready for us all to come back to such a lovely environment.

**Congratulations!**: In the summer holidays, Miss Longstaff from our EYFS unit gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Esme Rose. Mother and baby are both doing well. We send them our warmest wishes as they settle into family life and hope to see them soon!

**After School Clubs:** Our after school clubs have already begun and have filled up really quickly. Just a reminder to parents and carers that all children in the classes are asked if they want to attend and if they are interested in the club, they put their hands up to take a letter. If your child does not express an interest in the club in class, they will not get a letter. All clubs finish at 4pm and children **MUST** be collected promptly by an adult. Only Year 6 pupils with a parental consent form to walk home alone will be allowed to do so.

**Uniform:** I was delighted to see every child dressed in the correct uniform on returning to school this week. May I remind parents that this is also required for PE: navy shorts and white T- shirt and these are available to buy at the school office, as are water bottles, book bags and other pieces of school uniform if required.

**Community Savings Bank:** Every Thursday Woodhouse Close Church are available in our entrance from 810am to run the Community Savings bank. This is a great way to save for Christmas and is a good habit to get our children into, too.

**Dojo Points:** 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.

**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.

**Wellies:** we will be continuing with our hugely successful OPAL playground programme and we need every child to provide a pair of NAMED wellies if they are to access the school field / yard in bad weather. A warm waterproof coat needs to be worn every day as the children will be outside even if it's rainy, just as they are in Early Years! Any donations of wellies your child has outgrown would be gratefully received as spares.

**Nails:** There have been a few incidences of children coming to school wearing long fake nails. These are a potential health and safety risk so they are not to be allowed in future. Thank you for your co-operation.



**School Council:** Our new school council representatives have held their first meeting in school already. They are looking forward to working closely with their class, putting forward the children's views as to how we can make our school even better and sharing ideas with you all.

**Celebration Assemblies :** It was really lovely to hold our first celebration assembly of the new school year and I was so pleased to see full attendance of parents and carers of those children who received our Pupil of the Week awards. If your child is going to be getting the award, you will be invited to attend assembly via text/ phonecall the Wednesday before. I look forward to seeing many more of you at our assembly!

**Astronomical Attendance:**

<b>WEEK 1&amp;2 w/c 4.9.19 (8 days)</b>	Whole class % attendance	100% attendance	Minutes late /No.children
Reception	94.6	86.7	4 x 1
Year 1	99	92	16 x 4
Year 2	98.6	90	0
Year 3	97.6	91.7	67 x 4
Year 4	98.7	92.9	17 x 2
Year 5	98.8	92.6	10 x 1
Year 6	91.6	69	20 x 3
Total:	Weekly Ave. = <b>97% FAB!</b>		134 mins

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 = 97%: this a brilliant start to the new year, keep it up!**

**Lateness: 134 minutes lost due to being late: this really needs to improve. Continued lateness will be followed up with letters 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**