



Woodhouse Community Primary School

Respect, Kindness, Confidence, Resilience, Communication, Determination, Ambition

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Head teacher: Ms A Norman (BA(QTS)Hons; NPQH)

Acting Deputy Head teacher: Mrs Z Connor (BA Hons)

'the pathway to success'

25th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw towards the end of the first half term of the school year, I am writing to you to inform you of some changes within school so that you are aware of these for when your children return on Monday 6th November.

Teaching Arrangements

Mrs. Cleminson, our current Year 1 teacher, has been successful in securing the post of Deputy Head Teacher so will be staying with us into the future in this role. She will be moving from the current year 1 class that she is teaching, into nursery, where she will cover Mrs. Cox's maternity leave.

Due to numbers in our two-year-old nursery provision, this will now only be open on a morning. Staff from the two-year-olds' room will be working in the nursery on afternoons along with existing staff, Miss Smith, Mrs. Taylor and Miss Gale. I'm sure you will join me in congratulating Mrs. Cleminson on her promotion here at Woodhouse Community Primary School.

Mrs. Elmes, currently working in school (mostly in year 5) as a higher-level teaching assistant, is completing her training to become a teacher. Mrs. Elmes is highly skilled and has worked in education for over 13 years. She will be moving into the year 1 class as their class teacher after the October half term break. Once again, I am sure you will be supportive of Mrs. Elmes as she enhances her career.

Currently, there are some teaching assistant posts advertised at the school, to support some of our children that need individualised learning. Following these appointments, I will then be able to ensure an experienced existing teaching assistant in the school can move to support year 5 children.

Other than this, all teaching staff will remain with their current classes after half term.

Office Staff

Mrs. Bone has been doing a sterling job holding the office together, as the only member of staff in there. She has recently been successful, in securing the full time Office Manager's post so will continue with us in that role from 1st November. Once again, I'm sure you'll join me in congratulating her on her success at interview. We now have two office apprentice posts currently advertised through Bishop Auckland College. So, I'm sure you'll be relieved to know (as will Mrs. Bone) that our office will soon be back to full capacity with staff, meaning you will get a quicker response when contacting the school, particularly if it's by phone.



Memorial for Mrs. Nichols

Here at school we are also considering options for a fitting memorial for Mrs. Nichols. Currently thoughts are perhaps a bench, a tree or a sculpture, or possibly even a memorial garden that could incorporate all of these things. Governors, staff, parents and community contributions can be made following the return to school in November. If you would like to contribute please only give what you can afford to and ensure this is sent to school either in a sealed envelope clearly marking money for Mrs. Nichol's memorial or paid via parent pay (Mrs. Bone will organize this on the return in November). We hope to be able to start work on the memorial late spring/early summer. I will keep you informed of developments.

Home time changes

For the majority of people, I am hearing that the changes to home time collections are working well. There have been many complements paid to a range of staff in relation to this. For those with buggies/push chairs, mobility scooters etc. that can't manage the steps please let the staff member at the gate know and they will collect your children and bring them to you.

The changes were put into place to ease the congestion on the footpaths outside of the school and so keep our children safe from having to walk on what can be a very busy road at home time. But this change is just an initial attempt to try to make things better for the children. The attached slip is for you to complete and return to school to share your views on home time arrangements and to add any ideas that you might have, to make home time collections even better. Please return these to the office by Friday 10th November, the end of the first week back, when we return to school.

Incident

I am aware there was an incident that occurred outside of the school on Monday 23rd October which many of you may have witnessed or heard about. Please rest assured police are aware and action is being taken to ensure safety on the school site. Due to this, access to the nursery and reception will be strictly prohibited apart from collection and pick up times. If you arrive late to drop off or collect your child could you please report to the main reception area of the school and we will bring your child to you.

Speak Out Stay Safe

On Wednesday 22nd November in-class assemblies will focus on the Speak Out stay Safe campaign from the NSPCC. Please see the attached letter and return the slip on it only if you DO NOT want your child to take part in the survey after the assembly is completed. Please return these slips by Friday 10th November, the end of the first week back, when we return to school.

Christmas Diary Dates

Christmas is very quickly approaching. Below are some planned dates for your diary,

Tuesday 12 th December	Reception Class Nativity 9:15am
Wednesday 13 th December	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner
Thursday 14 th December	Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance 9:30am
Friday 15 th December	Key Stage 2 Christmas Performance 9:30am
Monday 18 th December	Key Stage 1 Christmas Party 1pm
Monday 18 th December	Reception and Nursery Christmas Party 1pm
Tuesday 19 th December	Year 3 and 4 Christmas Party 9:30am
Tuesday 19 th December	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Party 1pm

Halloween

And finally, as we draw to a close for this half term, knowing that Halloween and Bonfire Night fall into the holiday break, children will be allowed to come to school in their Halloween costumes or in dark clothing to take part in some fun Halloween activities on our final afternoon Friday 27th October. Please don't feel that you need to buy a costume especially for this. Dark clothing is absolutely fine.

I wish you all a wonderful half term holiday and hope that you all enjoy the Halloween and Bonfire Night Celebrations. Please stay safe and take care.

Kindest Regards,

Ms. A. Norman

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Home time collection arrangements

I like the new home time collection arrangements

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I DO NOT like the new home time collection arrangements

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Please add any ideas to further improve home times.