



Dear Parents and carers

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year.

The virus is an ever-present factor in our lives but we are keen to offer some balance by sharing some of the news and events that are part of our daily experience of working together in school.

Today we are all wearing something yellow to 'brighten our day' to raise awareness of the Young Minds charity who support young people with their mental health. This is an important issue for us all to be aware of currently, so thank you for letting your children wear something yellow and for making any donations online.

I have mentioned previously that life in school can be reassuringly 'normal'. The children come to school happily and are working superbly well with their teachers. Myself and Mrs Stevens have visited classes this week to see how well everyone is doing. These have been short, covid-secure visits that have given us the opportunity to see the classes in operation and to see how well the children are progressing.

Without exception, we have seen some great teaching and learning. Children have been highly engaged with good levels of concentration. The teachers are pitching lessons appropriately to ensure that gaps in knowledge can be addressed whilst still having a clear focus on the planned curriculum for this year to ensure that children get back on track. The children were happy to share their thoughts with us about their learning and they were all positive about returning to school and the amount of help they have received.

They were also very proud to share lots of neat, accurate work that shows excellent levels of productivity and good progress since the start of term.

We were bowled over by how well the children were doing which gives us a great foundation to build on in the coming weeks and months. Huge congratulations to the children, staff and to you for your fantastic support at home!

Andy Mitchell Headteacher



To start off the Autumn Term, Year 6 looked at ways to relieve stress and tension through mindfulness. We used a YouTube video to help us learn how to find a secret treehouse, where everything felt calm, and tranquil with no worries present. We followed this up with a grounding activity which involved using all our senses.

Governor Focus

In March, when schools first went into lockdown, the local governing body at Woodloes were stood down by the Trustees of the Community Academies Trust. The school has been governed directly by members of the Executive Leadership Team during the last few months but there are changes to this arrangement that are planned to take effect at the end of this half term. Our governors are being re-instated as a School Standards Committee and their first meeting is planned for the week before half term.

We are looking forward to working together again and sharing the achievements and future developments of our school.

Attendance News



Highest class attendance for last week—Class RH (Miss Hancox) with 99.5%!

Whole school attendance to date - 94.4% (school target 96.5%)

What I love about Woodloes

We love Woodloes because we have lots of fun and amazing teachers.

Nickolas and Lauren
Class 4Y



Friends

Friends are pleased to be 'back in action' after such a long break from their duties!

Members of Friends recently met up (virtually of course) and are currently busy formulating plans for some exciting activities/ideas for the year ahead. Obviously, due to our current environment, 'events' will look a little different but, nonetheless, will be 'fun packed'!

Meanwhile, Friends are looking to launch their own newsletter, with a view to issuing this each half term, so watch this space

Please visit Friends of Woodloes Primary School facebook page and 'like' it!

Focus on Excellence

Year 2 began the term with a trip to the Kalahari Desert to meet Sunny the Meerkat. The children explored the story 'Meerkat Mail' and used this to generate vocabulary to describe Sunny and the desert. They created fabulous noun phrases and similes in their sentences and are now beginning to use a variety of conjunctions to join their ideas together. With their talk partners, the children planned and wrote a poem about what they would put in an elite explorer's backpack and performed their work to an audience taking notice of the expression and volume in their voices. This week, the children are using all of their new knowledge about meerkats to write an amazing non-chronological report. We are really looking forward to reading them and exploring more about Africa and other safari animals as the term progresses.



Other News

Fundraising

Thank you to everyone today for supporting 'World Mental Health Day' at school today by wearing something yellow. Mental health affects us all year round and is something that is always important to talk about. If you would like further information you may find the following sites useful —

[Cwarse.com/advice-for-parents-covid-19](https://www.cwarse.com/advice-for-parents-covid-19)

[Nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/](https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/)

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to this worthy cause.

If you haven't done so yet and would like to donate, visit

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sunny-khaira?newPage=True>

Snacks in school

A quick reminder that children can bring a healthy snack into school for mid morning break.

Our 'fruit & vegetable' scheme (which applies to Reception/Years One & Two) is currently suspended and these year groups are therefore also welcome to bring their own snack in. We will advise in due course as when the scheme is re-instated.

Half Term Activities

Go Go Makers are running a holiday club during October half term at Telford Junior School, Leamington & also at Priors Field Primary School, Kenilworth. Activities include Arts & Crafts, Dance, Multisports & more. Go to www.gogomakers.co.uk for further information, phone 01926 935377, or email hello@gogomakers.co.uk

Skills and More Activity Camps are offering a range of fun and educational activities for children aged 9+. Each camp is run by skilled and experienced leaders. For further details and how to book please visit www.skillsandmore.co.uk