

Friday 9th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a wonderful time with friends and family over the summer holidays and welcome to the start of a new academic year. **I want to start by recognising the very sad news we all heard yesterday about the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. At Woodloes we would like to express our sincere condolences and the thoughts of our school community are with her family.**

As a school team we have acknowledged this with our children today and offered them support in an age-appropriate way in their classes in advance of a whole-school assembly on Monday. A national 10-day period of mourning starts today and we will respond accordingly as further information becomes available and of course, we will keep you updated as the situation evolves.

In other news...

Everyone has returned to school wonderfully well this week. The children have settled into new classes and new routines seamlessly and I am delighted with the calm application and fun seen across the school already. We really do miss the children over the summer and it is lovely to see them back and happy in school after a long break. Our Reception children will be in school next week and we will all be up to full speed in no time.

It is so good to be back and not be presenting you with a Covid risk assessment or revised operational plan. It is the first time for a couple of years that I have not been inundated during the summer with information about the pandemic and we are all keeping everything crossed that we can put the Covid era behind us. We are looking forward with a real sense of optimism and a clear focus on excellence across everything we do and we are looking forward to working closely with you all this year. We have lots of exciting initiatives and projects planned and we will be sharing the details of this with you shortly.

The children also look incredibly smart in their new uniforms. Thank you to you all for supporting this important aspect of school life. It might seem relatively inconsequential but it is a strong demonstration that we are all part of a team and working together in pursuit of high standards and excellence in all areas. We will be completing regular checks to maintain this high standard but if you find at any stage that this is becoming difficult for you then please let us know and we will do whatever we can to help.

Following on from this, we have a photographer in school on Monday who will be taking photos for our new school prospectus and website. We are very proud of our school, the children and our curriculum and want to capture this with some updated photography. We do not have parental consent for some children to appear on photos but please be reassured that we will exercise care and discretion to ensure their photos are not taken. I look forward to sharing the outcomes of this work with you soon.



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Staying safe is the most important priority for us at Woodloes and we have started the new school year with whole staff safeguarding training. We do this every year and it provides invaluable updates for staff that we receive from the DfE every summer. Staying safe around school is also important and I would like to thank you for exercising caution when you drive to school and park. A quick reminder that you should not park on the zig zags in front of school as this is unsafe during drop-off and collection times. There was an accident outside school in the summer term so we really do appreciate your continuing support and vigilance.

Our school is governed by a very able and dedicated number of governors who form the School Standards Committee (SSC). They work closely with senior leaders to ensure the school fulfils all statutory duties and ensuring the school is the best it can possibly be. It is led by Louisa Farino, our chair of governors and they provide invaluable challenge and support for the school. We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor, so if you would like to get involved and would like further information then please contact the school office for an information pack and application form.

We are also looking for new members to join our PTA, also known as the Friends of Woodloes (FOW). It is our AGM on Wednesday 14th September at 6.00pm so if you would like to know more about what we do then please feel free to come along. You are all members already, if your children attend our school.

There is a lot to look forward to and if you would like further information then please visit our website on www.woodloes.com.

Very best wishes for a happy, healthy and successful academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Mitchell (Head Teacher)

