



Wood End School Autumn Newsletter September 2011



Welcome

Dear Parents

I would like to welcome everybody back to the new term and I hope that everybody had a good summer holiday. In particular I would like to welcome our new children and their families. We also have new staff, Mrs Steele will be supporting foundation class in the morning and is known to the children as a midday supervisor. I would like to congratulate Miss Kaur on her marriage during the summer holidays and her new name is Mrs Sharpe. Each half term you will receive a Newsletter with information about activities during that half term and dates when known for the next half term. Please remember that I am on the main door most mornings when you can talk to me about issues or you can ring the school to make an appointment.

Yours sincerely

Jacqueline Baron

Thank You

Sainsburys and Tesco Vouchers
Thank you to all those who supplied these. We have received additional lunchtime equipment from Sainsburys and a camera from Tescos.

Summer Family Disco

Thank you to all those who attended the disco. We raised £358.62 which has gone into our school fund to help pay for activities and trips for the children this year.

Term Dates 2011–2012

Autumn Term 2011	Wednesday 7 th September Tuesday 1 st November	Friday 21 st October Friday 16 th December
Spring Term 2012	Tuesday 3 rd January Monday 20 th February	Friday 10 th February Friday 30 th March
Summer Term 2012	Tuesday 17 th April Monday 11 th June	Friday 1 st June Friday 20 th July
Training Days		
Monday 5 th January Tuesday 6 th January	Monday 31 st October Monday 16 th April Monday 23 rd July	

School Meals

Many of our children are entitled to free school meals and are enjoying the hot meal provided by Cygnet. The eligibility criteria are

You must be in receipt of one of the benefits below

- Income Support
- Employment & Support Allowance - Income related
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (Not Contribution Based JSA)
- Child Tax Credit ONLY (NOT Working Tax Credit/childcare element and your combined annual income as assessed by HMIR is not above £16,190 (as set April 2010)
- National Asylum Seekers Support (NASS)
- Guaranteed Element of Pension Tax Credit.

It is really helpful to the school if children who are eligible take up their entitlement. For every Free School Meal that is taken, the school gets more money in the school budget. So please come and let us know if you think you are eligible and would like to try them.

It is also important that as many people as possible buy the hot meals, we need enough dinner orders to make it viable for the Company to deliver to us. Remember you can order occasionally or once each week it does not have to be all the time. Order forms can be obtained from the school office and money and orders must be in by 9am Wednesday morning the week before the lunch is required.

Wood End First School

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23rd September 2011

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Artist in Residence
- ☺ Come to School Friday Mornings
- ☺ Book Week
- ☺ Harvest Festival
- ☺ School Photographs
- ☺ Lunch Boxes
- ☺ Curriculum Information
- ☺ Dates for half term

Breakfast Club

REMINDER 8am to 8.45am each day. Children are then taken to their classes. £1 a day. Just turn up. Enter through Children's Centre Door.



General Information

Headlice

Headlice continues to be a problem in all schools, I have set out the recommended treatment below which if followed by everybody should help combat the problem. This should be carried out regularly even if headlice have not been found. Comb with a fine-tooth comb on really wet conditioned hair. Do this for at least 5 minutes every time the hair is washed. Ensure that the whole head is combed each time from scalp to ends of hair. This removes any lice before they are mature enough to lay eggs or transfer to another head.

Headlice combs are available in the office for a cost of £3.00. If you have a continuing problem or would like expert advice please contact the school office and we can put you in contact with the school nurse.

Attendance & Absence

All parents should have received a copy of the school's attendance policy. If you have not and would like one please call in at the school office or find it on our website www.woodend.org

If your child is away please phone and let us know, if you have not phoned by 9.30 we will phone you. If we do not manage to speak to you or see you when your child returns you will receive a form to complete.

ABSENCE LETTER - Davy Jones 3PJ

Date & Sessions of Absence(s)

Please detail reasons for absences after each date;

Wed 18/4/10 AM - Wed 18/04/10 PM

Please remember to put why your child was away in this section:

Some reminders:

Children must attend school unless they are unwell or have a medical appointment.

Children must arrive by 8.55am. If they are later than this they will miss important work.

Parents do not have a right to expect holidays to be authorised. Parents should avoid booking holidays during term time. If it is unavoidable a form must be completed before leaving for the holiday. The request will be looked at alongside the child's normal attendance. The holiday will then either be an authorised absence or unauthorised absence. Only 10 days each academic year will be authorised as holiday. No holidays for year 2 children will be authorised between Easter break and May half term.

Parents must ring the school by 9.30am to tell us why their child is absent otherwise they will receive a phone call which costs the school resources in time and phone costs.

The school Educational Welfare Officer monitors lateness and attendance and will write or visit where there are persistent problems.

The LEA will consider issuing fixed penalty notices to parents who continually keep their children away from school.

Lunch Boxes

Lunch Boxes

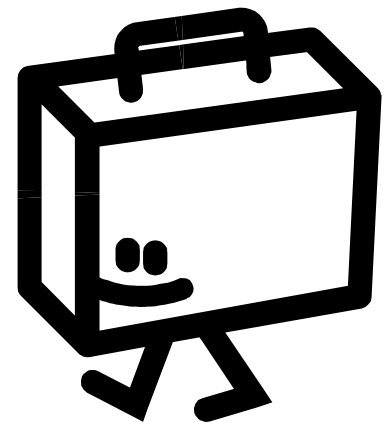
In line with our work on being a healthy school, we have guidelines for parents with regards to the contents of lunchboxes. Please try and adhere to these as much as possible.

No fizzy drinks and No sweets

No confectionery chocolate bars eg Mars bars or pure chocolate, they are allowed to have biscuit based chocolate eg Twix, penguin, etc. but suggest fun size rather than large bars

- No nuts, peanut butter or products with nuts in
- A sandwich/rice/pasta dish/roll or pastry item
- A piece of fruit, dried fruit or vegetable salad items
- A drink
- Crisps are allowed but it would be preferable not to send them every day

Please remember that school lunches need to be ordered by 9.00am on the Wednesday of the previous week.



Playground Apparatus, Car Park and Children's Centre

Playground Apparatus

Children should not play on this before or after school as the children are only insured if supervised by a member of school staff. If you allow your children to play on the apparatus you do so at your own risk.

Playground, Car park and outside school

Please help us to keep the playground and car park a pleasant and safe environment for children and parents. The school is a no smoking premises, if you smoke please ensure

you are a distance away from the side gates where children enter the playground. Dogs are not allowed on school premises and outside of school should be kept on leads when children are coming in and out of school. Please no bikes or scooters to be ridden on the school premises and please do not walk through the car park. It is illegal to park on the zig-zag lines outside school. This is for the safety of our children.

Children's Centre

Look out for the many activities arranged for 0-5 year olds. The new timetable is available

from the centre or the school office.

The centre is also a local information point for families with regard to accessing information and support around the following:

- General Health Information
- Childcare Information - Including local Childminders
- Employment & Training Information
- Family Support Information
- UK Online Centre



General Information

Contact numbers

Please ensure that the school office has up to date numbers as it is important that we can contact you in an emergency. In the next few weeks we will send home contact sheets for each child please check the information we have for your child, make any amendments and return to school as soon as possible.

Coats

Please ensure your child has a coat every day, we do go out in most weathers and it can quickly change.

Names

Please name all sweatshirts, coats and plimsoles. It is much easier to find lost property if items are named.

Special Educational Needs

In the school reception area we have a box of very useful information for parents on topics such as support groups, help lines,

Dyslexia, bullying and many other topics. Please feel free to have a look through the box and borrow booklets of interest.

Second hand wellies and plimsoles

We would welcome wellies and plimsoles that are still in reasonable condition that your child has grown out of. We keep a spare stock for children who have forgotten. Please bring donations to the school office. There is a welly week each half term when children bring a pair of named wellies in a named bag and we spend time on the field and woodland trail.

School Photographs Monday 26th September 9am

There will be an opportunity to have photographs as a family or individually. For those children in school, unless notified by parents in writing of other requests they will be photographed with siblings only. If you would like younger brothers or sisters, to be photographed, please come to main reception of the school between 9-9:30am. Afternoon playgroup parents will also be invited at this time. Numbers will be given out and photographs taken in order of arrival so please be patient. We will then move on to the morning pre-school children and school.

NEXT WEEK is WELLY WEEK



Restorative Practice

Staff in school also use the restorative principles in practice strategy of dealing with behaviour incidents. This involves us taking the time to listen to all children involved in a situation and then the children together agreeing what should happen and what actions could be different next time. It is a very fair and respectful process because all involved have an opportunity to have their say and all are expected to listen to other people's opinions and feelings.

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PE kits, Parent Helpers and Free Break Time Fruit

PE Kits

All children need a PE kit at school all week. Please ensure that they have red shorts, a white T-shirt and plimsoles. Plimsoles can be purchased from the school office for £4 per pair.

Parent Helpers

We would really appreciate parent helpers who can commit to regular times every week to help in school. This could be hearing children read or helping in the library. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Mrs Baron, Miss Edwards, Mrs Sharpe, Miss Swift or Mrs Lynch. You will be required to complete the forms for the Criminal Records Bureau.

Free Break time Fruit

As many of you will know the Health Department of the Government funds this project. All children receive a piece of fruit at break time. They also have water Bottles available all day filled with fresh water.

Events This Half Term

Artists in Residence

This term we will be working with a textile artist to produce a T-shirt each. Each child will learn how to tie-dye and stencil, the school will provide the T-shirt. The theme will be Olympic sports.

Friday Mornings 8.45am - 9.30am - Come to School

These sessions are an opportunity for parents and carers to come in to school with their children. We welcome you to stay until the school bell goes at 9.30am. If you need to talk to the class teacher about your child this is an opportunity to do so, help your child change their books, look at our displays, read with them or play with them. A chance to see your child in school and find out about their learning. Please come every week or just when you can.

Harvest Festival Friday 21st October 9:00am

We will again be celebrating harvest by collecting food and donating it to 'The Food Cupboard' in Bletchley. The Food Cupboard receives requests from Milton Keynes Social Services Children's Services, they deliver anywhere in Milton Keynes and are available 365 days a year 24 hours a day. They also support a Milton Keynes women's refuge. The children are learning harvest songs and each class will be learning an item to perform at the assembly. Please donate a tin or packet of food for the festival. Items such as cereals, sugar, long life milk, T bags, dried pasta, squash, jam, biscuits, tinned fruit, tinned rice pudding, baked beans, tinned meat or fish, tinned soup or tinned vegetables

Autumn Term Parents Evening

Monday 7th November and Wednesday 9th November

It is very important that parents and children attend our meetings each term. At this meeting teachers will discuss with you and your children their behaviour, attitudes to learning, progress with learning and future targets. It is important that your child attends with you and this term please help them complete our children's questionnaire. We want to find out how children feel about their learning, this questionnaire gives them one of many opportunities that they will get over the year to have their say.

Monday 18th October - the children's questionnaire will be sent out with a form asking you to tick all convenient times. Please return this letter by Thursday 20st October. The questionnaire can be returned to school or brought to the parents evening.

Book Week

(Monday 3rd - Friday 7th October)

We will be celebrating book week in school this week.

Children will be visiting our Scholastic Book Fayre to look at books and teachers will be reading stories to different classes across the school. Visit our book fayre to buy a book. It will be open on

Friday 7th October 3pm - 3:30pm

Monday 10th October 3pm- 3:30pm

Tuesday 11th October 3pm - 3.30pm

Friday 7th October

Dress up as a Roald Dahl character

ZUMBA

Want to keep fit or get fit then join us on a Wednesday 6pm-7pm in the school hall. £5 per session, no need to book just turn up.

Adults Only

Dates For Half Term

Monday 26 th September 9am	Photographer in School
Monday 26 th —Friday 30 th September	Welly Week 
Tuesday 27 th September	Year 2 Swimming 
Tuesday 27 th September 3-4pm	Golf Club—Session 1 
Friday 30 th September am	Year 2 to join in ASPIRE partnership event—More details to follow.
Monday 3 rd - Friday 7 th September	Book Week 
Tuesday 4 th October	Year 2 Swimming 
Tuesday 4 th October 3-4pm	Golf Club—Session 2 
Friday 7 th October	Dress up day—Roald Dahl Character
Friday 7 th October 9- 9:30am	Come and watch a guided reading session
Friday 7 th October 3-3:30pm	Book Fayre Open 3-3:30pm 
Monday 10 th October	Artist in Resident in School
Monday 10 th October 3-3:30pm	Book Fayre Open 3-3:30pm 
Tuesday 11 th October	Artist in Resident in School
Tuesday 11 th October	Year 2 Swimming 
Tuesday 11 th October 3-4pm	Golf Club—Session 3 
Tuesday 11 th October 3-3:30pm	Book Fayre Open 3-3:30pm 
Monday 17 th October	Artist in Resident in School
Tuesday 18 th October 3-4pm	Golf Club—Session 4 
Wednesday 19 th October	Artist in Resident in School
Friday 21 st October 9:00 - 9:30am	Harvest Festival - PARENTS WELCOME
Friday 21 st October 3pm	SCHOOL CLOSES for half term holidays.
Tuesday 1 st November 8:45	SCHOOL OPENS
Tuesday 1 st —Friday 4 th November	Welly Week and Outdoor Week 

Uniform



From September uniform will be compulsory. We do have a few used items of school uniform also for sale. Please come to the school reception if you are interested in purchasing these item.

Uniform will consist of

- Black/grey trousers, skirt or pinafore dress
- White shirt, polo top or short sleeved T-shirt
- Red sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan
- Optional red and white check dress for warmer weather
- Sensible shoes or trainers (no flip flops, platform shoes or shoes with heels)
- PE Kit consists of white T-shirt, red shorts, plimsols and a bag to store them in.

Order forms can be collected from the school office

Language of the Term

This term we will be learning about the Gujarati language. Watch out for our assembly next half term.

Curriculum Information

Foundation Theme - Nursery Rhymes



Our theme this half term is Nursery Rhymes. The children have been given a 'Rhyme-Time Challenge' to complete, prior to starting school. We will be developing this idea over the next few weeks in school, led by the children's interest in, and enthusiasm for, different rhymes.

Books to read at home

- Any nursery rhyme book (with a sing-a-long CD if you're not sure of the tunes!)
- 'Each, Peach, Pear, Plum' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
- Any books by Nick Sharratt e.g. 'Don't Put Your Finger in the Jelly Nelly' (lots of fun rhyming words)

Suggested Visits

Visit the local library to read stories and rhymes. (Some libraries have story-telling sessions)

Websites to visit

www.wordsforlife.org.uk
www.nurseryrhymes4u.com

Year 1 Topic - All About Me



This term our topic is All about me.

Books to read at home

Any books about families.

Children just like me.

In science we are leaning about ourselves so any book naming parts of our body, our senses and what they do etc.

Suggested Visits

When visiting friends or family talk about their visit to develop their speaking and communication skills.

Websites to visit

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips



Year 2 Topic - Islands

This half term Year 2 will be looking at islands and reading some of the books about Katie Morag, which are based on the Isle of Struay.

We will be looking at the topic of 'Health and Growth' in science and investigating how we grow and the correct food to give us a balanced diet.

In PSHE we will talk about 'New Beginnings' and establishing class values and how we feel at the beginning of the new school year.

Books to read at home

Any book by Mairi Hedderwick about Katie Morag.

Living and growing by Neil Morris

Suggested Visits

Please visit libraries and borrow books about islands or health and growth.

Websites to visit

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/6_7/science_6_7.shtml

Reading Reading Reading

One of our priorities this year is to develop our reading activities and encourage children to love reading. Watch out for exciting events.

Sharing

Please share your child's book with them as often as you can. Sign the booklet and your child will get tree points. Watch out for prizes too.

Book Week

Book Fayre
Dressing Up as a Roald Dahl character

School Library

Opens Wednesday after school - 3pm - 3:30pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Come in with your child - browse, read and change your child's school library book.

STARTING

Wednesday 28th September

Reading Challenges

Set all year
Some to do at home and some at school.



Milton Keynes Mobile Library Service

Visiting school on

4th October	18th October
1st November	15th November
29th November	13th December

Adult and children's books available. We will be holding a registration session soon