



Woodland Grange Primary

NEWSLETTER April 2020

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 @Woodland_Grange

Dear Parents

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well. I just want to quickly update you on some key points.

School continues to operate for the children of key workers who otherwise would not be able to work and we are proud to be able to support the work that they are doing. We also opened over the two week Easter break (including the two bank holidays), again for the children of key workers and made our provision, here at Woodland Grange, available to pupils at Brookside Primary and Overdale Infant and Overdale Junior schools with up to 24 children attending each day. We will run a holiday club again in the May half-term break and more details will follow about this again to enable online bookings.

There are conflicting news stories as to when schools are likely to open again, with the Sunday Times, at the weekend, reporting that they would re-open in three weeks and then for this to be dismissed by the Education Secretary on the same day. All I can say is that as soon as I know anything I will let you know but as it currently stands, Headteachers are not finding out anything in advance of stories going into the press so you really do know as much as me at the moment.

We have made food vouchers available for all eligible pupils and continue to do this on a weekly basis. We await more information regarding the national laptop and connectivity scheme that some of our families may be able to benefit from.

As things stand, it is unlikely the Year 3 Beaumanor Hall residential trip in June will go ahead so we have suspended the ability to make payments on-line; in due course we will refund parents for payments already made.

Kindest regards and keep safe

Mr Hayles

Keeping in Touch with WGPS

During these testing times it can be difficult to keep in touch. Whilst we are all currently learning 'remotely' we still want to hear from our amazing pupils:

We have all been clapping for our key workers every Thursday at 8pm, but who have you been clapping for? Send an email (see below) to let us know your hero. A message and photo would be great.

We also want to know what you have been up to at home. Have you learnt a new skill? Have you done something that has made you feel proud.

Let us know (with 'Keeping in Touch' as the subject) via office@woodlandgrange.leics.sch.uk. Include a short message and a picture or drawing and we will share them on Twitter, our website and future newsletters.

Learn sites & Online Resources

We have just launched our new Learn sites for children to access work at home. There is one for each year group (excluding Foundation Stage who will continue to use Tapestry) with activities, links and resources for children to work through at their own pace.

Children log on in the same way as before (there is a help video on the website homepage) and then choose the year group site. The original site will remain for all pupils and will feature general content (including a new Wellbeing page).

We also wanted to remind parents that there is no expectation to complete everything that has been set. We do want the children to continue their learning whilst they're at home but please do not worry if activities are not completed on the day they are set.

Parents may also be aware of new 'live' content that has been published by **Oak National Academy Trust** and the **BBC**. These resources are very useful but we would remind parents to use them to compliment the work that our teachers have set not replace it. We do not want to overload parents at home, many of whom may be working themselves.

Staff changes for Summer term

It is with regret that we are saying goodbye to three outstanding members of our staff team.

Ms Hopewell will be shortly leaving us. In her time at Woodland Grange she has taught in every year group from pre-school through to Year 6. Whether as class teacher or leading French at our school she has been a brilliant teacher and colleague and we will miss her very much.

We are also saying goodbye to **Mrs Cobbold**. Music has been a part of our school for many years and this is due in no small measure to the commitment and leadership of Mrs Cobbold. She has worked tirelessly to make sure music remains at the heart of our school as well as being a fantastic class teacher.

Finally we are saying goodbye to **Mrs Hajat**, who will be shortly moving abroad to Dubai with her family. She will continue to teach and is looking forward to the start of her new adventure. Mrs Hajat has worked in many year groups in her time at Woodland Grange. She has been instrumental in moving our provision in Year 1 forward and been a fantastic Key Stage 1 leader.



STEM week

To coincide with **British Science Week** in March, we organised some special assemblies and welcomed in parents to lead them. The idea was to promote jobs in the areas of **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). We wanted parents to not only talk about their job, but to promote and inspire the pupils.

We had a range of visitors including: a Neuroscientist (Dr. Liu) who talked about our brains and how we learn. A control system engineer (Divya) who talked about controlling enormous pipelines. We learnt about rocks and volcanoes from a geologist (Dr. Holwell) and finally found out the role of a data analyst (Zaila), turning data into information that we can understand and use. The children learnt a lot during the week and it was wonderful to listen to the adults share their passion and enthusiasm.

Thank you to **Miss Murdock** for coordinating the assemblies. It was a big success and something that we would like to build on in the future. Thanks also to all the parents who volunteered to share their passion and interests.

STEM is an important part of our curriculum. Although it isn't a subject in its own right, it fits into so many different areas of the curriculum and links to our areas of learning:

Ask questions—Be inventive—Solve problems—Look for patterns and sequences.



Sport Relief

We have now counted our school total for Sport Relief 2020 and have raised a brilliant **£385.49**.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this wonderful total. The money will support people around the World including the current Coronavirus pandemic.



FoWG

Unfortunately, due to the school closure, the Friends of Woodland Grange have had to cancel all events for the remainder of this year. A HUGE thank you to all the Friends as well as everyone who has volunteered and supported their work this year. We will notify parents of any rearranged events when we return to school.



Music at Woodland Grange

Music is a very important part of life at Woodland Grange. It has been part of the fabric of our school for so long and the high take up of music lessons, as well as running a successful school choir and orchestra are proof of how highly it is valued. The opportunity to learn an instrument at school is such a valuable skill. It takes perseverance and determination to practice, confidence and resilience to perform and the enjoyment and sense of achievement is huge.

The choir and some children from Year 3 also had a super time at the "Big Sing" recently at Manor High School. Children from Woodland Grange, Brookside, Brocks Hill, Houghton on the Hill and Manor got together to form a massed choir singing songs learned in their respective schools. The Manor High children treated the primaries to a performance of Rule the World and then all schools participated in a mash up of popular songs. Ms Katy Dent an experienced singing teacher currently teaching music at Woodland Grange did a fantastic job of leading the afternoon. What a fantastic way of getting together to celebrate the joy of singing and to experience performing to a wider audience.



Special thanks to **Mrs Cobbold, Mrs Dent** and all the music teachers who make sure children have these opportunities.