



# Woodland Grange Primary NEWSLETTER September 2020

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 @Woodland\_Grange

## Welcome back!

It is safe to say that we are still not 'back to normal' at school, but it has been great to welcome back staff and pupils. Seeing so many happy faces and hearing the excited chatter in the playground means school is returning to normal. Each aspect of school has been altered by the current guidance. Whilst it is great to be back we are aware of what events could be around the corner. It is more important than ever to follow the rules governing what we can and cannot do. This will, in turn, lead to a positive year ahead at school. We hope more than anything that restrictions can be lifted and we can once again organise such things as day or residential trips, clubs, parent and FOWG events. *We hope all our families stay safe and well in the year ahead.*

A reminder to all parents and carers that from the start of this academic year we have changed our pupil absence policy. In line with other OAK Trust schools we can now only authorise up to 5 days of holiday per child per year. Any requests over 5 days will not be authorised at all. We will also be asking parents to supply destinations on the updated leave of absence forms as this will help us know if pupils are expected to quarantine.

### Curriculum evenings

At the beginning of every school year, we organise Curriculum evenings for parents and carers. It is an important aspect of starting the school year in the right way; offering information on what's to come, ways to support and help at home as well as the chance to ask any questions.

Under current restrictions we are trying to limit outside visitors coming into school and as a result we are having to think about parent meetings in a different way. This year our curriculum evening meetings will be held virtually.

Staff will prerecord themselves sharing information on the upcoming year. The presentations will then be uploaded for parents and carers to watch back. We will also make sure there is a mechanism to submit questions not covered during the presentation. A separate parentmail will be sent in the next few weeks explaining how this will work. We hope you will find Curriculum evenings as informative as usual.

### New procedures in place from August 2020

A reminder to all parents that school is operating new procedures from August 2020. These include:

**Staggered drop off times.** 8:40 for Y5 & 6, 8:50 for Y3 & 4 (FS pupils will also come in at this time) and 9:00 for Y1 & 2.

**Staggered pick up times.** 3:00 for Y5 & 6, 3:10 for Y3 & 4 and 3:20 for Y1 & 2 (FS pupils will be collected at 3:15)

**One way system around school.** All parents are asked to follow the signs around school at drop off and pick up times (see map).

Other aspects are covered in the detailed plan that is available on the website homepage. We are asking all parents to drop off and pick up promptly and remember not to come to the office. For any issues, a phone call or email is preferable at the current time. Please also remember to name everything that comes into school as we are trying to reduce the amount of lost property.

**We are now asking all visitors to school to wear a mask before entering the school building.**



### A BIG hello...

It is always lovely when new staff join Woodland Grange and we are lucky enough to be welcoming **Mrs Bryan** to our staff team. She will be teaching French across KS2 and supporting children in Year 2 on Thursday afternoons. As well as continuing to teach music across our school, **Mrs Dent** will also be supporting pupils in Year 4. Finally, we now have a full time sports coach at WGPS. **Mr Evans** will be working across the school during the week including before, lunchtime and after school clubs.

### Staffing from August 2020

<b>Preschool:</b>	Miss Murdock
<b>Foundation Stage:</b>	Mrs Hibbard and Miss Yadav
<b>Year 1:</b>	Miss Rose and Miss Hageman
<b>Year 2:</b>	Mrs Chadwick/Mr Parker and Mrs Sabir
<b>Year 3:</b>	Mrs Fletcher and Mrs Santy/Mrs Turner
<b>Year 4:</b>	Miss Benjamin and Miss Scott
<b>Year 5:</b>	Miss Bowe and Mr Healey
<b>Year 6:</b>	Mrs Barrs, Miss Smith & Mr Smith

*(This year there will be 3 classes in Year 6)*

We were very disappointed not to be able to offer our Year 6 Bude residential at the start of the year. It is such a brilliant trip and the children in previous years have enjoyed it immensely. We are hoping that the trip can still go ahead later in the school year.

The Department for Education is currently advising against any domestic trips or visits for any primary age children. We will inform parents of any changes and can (hopefully) reintroduce trips and visits very soon.

**Clubs** will begin again from W.B. **Monday 21st September**. In line with current guidance we will be offering single year group clubs (with the exception for outdoor clubs or sessions in the school hall). A Clubs newsletter will be sent home to enable parents to sign up in the usual (online) way very soon! Please make sure you read and understand the new arrangements ahead of signing up.

## GOOD LUCK YEAR 7

Our Year 6 pupils left Woodland Grange at the end of the Summer term in the strangest of times. We were able to say a 'brief' goodbye to some of the pupils when schools opened more widely in June, but we recognise not all pupils had that opportunity.

Everyone at our school would like to wish all pupils that left in July the best of luck for their new adventures. You have been a credit to our school and we will miss every single one of you.



### Changes to staffing

We are very sorry to begin the new school year by saying goodbye to two longstanding members of staff.

**Mrs Keenan** has worked at our school for 19 years, supporting children across KS2. She has been an important member of the team and we will miss her at school.

**Mrs Henton** is retiring after 23 years at Woodland Grange. In that time she has been in charge of literacy, Key Stage Leader and member of the senior team in school. She has taught countless children in her time at our school and will be missed by everyone.

We wish them both the best of luck for the future.



**Walk Cycle Scoot Park with care**

Parents may have noticed the new signs outside school with reminders about travelling to and from school. It is more important than ever to consider how you drop off and collect your children. Seeking an alternative to the car (walking or cycling) is more beneficial for a number of reasons.

If you are coming by car, please do not block road junctions or residents driveways.

Parking on the zig zag lines outside school is also prohibited.

*Thank you to all parents for the donations of uniform. At the moment we are not able to accept any more and will notify parents if there is anything that we need in the future.*



### FoWG

The Friends of Woodland Grange is our Parents Association. They have been an integral part of our school for a very long time and continue to raise funds that enable us to provide exciting opportunities for your children.

The Friends are holding their annual AGM on **Wednesday 9th September** in the school hall at **7pm**. It will be socially distanced with all visitors wearing masks. If you would like to get involved in their amazing, voluntary work then please come along.



### Holiday Club

We will be running a half term holiday club for the Autumn half term. It will be run by our own Mr Evans for pupils across Woodland Grange. More details will follow soon!

### Birthday Treats

It is always lovely for children to bring in a gift for their class when it's their birthday. Over the last few years we have reminded parents that one of the most best class presents is a book that everyone can share and enjoy. This could be fiction or non-fiction, story or poetry. You could write a birthday message inside e.g. 'This book was donated by XXX to celebrate their XX birthday, Sept 2020.'





This is an updated map of Woodland Grange, showing the new one way system around school (in operation at main drop off and pick up times). The map also explains where to drop off and collect children around the school.

Please remember to be prompt at the beginning and end of the school day. Each Year Group has a specific timed slot to enable us to get the pupils into class at the start and off site at the end of the day. **Please make sure you are socially distancing in the playground.** Once your child has been collected please also exit the school site promptly.

We hope that things can return to normal very soon, in the meantime your cooperation is appreciated.

### Thank you



We were very sorry to say a retirement goodbye to Mr Morley at the beginning of term. As we mentioned in our last newsletter, he has been an important part of our school and we will miss him very much. Mr Juneja has replaced Mr Morley as our premises officer and we are looking forward to him becoming an

important member of the staff team at Woodland Grange.

### Diary Dates:

All dates can be found on our school website calendar:

- 9/9/20: FOWG AGM
- 10/9/20: FS Pupils start full time
- 21/9/20: (W.B.) Autumn clubs begin
- 19/10/20: Autumn Half term