



Woodland Grange Primary NEWSLETTER ~ December 2020

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Seasons Greetings!

We hope our final newsletter for the Autumn term finds you and your family safe and well. It has certainly been a long and eventful term.

Despite all the doom and gloom, school has definitely felt very festive indeed. The children have made some amazing decorations and even though we couldn't invite parents in to share the Christmas performances, we know that you will enjoy watching them virtually. On the plus side you'll (hopefully) have your very own running commentary from your children!

It was particularly lovely for some of our instrumentalists in school to share what they've been practising recently. It now seems entirely normal to share these things virtually, something that would have seemed very strange just twelve months ago.

As we have mentioned in previous newsletters, we continue to do the very best for your children, however we recognise it is a team effort and supportive and kind hearted parents and carers are a part of that team.

FROM EVERYONE AT WOODLAND GRANGE WE HOPE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HAVE A RESTFUL, PEACEFUL HOLIDAY.

Safety Covid update

We would like to thank all parents and carers for following our COVID plan this term. Although the arrangements have been in place and refined since August, we will continue to do everything we can to keep everyone safe at school. Routines will carry on after the Christmas break with the same drop off and pick up times. We would remind parents of the importance of being on time for either end of the day. A further reminder that any child that is self isolating should not enter the school site (including older siblings that may be collecting children).

We have included additional COVID related information on the final page of this newsletter.

Please remember to wear a mask before entering the school site. We are asking everyone to remain socially distant (2m of 6ft) around school, especially in the playground.



Christmas performances

We have really missed inviting parents in for our Christmas performances this year. It helps to create a lovely, end of term atmosphere in the hall and we know it's something that families look forward to at this time of year.

This year things have been different! Instead of rehearsing performances and productions, year groups have recorded songs and uploaded them for parents and carers to enjoy. Many of these will be available through MS Teams or Tapestry. Teachers will let parents know when they are available.

The patter of tiny feet...

We will saying a temporary good bye to **Miss Bowe** at the end of term as she is leaving us to begin her maternity leave. Her class will be covered by **Mrs Lesley** for the remainder of the school year. She has already met the class and enjoyed getting to know them (especially seeing their amazing poetry and DT projects). We also have two further members of staff: **Miss Rose** and **Mrs Oliver** (who works in our pre school) who will be leaving us to have their babies later on in the Spring term. **Everyone at school would like to send their congratulations to all our mums to be!**



Merry Christmas from FOWG

As ever we would like to say a massive WELL DONE to all the Friends of Woodland Grange. As mentioned in previous newsletters their hard work and dedication has not been altered by COVID at all!

They organised a festive jumper and home made hat day in school. There were some fantastically creative entries around school. Well done to the year group winners.

The sponsored event that has been running during December is due to finish on 4th January.

Please remember to continue to support our Woodland Grange School Lottery. The more tickets we sell, the bigger the prize money, resulting in more money raised for our school. The next draw will take place on 19th December, congratulations to all our winners!

The contribution that FOWG makes to our school is massively appreciated. Without the money they raise, we would not be able to fund projects across the school that benefit every pupil at Woodland Grange.

Look out for more fundraising ideas next term.



Parking

We would like to thank all parents and carers who continue to park in a respectful and courteous way outside school.

We would also remind all parents and carers to not block driveways or junctions and remember to not park on pavements.

It can be extremely dangerous for pedestrians with push chairs to have to walk along the road because the pavement has been blocked.

We will continue to monitor and challenge bad parking around school in 2021.



Some of our Year 5 pupils recently completed their Sports Leader training at school. Organised by SLSSP the training involved a range of physical activities and will equip our children with the skills to organise and promote events at school. A brilliant opportunity.



Well done Woodland Grange!

This year we have raised just under **£500** for Children in Need. The overall total combines donations on the day and our online Just Giving Page.

An extra thank you to all those families who donated online this year. Online donations accounted for **£104** of the overall total, amazing!

We will consider keeping the page and use it as a basis for future fundraising efforts.

The children enjoyed the day, dressed as their keyworker heroes. Every penny will go to help children in projects across the country.



Winter reading scheme

This winter Leicestershire libraries are very excited to team up with award-winning inclusive publisher 'Knights Of' books to run a mini reading challenge called 'Everyone Is A Hero'. It will encourage children to keep up their reading habits over the holidays, with a free-to-access website featuring rewards and incentives for reading and reviewing books.

Don't forget that local libraries are remaining open. It would be fantastic for our children to make use of them and complete the challenge. Click [here](#) to visit the website to register (if you completed the summer challenge you can use the same profile).

The mini reading challenge is running from 1/12/20 to 15/1/21.

Oadby Food Bank

Christmas time will be a busy time for local food banks. During 2020 there has been a huge demand for the service that these schemes provide. Oadby Food Bank will remain open during the holidays at Trinity Methodist Church. For further information, please call: 07913 525718.

We have also messaged parents about delivering food parcels. If you can volunteer time (up to 18/12) please contact them.

Recycling

We are pleased to let parents know that school has partnered with **COG Youth Services** to set up recycling at school. **At the moment we are just collecting used pens** in school but hope to start collecting other items including crisp and biscuit wrappers in the future. There is a collection box next to the main entrance.

COG Youth Services is a Leicester based volunteer run social enterprise. They support young people in a range of activities including drug awareness and mental health.

By supporting them, we are supporting local, young people.



We are asked regularly where the money raised by the Friends of Woodland Grange goes and who feels the benefit. We always try to make sure that any FOWG funded projects benefit as many pupils as possible (the adventure playground, for example).

We are delighted to share with everyone that the Friends have recently purchased a 'Hugbike' to further support the cycling initiatives that we have at school. The bike is similar to a tandem and will enable a less confident rider to access cycling with an adult taking control from the rear seat. We look forward to using it more in the future. It means that everyone will be able to access cycle training and learn the skills to be a confident rider themselves. Amazing, thank you FOWG.

Staying safe during the Christmas holidays

The UK Government has set specific guidance during the Christmas holidays (between 23rd and 27th December) The guidance can be viewed [here](#).

We would remind all families of the need to consider the risks of meeting up over the Christmas period. Whilst the guidance is clear, infection rates remain high in Oadby and as such we would want to minimise the impact on school when we return in January.

Parents only need to report **confirmed pupil Covid-19 cases up to Sunday, 20th December** (as we only track back 48 hours) **UNLESS your child had symptoms that are retrospectively taken as Covid symptoms that go back to this week.**

All other notifications can wait until the start of term on Tuesday, January 5th as any positive cases after Christmas will not affect other pupils due to close contact in school.

By way of reminder, the Woodland Grange Covid Line telephone number is: 07939 369 808 - please only use this for reporting positive PUPIL cases. The phone is checked several times a day and we ask that you send a TEXT giving your child's name and class and confirming that you are reporting a positive case for your child. You will be contacted to confirm the details.

Santa Dash

The children had a great time taking part in a charity Santa Dash around the playground. Mr Evans organised a course and timetable to make sure each year group had a separate slot. The children completed laps around the course wearing their Santa hats or Rudolf antlers. They looked amazing and had fun running with their friends.

The event was the idea of our local school sports partnership. **South Leicestershire School Sports Partnership** organise many of the sporting events and competitions that we take part in. Unfortunately, at the moment, inter-school competitions have been suspended and so they have had to adapt how they support schools with keeping fit and active. What better way than running dressed as one of Santa's helpers! The charity that was chosen for the event was 'The Toy Appeal'. You can still donate online ([here](#)) or print off a sponsor form (sent via parent mail). We hope you are able to support this appeal, there's still time to donate.



Diary Dates:

All dates can be found on our school website calendar:

18/12/20: School closes (main school and preschool)

05/01/21: Start of Spring term for all pupils