

*High Academic Standards: Sporting Opportunities: Caring Relationships: Musical Excellence: Christian Values*

**Dates for the Diary**

19 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Non uniform day and last day of term
19 <sup>th</sup> April	Summer term starts
11 May (TBC)	3.50pm - 5.50pm Parent child and teacher meeting on teams
Thursday 13 May (TBC)	3.50pm - 7pm Parent child and teacher meeting
Friday 14 May	Pyjamarama
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of term for children
26 – 28 July	INSET days

It was wonderful to welcome all our children back into school this week, to see their smiling faces and hear their laughter. It was also lovely to see all the parents and say a socially distanced ‘Hello’! We know that the children have really enjoyed being with their classmates and school staff once again. We have loved having them back!

We hope that you have had a more restful week without the worries of home schooling.

The main part of this newsletter focuses on the recovery curriculum and being mindful of the children’s emotional needs – good mental health is key to achieving high academic aims!

As usual, if you have any questions or need any help, please contact the office.

**WORLD BOOK DAY**

Thank you for sending in so many wonderful photographs and emails about activities you have done with the children celebrating World Book Day (04/03/21). The children in school really enjoyed the planned activities and looked brilliant in their fancy-dress costumes. Here’s just a few of our favourite photos – there are more on the website.



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## Food Allergies

We do have a number of children in school with food allergies. Could you please be mindful of the contents of lunches and snacks sent into school, as we don't want to cause issues for these children. We ask that you don't send in any nuts of any kind (including Nutella spread), lentils, chickpeas, legumes, and humous – or products containing these foods. We appreciate your help in keeping our children safe.

## RED NOSE DAY - 19th March 2021

Red Nose Day this year will be a little different, but we can still support this wonderful charity. Please donate online to <https://www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday/> We would like children to wear odd socks (please wear your red nose at home this year) and send their favourite joke in for us all to enjoy. Please email your joke to [admin@woodsfoundation.notts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@woodsfoundation.notts.sch.uk)



## URGENT PLEA – SCHOOL STAFF CAR PARK

We had a near miss in the school staff car park this week when one of our older children ran across the staff car park entrance to get into school. A parent who had parked in the car park was driving out of the entrance and very nearly ran the child over. We were thankful that there wasn't an accident and the child was physically fine, but it really brought home to us the message we constantly give out about not parking in the school staff car park and using one of the designated parking areas.

To avoid this type of situation occurring again, we are pleading with you to park considerately by using the Four Bells car park or the village hall car park. Also, parking on the road (especially by the Governor's Field), hugely inconveniences the families living on Lingwood Lane as it causes congestion, makes it difficult for the flow of traffic and even more dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists.

Please do not park in the staff car park – it makes it so difficult for our staff to arrive and leave school and as we've seen, can be a potential hazard.

Thankfully there was no serious accident this week and we would like it to remain that way. Please do all you can to ensure safety and consideration for all.

## Sanitary Products

To alleviate some of the worry surrounding girls starting their periods at school we have provided sanitary products in the girls' toilets for class 5 and 6. Provisions include a range of sanitary products, clean underwear, wipes and sanitary bins. These are available in each toilet cubicle in the class 5 girls' toilet (which Class 6 girls use) and the disabled toilet in Leo's Den.

We completely understand that they may be shy and/or embarrassed, but please reassure them that they can ask for help from any member of staff they feel comfortable approaching. They can simply say, 'It's a girl thing' or, 'I started my period today and I don't have any supplies' if they are comfortable doing so. If they are in a public space the member of staff will immediately know what they are referring to and help. If they are talking to a male member of staff, they will know to get a female staff member to help. We will handle it with absolute sensitivity. If it's your child's first period we will ask them if they want to call you to tell you what happened and how they are feeling.

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When you feel the time is right, have a word with your girl(s) so they know what to do if they have a period at school. We really don't want them to worry as there are many people they can turn to at school for help and in confidence.

## Recovery Curriculum

As a school we acknowledge that children will not be able to pick up the curriculum where they left it. Too much has happened since then and every child's experience of learning during lockdown will have been different. We will therefore be sensitively working with children, finding out what they have experienced and how best to prepare them for the different journey ahead.

Part of our response will include our catch-up premium plan. More details can be found on our website in policies. This is only one element of our recovery plan and should be seen within the context of the 5 levers detailed below.

We accept that during the period of home schooling, a child's normal daily routine may have disappeared along with a certain feeling of 'self-worth' that only a peer group can offer. Children are fundamentally social creatures and this loss of social interaction, freedom and normal routine can in effect be felt as a bereavement to some children.

We also appreciate that however hard parents may have tried to create a new 'normal routine' at home, it is not the same as school. For some children, not having that daily routine, freedom and social interaction may have caused varying levels of anxiety, a drop-in concentration and some degree of frustration. All of which we anticipate and will endeavour to address on a child's return to school through our recovery curriculum. We are also mindful that there are certain rites of passage that help shape a child's progression both academically and emotionally which may have been taken away from them which will also need addressing.

This loss of routine, structure, friendship, opportunity and freedom, can trigger feelings of anxiety, trauma and bereavement in any child and will never be underestimated.

*Anxiety:* For some children, anxiety can cause a deterioration in their overall well-being as the anxious child is not a learning child. As a school we will be mindful of mood swings and children who become irrational and illogical may also result in a loss of sleep so tiredness and the management of coping mechanisms will also be monitored.

*Bereavement:* For some children old or young, the loss of friendship and social interaction could trigger a bereavement response. Children may grieve for their peers, the closeness and support they provide along with the freedom they had to spend with friends and visit family members. These emotions may make children mourn for how their life was compared to how it is now and question how long will it take to no longer feel threatened by nearness of others?

*Trauma:* The loss of routine along with the suddenness of it can be traumatic to some children. Children may have found it alarming that the routine of their week has been abandoned with limited understanding as to why. The suddenness of it all may have also induced panic attacks and or a loss of self-control.

As all children cope in different ways and with respect to all of these varying factors we will be following a holistic recovery curriculum. Some children will require a focused recovery intervention programme personalised to their needs; others may need a deeper and longer lasting recovery period, enabling a fuller exploration of the severity of their trauma and emergent attachment issues.

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Through the following five levers, our recovery curriculum plans for every child's wellbeing by building on relationships, nurturing a journey of re-engagement and once again igniting their joy of learning.

*Lever 1: Relationships* – We can't expect all our children to return joyfully, and many of the relationships that were thriving, may need to be invested in and restored. We will plan for this to happen, rather than assume that it will; reaching out to greet them using the relationships we build to cushion the discomfort of returning.

*Lever 2: Community* – We recognise that the curriculum will have been based in the community for a long period of time. We will listen to what has happened in this time, understand the needs of our children and engage them in the transitioning of learning back into school.

*Lever 3: Transparent Curriculum* – all of our students will feel like they have lost time in learning and we must show them how we are addressing these gaps, consult and co-construct with our pupils to help heal this sense of loss.

*Lever 4: Metacognition* – In different homes, children will have been learning in different ways. It is vital that we make the skills for learning in a school environment explicit to our students and to rebuild their confidence as learners.

*Lever 5: Space* – We aim to find and provide the space for children to be children, to rediscover themselves, to find their voice and rediscover themselves once again.

Now is the time for all of our community at Woods Foundation School to ensure that we restore mental health in our pupils, so that their aspirations can be a vision that becomes, one day, a reality.

## Building Extension

We are excited to share with you that we have been funded £180,000 to extend the front of the school. We will need to contribute a further £20,000 to the project taking the total build cost up to £200,000.00. The extension will provide:

- A more practical foyer space for parents & other visitors
- improved disabled toilet facilities and access to the front of the school
- teaching areas to enhance children's' learning & wellbeing in smaller groups
- Improved opportunities to let the hall to community groups
- Improved staff room facilities

Plans have been submitted for planning approval to the council. We expect a decision regarding this after 15<sup>th</sup> March. Watch out for our fund-raising activities!

## Holiday Activities and Food Programme Easter 2021

Under the DfE funded Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF), Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) will provide free meals, nutritional education and positive activities to children and young people eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) across Easter, Summer and Christmas 2021.

NCC retains the ambition to use the HAF as a vehicle to level up local communities through wider participation and avoid stigmatising attendees. Like most other Councils across the country, launching this programme during the lockdown is challenging; however, plans are in place to provide food and access to information and activities at Easter. A more comprehensive update about the HAF will be included in a newsletter over the next week or so as plans are confirmed.

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## Travelling to school and home safely

The DfE have asked us to share the following messages on how pupils can travel to and from school safely:

- if you live a short distance from your school or college, walk, cycle or scoot to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so – we have cycle and scooter racks at school.
- avoid sharing a car with anyone outside of your household or support bubble
- if you are using public transport to get to school or college, plan ahead and allow more time for your journey
- when you are travelling by public transport, don't forget to:
  - wear a face covering (unless you are exempt, including if you are aged 11 and under). It is important you wear them for the entirety of your journey, including inside a bus or train station
  - social distance where possible
  - wash or sanitise your hands regularly
- be considerate to fellow passengers and staff.

Further information can be found in our [guidance on transport to school and other places of education](#). The Department for Transport has also created [resources](#) that can be downloaded and used by education settings to promote safe travel to school.

## Reading Books

Starting next week, we are going to begin sending reading books home for the children. We can't do this in the way we did before the lockdowns, as the process still needs to be in-line with our risk assessment. However, the strategy we are using means the children will have access to some books, although the stock of books available for each class will be reduced.

This is how it will work:

- Each class will send home an allocation of books for each child, for a week. This will be sent in a plastic bag. The amount of books sent, will be dependent on their year group.
- Each child will keep their books at home for the week and then return them to school in the same plastic bag, on the day specified.
- These 'returned' books will then be quarantined in school for a whole week.
- We won't be able to provide new books to children until they have returned their previous books, as the quarantine process means there will be at least 30 books in each class out of circulation, so the stock of books available will be much lower.
- Online reading books will still be available via Rising Stars to supplement their reading.
- If children have not finished their books (particularly longer books in the juniors), they do not have to be returned until completed. However, they can only be returned on their classes specified day. This makes it easier to keep track of which books have been quarantined.

Class	Day of Book Issue	Day of Book Return/Bok Change
Class R	Mon (2 Books)	Following Monday
Class 1	Mon (2 Books)	Following Monday
Class 2	Mon (2 Books)	Following Monday
Class 3	Tues (1 or 2 Books)	Following Tuesday
Class 4	Wednesday (1 Book)	Following Wednesday
Class 5	Monday (1 Book)	Following Monday
Class 6	Monday (1 Book)	Following Monday

The reading journal will still be required to be filled in online.

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## Newsletter from Annie and All at St Swithuns

Hello Everyone, I do hope you have had a super return to school and have enjoyed catching up with your Teachers and all your friends and are settling back into the routine of everyday School life well. We at Church have been thinking of you and praying for you. I hope you have enjoyed doing some more of the Lent Challenge from the Minster. This Sunday is our fourth one in our journey through Lent and is a very special one, it is known as Mothering Sunday. It is also called Refreshment Sunday. In the 16<sup>th</sup> Century it was a time when people returned to their Mother Church either to the Church where they were baptised or the main Church like our Southwell Minster. Those who worked in big houses as staff would be given the day off to visit their own families and they would have a celebration. Today we celebrate those who have “mothered” us over the years, who have loved us and cared for us.

In the Bible there are many examples of Mothers who have made sacrifices, loved when it has been so hard knowing what was to come. Mothers who thought they could not have a child and then were blessed with one. Just like those today who care and love and make sacrifices for us. Mothers like Moses Mum, Jesus Mum and Samuels Mum. On Sunday we will have a special Service on Zoom to give thanks for families of all kinds, here and all over the world and to also remember the “mothering” love of God. It is a really special time. All those who care for us are special and are precious and deserve special care back. If you would like to join our Service on Sunday, please send your email to [egowbeneficechurches@gmail.com](mailto:egowbeneficechurches@gmail.com). the link will be sent to you, it must be done by 5pm on Friday evening though. I really hope you will join us it will be so lovely to see you and your families to give thanks with us. Make sure you have a cuppa and a biscuit as it is Refreshment Sunday too. There may even be a Quiz on Mums of the Bible. I wonder if you can think of some other Mums we have not mentioned already.

As always, our prayers surround you and all who make up Woods School. Take care. God Bless. Speak soon.

Annie <:)))><... 

### Prayer

**If you would like to make this prayer your own, then please say the Amen at the end.**

We thank you Lord for all those who take care of us, who look after us each day.

We give thanks for those who guide us through our paths in life.

May we continue to treasure them and hold them close to our hearts.

We think of Mothers all over the world especially for those who struggle and make sacrifices in caring and loving. Be with them Lord.

Thank you for the safe return to School, help us to keep on taking care of each other and keeping each other safe and thank you Jesus for your love. **Amen.**

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