



# Woodstone Community Primary School

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*Growing together, Learning forever*

Thursday 29th August

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to Woodstone! We hope you've had a lovely summer and the children have been looking forward to returning to school. This year your child will be taught by myself, Miss Pickering, alongside our teaching assistants Mrs Copley and Mrs Shepherd (working Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday).

We have a very busy and exciting year planned. Please have a look at our Year 1 curriculum map on the 'Class Pages' tab of the school website to see some of the things we will be doing this half term. Also keep an eye on our Year 1 class page throughout the term for regular updates about what we have been doing in class, as well as any letters related to our class.

In line with the rest of the school, I offer an open-door policy, so please do not hesitate to come and see me either before or after school or leave a telephone message with the office for me to give you a call should you have any questions or queries. Alternatively, you can email me using our class email address '[year1@woodstone.leics.sch.uk](mailto:year1@woodstone.leics.sch.uk)' and I will get back to you as quickly as possible.

## **Transition from Reception to Year 1**

We aim to ensure the children's transition from our Reception class into Year 1 is as smooth as possible. We will be spending the first few weeks focusing on settling the children back into school routines and expectations and ensuring they are happy and comfortable within the classroom environment. The Year 1 curriculum builds upon and extends the experiences that children have had in Reception. All subjects within the National Curriculum will be taught from the start of the year, including Maths, English, Science, Art, Design and Technology, Computing, History, Geography, Music, PSHE and P.E. However, learning through play will continue to be an important part of the school day and the children will gradually be eased into more formal learning as the year goes on.

In order to ensure the year gets off to a smooth start we will be holding a 'Meet the Teacher' meeting for Year 1 parents on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 5pm. This will be an opportunity to speak to the staff team, have a look around the classroom and also find out more about expectations in Year 1, classroom routines and the Year 1 curriculum. This will be a short but important and hopefully informative meeting so please do come along if you are able to. We anticipate the meeting will be finished by 5.30pm.

## **Reminders for returning to school**

The children will need to bring their book bag and a named water bottle to school every day. They will need a pair of named wellies to keep in school. Please bring these in as soon as possible so that we can go and explore our forest area. The school kitchen will be serving a choice of three hot meal options as well as a cold sandwich option at lunchtime which will be available free of charge for



children in Key Stage 1 as part of the Universal Free School Meals Scheme. Children can also bring sandwiches from home if they wish.

### Reading

Reading has a huge impact on children's development therefore we ask for parents to read with their children at least five times per week in order for them to reap the full benefits. We would appreciate it if you could write in your child's diary when they read with you at home, along with any comments about their ability to read/sound out words and understanding of the book. Likewise, we will write in the diary when your children have read with us at school. This is the perfect opportunity for us to communicate about your child's reading progress. Children will receive a sticker and be entered into our weekly reading raffle for reading 5 times (for around 10 minutes) per week. The children will also continue to bring home sound cards and 'tricky word' cards to practise regularly reading at home.

Hearing your children read AND reading to them is one of the most important things you can do to help them at school. Reading books aloud to children stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It helps them develop language and listening skills and prepares them to understand the written word. Even after children learn to read by themselves, it's still important for you to read aloud together. There is also statistical evidence that shows children who read a lot perform better in school tests and exams as they move up the school.

### Homework

Each Friday your child will bring home one piece of Maths homework in their homework book. This is to be completed and returned to school by the following Wednesday.

### Library

Our class library session will be on a Wednesday morning. Your child will have the opportunity to choose a new library book as part of this session. These books have a clear barcode on the inside of the front cover. Please ensure children have their library book in their book bag every Wednesday in case they wish to borrow a new book.

### P.E. Kit

This half-term we will be focussing on ball skills in PE. These lessons will be on a Wednesday afternoon. Children will need their indoor and outdoor PE kit for these lessons. This includes –

**Outdoor P.E. Kit:** trainers suitable for the playground and field, blue or black tracksuit bottoms, blue or white t-shirt, blue or black sweatshirt (school hoodies are available to order)

**Indoor P.E. Kit:** pumps, blue or white t-shirt, blue shorts No jewellery will be allowed to be worn for P.E – any child with earrings will need to have these removed, at home if possible, on days when P.E. will take place.

### Forest School

This half term the children will be visiting the Forest on a Friday afternoon (starting Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August). Children's Forest School kit will need to be in school on a Friday morning. Children will need waterproofs (jackets and trouser or all in one suit) and wellies (to stay in school). Layers are needed to go under the waterproofs. We advise children to wear legging/jogging bottoms. Please ensure arms and legs are covered to avoid stinging nettles!

King regards,



*R Pickering*

Rebecca Pickering

