NEWSLETTER 1 - September 2023

WOODSTONE NEWS

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<u>HEADTEACHER MESSAGE:</u> Welcome back to Woodstone for what promises to be a long, but busy and exciting term.

A special welcome to all the new children and parents in our Reception Class. We are really looking forward to developing a partnership with you which not only creates happy children but also children who achieve well and are prepared for the future, academically, socially and emotionally.

We are committed to providing EVERY child in the school with the best possible education and an experience which they will remember, for all the right reasons, in the future.



We have welcomed a couple of new staff to the Woodstone team this year—Hannah Joels is our new Year 3 teacher and comes to Woodstone with a wealth of experience after working in many schools—most recently in Nottingham. We also welcome Rachel Pimperton, who many of you will know already, but is now formally on our books!

This type of Newsletter is an important form of communication. They are published monthly, sometimes more often. You should also keep up to date with important information on our website www.woodstoneprimary.co.uk. We send almost all of our newsletters and letters electronically. However, if you would still like a paper copy please let Mel in the office know. One of our other methods of communicating is with the text message service. Please ensure we have your up to date mobile number. Thank you.

Please remember that we welcome all constructive feedback and work hard to be as open and accessible as we possibly can. Class teachers are available for quick chats/updates at the classroom door in a morning or again after school. If you need more time with them or with me please ask for an appointment at the school office. You can also email each class on their class email e.g. year1@woodstone.leics.sch.uk, year2@woodstone.leics.sch.uk etc.

Please also remember to keep an eye on the class pages on the website—you will already find a class letter on there, welcoming you to the new school year and telling you a little bit about what will be happening during this academic year.

A POLITE REQUEST

We have noticed this week that a number of parents are dropping children off or picking up at the end of the day with their dog. They are tying them up either to a tree or to the fence and then walking down to school. I need to please ask that you don't use the school run as an opportunity to walk your dog for a few reasons:

- Many of the dogs become distressed when left which makes them unpredictable and with some children approaching the dogs we don't want anything to happen - a local vet has also raised concern about dogs becoming distressed on our site
- 2) We are a dog free site—no dogs should be on our site at all—either near the gate, carried in arms or handbags unless they are a care dog or it has been previously agreed
 - 3) Some children have said they feel nervous when they walk past the dogs at the gate

CROSS COUNTRY

We don't have any dates yet for the Saturday morning cross country races—they should come out next week.

However, our cross country club for Year 1 and Year 2 children will start after school (3:15 - 4pm) on

Wednesday 13th September. It is

led by Miss Pickering and Mr Mullins.

Please remember this club is for children who like to run! That may sound obvious but we sometimes have children who don't like running and therefore are very reluctant cross country participants!

Recycling List

We continue to collect a number of items for recycling. See list below:

- Batteries
- Inkjet Cartridges
- ♦ Stamps
- Pens and pencils
- Any crisp packets and multipack outers
- Cake wrappers
- Biscuit wrappers
- Chocolate and confectionary pouches and wrappers

WOODY'S & SCHOOL MONEY

Booking Woody's using the School Money App

If you are reserving Woody's places using the App, once you have added your reservations to the basket, you still need to go through the Checkout Process to confirm your bookings and for them to be sent through to school.

You do this by going to the basket at the top right corner of the screen and pressing the green 'Pay' button. If it's just reservations, the amount will show £0.00 and won't ask for card details.

You will then see a confirmation message.

HARVEST FESTIVAL 2023

Our Harvest Festival Assembly will take place on Wednesday 27th September at 9am. We are once again complying with safety rules by not having as many people in the hall at one time. It will therefore just be the Reception, Year 1, 2 and 3 children performing the assembly.

We will once

again be supporting our local Coalville Foodbank and asking for donations nearer the time. Thank you for your support.

MEET THE TEACHER MEETINGS

Monday 4th September - Year 2

Monday 4th September - Year 3

Monday 4th September - Year 4

Monday 4th September - Year 5

Tuesday 5th September - Year Reception

Tuesday 5th September - Year 1

Wednesday 6th September - Year 6

All meetings start at 5pm in the respective classrooms. Please enter from the playground doors.

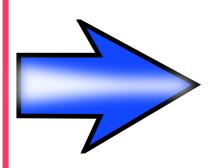
These meetings are not only useful for you to put a face to the name but also to hear about expectations for your child's year group.



If you can attend without your child that will help the meeting run smoothly but if you have no child care then children are, of course, welcome to come and sit quietly with you.



KS2 Break Time Tuck Shop Pricelist



Please note children are only allowed to buy ONE snack unless otherwise stated. If they bring a snack from home they are not allowed to get more snack from the tuck shop!

Thank you.



ATTENDANCE at Woodstone

Many of you will remember that I wrote to you last year highlighting some of the changes which are coming into effect regarding attendance at Woodstone and at schools across the country.

The Government have produced a document called Working Together to Improve Attendance—this applies to all schools and will become law later in September 2023.

All schools in Leicestershire now have Targeted Support Meetings where an Attendance/Court Officer will meet with myself to discuss attendance, particularly children who are beginning to display poor attendance. The Local Authority and the Government now have direct access to our attendance data so will come with their own lists of children they want to talk about.

I know that the majority of Woodstone parents want their children to be at school every day as they recognise the academic and social benefits of having good attendance but during the last academic year we still had 27 children (13%) who had attendance of less than 90% which is the equivalent of missing 19 days! We even had some children with attendance less than 80% which equates to 40 days off school!

We are hoping that our parents and carers do not need Government legislation to get their children into school. Please do your very best to get them here every day (unless they are ill of course). We have a whole school target of 97% attendance this year. Thank you for your support.

SCHOOL LOTTERY



Like everyone else in the country schools are finding it difficult to manage their evershrinking budgets at the moment. Quite often parents help us out by attending PTA fund raising events, contributing to the £5 cookery/art donation etc. However, there is a way to contribute where you can really help the school but also possibly win some money too!

Here at Woodstone we have our very own lottery. It is drawn every Saturday and someone always wins between £30 and £50. Parents can set a weekly limit and buy one line or multiple lines of numbers.

If you feel able to help us raise much needed funds then log on to yourschool-lottery.co.uk then scroll down and find the red 'find your school' tab. Click on this then find Woodstone and click on the 'support us' tab. You should then be able to buy tickets.

As I said, everyone is finding the cost of living difficult at the moment so please do not feel under any obligation to sign up.

Thank you.

IMPECCABLE BEHAVIOUR

You may have heard the children talking about impeccable behaviour so we thought we would explain what it means. As part of our Golden Book Assembly each week, staff nominate two or three children per class for who have demonstrated impeccable behaviour. These are children who have been seen around school displaying the following behaviours;

- remembered manners
- walked on the left side of the corridor
- walked in single file
- held doors open for each other or for adults
- remembered to not interrupt adults when they are talking
- followed the three school rules

The key to being impeccable is not having to be asked or reminded about any of the above. You will receive a text, on a Friday, if your child has been recognised for their impeccable behaviour and they will be invited to come in non-uniform on the following Friday as a reward.

We will send parents a text on a Thursday to remind you!

Please remember we are a nut free school so thank you for not sending children in with nuts as a snack or Nutella in their sandwich boxes.

