

# WOODCROFT WEEKLY

ISSUE 400

www.woodcroft.barnet.sch.uk

29th January 2021



Together Towards Success

## New on the website

Lots to look out for on our website:

- School Opening Arrangements
- Remote Learning Policy and Information
- Extreme Weather Guide

## Twitter

Follow us on Twitter:  
[@WPS\\_Success](#)

## NHS Advice



Wear face mask



## PSHE Theme

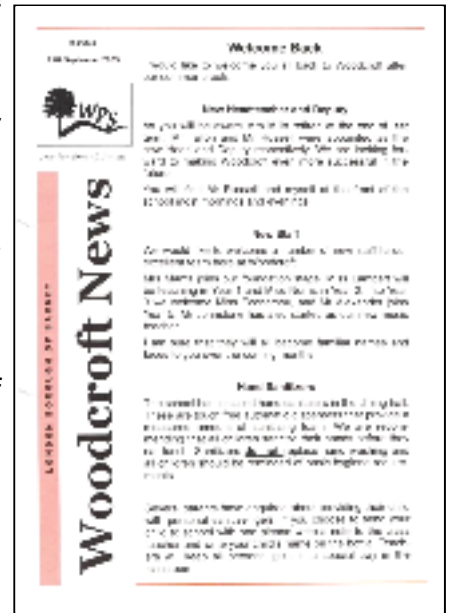
In school we are thinking about ...

Children's Mental Health



We have reached a milestone 400th issue of Woodcroft Weekly News in strange times. When I started writing our weekly news back in 2009 after my appointment as Headteacher our current Y6 had not even been born! Strangely, a feature on page 1 of issue 1 was a section about hand sanitiser. We had just installed dispensers into the dining halls and parents were asking about providing personal sanitisers! Who could have predicted how hand sanitiser would become such a feature of our everyday lives!

An awful lot has happened during the following 399 issues - and number 400 is no different. This is because we are always looking to improve and work 'together towards success' at our amazing school.



## Woodcroft Online



You will have seen in the media the Government



announcement that schools are to remain closed to most pupils until 8th March at the very earliest. This means that remote learning is going to be with us for another 4 weeks at least. At Woodcroft we are always looking to improve so this week we have been trialing new ways to support reading.

### Keeping Reading During Lockdown

Maintaining your child's reading level is probably *THE* most important thing you can do during lockdown! This means encouraging them to read independently, but just important is reading to them every day. We have got some outstanding plans to help; find our more on page 2.



### Introducing The Woodcroft FREE Stationery Shop

We are seeing loads of fantastic work that children are doing at home. To help we would like to provide, for FREE, whatever you need to support your home learning: Pencils, pens, crayons, paper, exercise books, scissors rulers! Just pop down to school and we'll put together a pack of essential items, and if we haven't got what you need we will do our best to get it.

# Remote Teaching of Reading

Woodcroft staff have been investigating ways to improve our teaching of reading during lockdown. We set ourselves 4 aims:

## Our aims for improving the remote teaching of reading at Woodcroft:

1. Continue to teach systematic phonics (especially for younger pupils in KS1 and Early Years)
2. Promote remote whole-class reading
3. Increase the direct teaching of vocabulary (essential for comprehension)
4. Find ways to enable all pupils to access challenging texts

To help us achieve these aims we are introducing two apps that will be used in every class from Nursery to Year 6: these are **Readworks** and **Edpuzzle**. Teachers will be setting activities using these apps. We are asking parents to get involved and help their children get the most out of these powerful learning tools.

## More about our plans ...

### Online Whole-Class Reading using EdPuzzle

An important part of being at school is children listening to their teacher reading aloud and discussing books. We want to help recreate these 'Class Reader' sessions using pre-recorded videos. Across the school we will now be using Edpuzzle which we think is the best option available.

#### Edpuzzle ...

- is simple, easy to use and safe
- is great for a wide range of subjects - not just reading!
- synchronises with our Google Classroom
- keeps a record of your child's engagement for the teacher
- allows quiz questions about the the text to be embedded on screen during the reading video to check for pupil understanding
- automatically monitors pupil answers



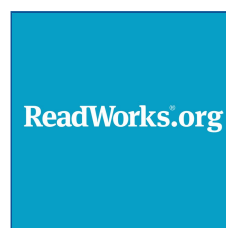
Teachers will be reading aloud and recording short videos that pupils will watch using Edpuzzle. The videos will automatically pause at places chosen by the teacher, and ask your child a question. It is vital that parents help their children access these reading videos.

### Online Comprehension using Readworks

We have investigated a number of solutions to adequately address the need for focused reading comprehension activities. Readworks (despite some Americanised words) provides an excellent free solution that we can use from Nursery through to Year 6.

#### Readworks ...

- is a flexible application with lots of learning features
- automatically links with our Google Classroom
- has a library of 100s of texts and questions
- is able to support children at different reading levels
- provides excellent focused questions
- automatically marks children's responses and keeps a record for their teacher



Teachers will be setting two short comprehension activities every week. Please create a routine at home to enable your child to maintain their comprehension skills.

Below is an example schedule for the week though each class may adapt this to suit their timetable.

### Example weekly reading schedule

(this may vary according to different year group timetables - class teachers will outline expectations for each class)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Class Reader (Edpuzzle)	Reading Comprehension (Readworks)	Class Reader (Edpuzzle)	Reading Comprehension (Readworks)	Class Reader (Edpuzzle)

## Reading to your own child and independent reading are still important



Don't forget that the two most important things you can do to prevent any learning loss during lockdown are setting aside time for your child to read independently and, just as importantly, reading aloud with your child and sharing books with each other; even in Year 6 you can read alternate pages together. Plan to share a book this week.



### Children's Mental Health Week 2021

From 1-7 February 2021, we're taking part in Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is Express Yourself. Place2Be has created activities and resources to help children (and adults) to explore the different ways that they can share their thoughts, feelings and ideas. There are lots of resources on the [Children's Mental Health Week website](#) that you can use with your child at home; including activity ideas, tips for parents and carers, and an online assembly which will be available from Monday 1 February. Visit [childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk](http://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk) to find out more, or email our PSHE Coordinator, Mrs Valoti on [jvaloti@woodcroft.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:jvaloti@woodcroft.barnet.sch.uk).

### £60,000 Intelligent Eco Lighting Project Now Complete



The lighting replacement project is now completed in school. A team of fitters have replaced over 500 units with the latest low energy lights. This important project improves both the natural environment and our school learning environment!

Each light is now a very low energy LED unit that contains an intelligent sensor to detect both movement and daylight. They will adjust their output according to the amount of daylight, keeping classrooms at the optimum brightness while conserving energy when possible. The lights will switch themselves off when they detect no one present and automatically switch on when you enter the room.

This £60,000 project was obtained FREE to the school following a successful bid that we made as part of a Government Decarbonisation Scheme. Did you know that lighting is the largest energy user on our school site. The new LED fittings use 75% less power compared to our old fluorescent tubes, saving around £10,000 per year in electricity charges and maintenance, while at the same time as helping reduce CO2 in the atmosphere.

**IntelliDim Integrated Indoor LED Linear Light**

**ENERGYS** theLIA MEMBER

**NEWVISION TRIDONIC**

- Simple design with front access for easy servicing
- Seamless Light Distribution
- Fully automatic standalone setup with smart phone APP controls
- Light Level settings, Presence detection, Daylight harvesting and Constant Light Output (CLO) operation





# The Birthday Book Club

Thank you to all of the pupils who have enjoyed recent birthdays and joined the Birthday Book Club by donating books for their Class Library.



**Troi (Year 3) age 8**

## Advice for parents during coronavirus

Whilst coronavirus is infectious to children it is rarely serious. If your child is unwell it is likely to be a non-coronavirus illness, rather than coronavirus itself.

Whilst it is extremely important to follow Government advice to stay at home during this period, it can be confusing to know what to do when your child is unwell or injured. Remember that NHS 111, GPs and hospitals are still providing the same safe care that they have always done. Here is some advice to help:



**RED**

### If your child has any of the following:

- Becomes pale, mottled and feels abnormally cold to the touch
- Has pauses in their breathing (apnoeas), has an irregular breathing pattern or starts **grunting**
- Severe difficulty in breathing becoming agitated or unresponsive
- Is going blue round the lips
- Has a fit/seizure
- Becomes extremely distressed (crying inconsolably despite distraction), confused, very lethargic (difficult to wake) or unresponsive
- Develops a rash that does not disappear with pressure (the 'Glass test')
- Has testicular pain, especially in teenage boys

### You need urgent help:

Go to the nearest A&E department or phone 999



**AMBER**

### If your child has any of the following:

- Is finding it hard to breathe including drawing in of the muscles below their lower ribs, at their neck or between their ribs (**recession**) or **head bobbing**
- Seems dehydrated (dry mouth, sunken eyes, no tears, drowsy or passing less urine than usual)
- Is becoming drowsy (excessively sleepy) or irritable (unable to settle them with toys, TV, food or picking up) - especially if they remain drowsy or irritable despite their fever coming down
- Has extreme shivering or complains of muscle pain
- Babies under 3 months of age with a temperature above 38°C / 100.4°F
- Infants 3-6 months of age with a temperature above 39°C / 102.2°F
- For all infants and children with a fever above 38°C for more than 5 days.
- Is getting worse or if you are worried
- Has persistent vomiting and/or persistent severe abdominal pain
- Has blood in their poo or wee
- Any limb injury causing reduced movement, persistent pain or head injury causing persistent crying or drowsiness

### You need to contact a doctor or nurse today.


Please ring your GP surgery or call NHS 111 - dial 111

The NHS is working for you. However, we recognise during the current coronavirus crisis at peak times, access to a health care professional may be delayed. If symptoms persist for 4 hours or more and you have not been able to speak to either a GP or 111, then take your child to the nearest A&E



**GREEN**

### If none of the above features are present

- You can continue to provide your child care at home. Information is also available on NHS Choices
- Additional **advice** is available to families for coping with crying of well babies 
- Additional **advice** is available for children with complex health needs and disabilities.

### Self care

Continue providing your child's care at home. If you are still concerned about your child, call NHS 111 - dial 111