WOODCROFT WEEKLY

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Together Towards Success
*With our **AIM Values***

New on the Website

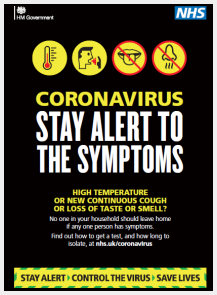
- Children In Need
- Odd Sock Day
- Music Mark Award
- School Meal Menus

Twitter

Follow us on Twitter:
@WPS_Success

COVID Advice





PSHE Theme

We have been thinking about...

Advent



Christmas Message from the Chair of Governors

We all should be extremely proud of our fantastic school.

As Chair of Governors I get to see what all of the staff have been doing behind the scenes to ensure we are offering the very best education for your children. Despite the ongoing issues surrounding COVID19 and school budgets, the teachers and support staff at Woodcroft have worked tirelessly to develop a brand new curriculum that exceeds all of the new Ofsted requirements. As parents, you will only have started to see small parts of this work; such as the new spelling scheme in KS2, a new phonics programme in Reception or changes to the way homework is set. However, I predict that 2022 is going to be quite an amazing year for this school as we go from strength to strength.

On behalf of the school's Governing Body, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Richard Burrows (Chair of Governors)

Updated COVID19 Guidance

We have seen a significant rise in the number of cases of COVID19 over the past week. We currently have:

- 12 pupils that have tested positive for COVID19 over the last 10 days.

The aim of our temporary additional measures is to limit the spread of COVID within school so that we can **stay open safely**. This involves:

Face coverings

- All staff will wear face coverings in communal areas
- Parents & Carers to be encouraged to wear face coverings
- All visitors to the school to be asked to wear face coverings

Testing

- Staff to continue twice weekly lateral flow testing

Good hygiene

- Classes to review hand washing and hygiene routines

Social Distancing

- Staff to follow strict Social Distancing Protocols

Year Group Bubbles

- Assemblies will be delivered online to classes by Mr Tallon
- Afterschool and Breakfast Clubs will keep pupils in year group areas
- Outside visits will be limited
- We will not host performances and productions with invited guests

REMINDER: School finishes on Friday 17th December one hour earlier than usual at 2.15pm.
Pupils return on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

Seasonal Online Health Message



Over the holiday periods, we know that children's screen time increases. We all know that the internet offers lots of entertainment for young minds, but have you stopped to think about the negative effects of the internet? There are lots of questions that parents and children face in the modern, digital world, such as:

- How much is too much screen time?
- How can children be affected by negativity online?
- How do I find reliable information on what is appropriate for my child to watch or play?

Does Screen Time Affect School Performance?

What the research says … "A recent analysis of 30 studies found that students who spent more than two hours a day on screens or gaming suffered a decline in academic achievement." (Read more here https://blog.innerdrive.co.uk/screen-time-academic-performance)

Other research suggests that moderate use (around 4 hours a day) of any screens (phones, tablets, TV, etc.) can lead to lower psychological well-being. This can go towards creating demotivated learners who are unable to give 100% to the work they are doing, resulting in lower achievement.

Online Support

At Woodcroft, we frequently deal with the internet's negative effects on pupils' mental health and wish to support you in helping your child use the internet in a positive way. The following websites are great places to visit with your child to support families to have healthy online experiences.

Website	Description
https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/	Stacks of resources to help teach your child how to be safe online.
https://parentzone.org.uk/	A guide to everything you need to stay healthy online.
https://www.commonsensemedia.org/homepage	Reviews and ratings for games, films and TV
https://app.ollee.org.uk/#/welcome	A virtual assistant to help you answer difficult questions

Some Simple Advice

1. **Don't take it to bed** – Research has found that students who are on their phones in the hours before they sleep are almost three times more likely to suffer problems. Ensure your children put their phones, tablets and laptops in a different room well away from their beds at night.
2. **Balance, don't ban** – Excessive amounts of screen time is unhealthy, however spending some time on YouTube or clearing a few levels of the latest game won't do much harm.
3. **Be healthy and active** - Making sure your child is getting plenty of sleep, eating a balanced diet and being physically active is just as important as ever!



BACE Christmas Activities

Download Barnet's BACE Catalogue here… https://bit.ly/3oDj2Pe

Barnet Offer FREE holiday activities for eligible families. Visit the BACE website here - https://barnetyouth.uk/Events?CalendarID=35 to find out more.

BACE Holidays stands for Barnet. Active. Creative. Engaging. Holidays! A project delivered by Barnet Council and funded by the Department for Education to offer children and young people who currently receive free school meals to access enriching activities and a healthy lunch over the holiday periods.
School holidays can be pressure points for some families due to increased costs and reduced incomes. BACE Holidays is an inclusive programme for children and young people in Barnet to experience engaging and healthy activities with an emphasis on physical, emotional, and nutritional wellbeing during the school holidays.

Arrangements for dismissal on days of 'extremely' bad weather



If we have extreme rain, sleet or snow at 3.00pm we shall modify our dismissal procedures:

- The parent 'one way system' will still operate.
- Reception and Nursery - no change
- Y1 and Y2 will remain under the shelter
- Y3 and Y4 will shelter under the KS2 playground walkway canopy
- Y5 will remain inside their corridor. As children see their parents they will exit via the middle doors
- Y6 will line up along the Gallery Corridor. Parents will collect their child from the doors at the main foyer end of the corridor. A teacher will be at each end of the corridor.

We have also updated our extreme weather procedures in case we have to close the school. Take a look later in this Newsletter.

Football Match: Woodcroft v Broadfields



Our football team played their first match of a delayed season on our home pitch at Burnt Oak Leisure Centre. Despite conceding several early goals against a more experienced side from Broadfields, they quickly found their rhythm and finished the game strongly. The second half was a more even contest with both teams having chances but defending equally strongly with Woodcroft keeping a clean sheet. The final score was 4 - 0 to Broadfields, however the team's coach, Mr Taylor, was extremely proud of the way the entire squad maintained a positive attitude throughout the match.

Face Masks and Social Distancing

Thank you ***to all of our school community for helping keep everyone safe*** by supporting the wearing of masks and keeping socially distant on the school site.

Does your child have access to a Chromebook (or Laptop)



If you want to support your children both now and for the future, they need access to a Chromebook or Laptop.

Phones and tablets are not suitable for school work. We highly recommend using a device with a proper keyboard. If your child has a chromebook they will be able use it for homework and further study should there be a lockdown. This is an essential long term investment for your child's education.

Festive December Diary

- ★ Monday 13th - Year 2 Christmas Show. This will now take place online at **11.00am**. Parents will receive details about how to login and watch the performance from home. The show will also be recorded for you to rewatch at any time.
- ★ Tuesday 14th - Y1, Y3 & Y5 Parties
- ★ Wednesday 15th Y2 & Y4 - Parties and Foundation Stage Parties (Nursery and Reception)
- ★ Thursday 16th - Y6 Party
- ★ Thursday 16th - Last day for Nursery
- ★ Friday 17th - Last Day of Term - 2.15pm Finish Time



Note:

1. **Party Days:** children do not need to wear uniforms on their party day. Sensible shoes please.
2. Children **DO NOT** need to bring party food. A drink, snack and treat will be provided for every child



The Birthday Book Club

We are always happy to hear about pupils who have enjoyed recent birthdays and have celebrated by donating a book for their Class Library.












Christmas Lunch 2021

Thank you to our wonderful kitchen staff and dedicated Meal Time Supervisors for an exceptional Christmas lunch!












Snow & Extreme Weather Procedures



It is getting to that time of year when we have to start planning for the possible 'extreme' bad weather. Please read the guide below and prepare yourself.

Arrangements for Winter 2022



We will always do everything possible to keep the school open throughout the winter without compromising the safety of your children. However, on rare occasions we may need to close due to extreme weather conditions such as heavy snow. A detailed description of procedures is available on our website. Click on the snow warning triangle on the website home page or visit:
http://www.woodcroft.barnet.sch.uk/snow-and-extreme-weather-procedures/

If School is to close due to bad weather

If the Headteacher decides to close the school for safety reasons:

- A text and email is sent to parents by 8.00am if the school is going to close. Parents are asked **NOT** to call the school as this blocks the line. Information will also be posted on the school website.
- If you do not hear from the school then assume it is a normal day and we are OPEN.

Woodcroft Online



Should we be forced to close then your child will be set work via the Google Classroom by 9.30am. Please ensure your child always has access to a device with a keyboard to support their learning at home.

Restricted site access on snow days

On mornings when the school is open but disrupted by heavy snow or frost we will do the following:

- Keep the top front gate locked due to the unsafe steps (the one way system will still operate)
- The Foundation Stage entrance will be cleared, however grit cannot be used on the safety surface so be careful
- The back gates will be OPEN but the paths may **NOT** be fully cleared of snow - please be cautious
- From 8.30am children can access classrooms directly
- On snow days we ask that parents and children **DO NOT** arrive at school before 8.30am unless they are attending Breakfast Club.

Early Closing for Snow and Severe Weather Dismissals

If the school needs to close early due to deteriorating weather conditions or we have severe weather then a text and email will be sent to parents as early as possible.

Text and Email Service

Make sure we have your latest details on Arbor



Do you receive school texts? If you don't receive these texts please call the school office to update your number. It is vital that you are able to receive all emergency notifications and general reminders. Thank you.

Appropriate Winter Clothing, Boots & PE Kits

Please remember, children need a winter coat,hat and gloves for break times. If you send your child in rubber boots, please ensure they have black shoes to change into in school. Please also ensure that children are wearing their blue sweatshirt and joggers to school on PE Days.

Avoid Early Arrival - Remember that School Opens at 8.30am

Please ensure that children do not arrive before 8.30am for school. It is cold, dark and dangerous during the winter months. Please enquire about our breakfast club if you need to drop children off early!