



## HOW WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

ESTABLISHED 1968

Head Teacher: Mrs C Rowe  
Newsletter 12

Learning together, achieving together, happy together,  
forward together...

31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to wish you a very happy Easter and I hope you all have a lovely two-week break. If we're lucky, the sun will shine and we will come back refreshed and ready for the summer term.

### **Staffing**

Mr Mardle, our Sport's Coach, said farewell to us yesterday as he has taken up an amazing job as Sport's Development Officer at Chelsea Football Club. He will be replaced by two new Sport's Coaches in the summer term.

We also welcome two new members of staff who will be 1:1 teaching assistants: Miss Doyle, who will be in Year 1 and Miss Robert-Haynes who will be supporting in Nursery.

### **Trip to the Royal Gun Powder Mills by Michaela and Thomas - Year 5**



On Monday, Year 5 went to the Royal Gunpowder Mills (near Lea Valley) to learn about the Vikings. We learnt about the Viking way of life. Megan and Lucas were bought as slaves and had to do all the work for the rich people. Archie and Jessica were Viking warriors and got to hold a sword and an axe and wear chainmail. During our workshops we also made a paper Viking Longship and a silver Viking brooch. The part we enjoyed the most was the Rune Hunt Quest. There were lots of rune cards hidden around the buildings and we used our map reading skills to find them. Once we had all the runes, we then had to race back to base and work out the word they spelt. It was great fun because we got to explore!

## Alban Arena Concert

Our choir took part in the St Albans Primary Schools' Music Association's amazing show, 'Scenes from the Past' at the Alban Arena on Wednesday night. The children sang alongside seven other schools and each child shone like the bright stars that they are. I would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Reed who prepared the children so well for this event and to the choir – you were truly wonderful!

### How Wood Choir

Rajitha, Megan, Jonty, Matthew, Daisy, Zinnia, Surani, Sophie, Charlotte, Madeline, Yasmin, Annie, Niahm, Lily, Emily, Kayra, Jessica and Bethany



## Celtic Harmony

Year 3 had an excellent trip to Celtic Harmony Camp on Monday 20th March. They spent the day learning all about life in the Iron Age and taking part in a range of activities including: grinding wheat to make flour; dyeing bracelets with plant extracts; weaving wool to make fabric and telling stories in the roundhouses.



## Red Nose Day

As always, the children of How Wood School embraced Red Nose Day and the school was a sea of redness. I was told joke after joke throughout the day and I would now have a full repertoire, if only I could remember them all! The children raised £350 for Comic Relief. Well done everyone!

## EYFS Heartwood Forest Trip – A Message from Mrs Parkins

Last Tuesday, Nursery and Reception enjoyed a day 'Down in the Woods' at Heartwood forest. It was a fabulous day where the children had the opportunity to explore the woods, climb trees, build dens and create animal homes for clay animals that they made. They also toasted marshmallows on a fire and had a story before coming home.

"My favourite part was climbing up and down a big hill using ropes." Logan  
"We liked climbing the trees and going in the dens." Mauli and Fateha



## Bake Off

Many of the children brought in creatively designed cakes for the Bake Off which was judged by two very strange looking celebrities. Cakes were entered into four categories: Most Unique; Best Cup Cake; Best Tray Bake and Best Biscuit.



Most Unique Winner  
Archie Year 5



Best Cup Cakes Winners  
Sofia & Daniel Year 4 & 2



Best Tray Bake Winner  
Emily Year 1



Best Biscuit Winner  
Frankie Year 3

The Cake Bake raised an amazing £465! Over one third of this contributed to the £350 raised for Comic Relief with the remaining money being added to the PTA fund-raising account. All the money raised throughout the year, enables our children to enjoy extra-curricular activities and supports learning in their classrooms. As you will be aware, schools nationally are suffering from reduced budgets and we are very fortunate to have such a supportive and dedicated PTA who work so hard to try and alleviate some of this burden. If you would like to join the PTA, extra members are always welcome.

## **Sporting Achievements**

### ***Olympic Open Water Swimmer Daniel Fogg presents swimming medals at our Celebration Assembly***

We had a special visitor to How Wood School last week. Daniel Fogg (Olympic Open Water Swimmer and European gold medal winner) kindly gave up his time to attend our celebration assembly. He presented our champion relay swimming team with the medals they won at the recent Primary School Swimming Gala:



**Daniel Fogg with our Swimming Champions:**  
Amy, Daisy, Megan, Robyn, Charlie, Daniel, Lucas and Thomas

On Saturday 18th March a team of 8 children represented How Wood School in the Primary Schools Swimming Gala competing against 7 other local schools. The children swam brilliantly and showed amazing sportsmanship to the other teams taking part. We continued with our winning streak from the ESSA Swimming Gala and won many of the races including:

Girls 25m Individual Breast Stroke  
Boys 25m Individual Breast Stroke  
Girls Freestyle Relay Team  
Boys Freestyle Relay Team

As a result of winning both the girls and boys relay races, we were named as "Freestyle champions!" We were also awarded the overall girls and boys winners as well as "Overall Schools Winners." It was a very exciting evening and a fantastic achievement for our school. We have lots of lovely shiny cups to add to our trophy cabinet and more importantly we received complimentary comments from other schools regarding How Wood's Sportsmanship on the night.

Quote from Daniel in Y6 "We cheered for everyone in their races."

## **Reminders:**

### **Parent View**

Thank you to all the parents who have taken the time to complete the Parent View online questionnaire. So far, 70 families have submitted their answers and it would be wonderful to have the responses of all our parents; your views are important and help the school develop and improve.

The questionnaire can be accessed directly from the Parent View site at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk> or from the home page of Ofsted website at [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)

### **School Uniform**

Please note that during the summer term we will be changing over to an online ordering service for all school uniform. The providers we will be using are Macpac and parents will be able to order online or by phone; they also offer a click and collect facility and will soon have a shop opening in Watford.

**We still have a range of stock in school so please continue to visit the office for your uniform requirements until further notice.**

## Key Dates for Summer 2017

Here is a list of events going on throughout the Summer term. Please be aware that there will be additional events and it is therefore important to read newsletters regularly.

<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Summer term begins - children return to school</b>
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April to Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 5 Residential to PGL
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday Monday – School closed</b>
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>PTA EVENT - Car Boot Sale TBC</b>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	SATs Week
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 trip to Hudnall Park
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>PTA EVENT - Kids on the Catwalk</b>
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Disability Awareness Curriculum Enrichment Days
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Break up for half-term @ 3.15pm</b>
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>School begins</b>
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Parent meeting for new Reception children
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Parent meeting for new Nursery children
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>PTA EVENT – Camp How Wood</b>
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	St. Albans Half Marathon – details to follow
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> June to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Residential to the Isle of Wight
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Perform Workshops
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Year 4 & 5 to visit Metro Bank
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Year 2 trip to Southend
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	How Wood ‘Picnic Lunch’ & Village Afternoon
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 ‘Moving up Day’ Workshop
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Year 5 ‘Wizardry Day’ at Marlborough School
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	School Reports to parents
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Open Evening 5pm to 6.30pm – details to follow
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Nursery Sports Morning
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception, KS1 & KS2 Sports Day - afternoon
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5/6 Dress Rehearsal @ 10.30am
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5/6 Evening Performance @ 6pm
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers’ BBQ
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers’ Assembly @ 9am
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July</b>	<b>School ends @ 1.30pm</b>
<b>Parent Assemblies</b>	
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 3
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Reception
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Year 1
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 2

## Term dates for next year (2017 -18)

### Autumn Term 2017

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August – Occasional Day

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August – Occasional Day

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September – Occasional Day

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September – INSET Day

Children start new school year – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Half-term – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October

Children back to school – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October to Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 - Occasional Day

**Spring Term 2018**

Children back to school – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Half-term – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Children back to school – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February to Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**Summer Term 2018**

Children back to school – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Half-term – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May – INSET Day

Children back to school – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July – INSET

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July – INSET

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July - INSET

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July – Occasional Day

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July – Occasional Day

Yours sincerely

Mrs Rowe