



HOW WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL
ESTABLISHED 1968

Head Teacher: Mrs C Rowe
Newsletter 13

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

21st April 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely Easter break.

Sickness

We have had several children and a member of staff absent from school this week due to a sickness bug so please take note of the following advice from Public Health:

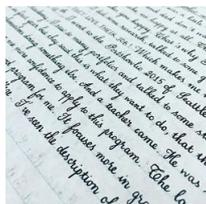
- Please do not send your child to school when they are unwell and in the case of vomiting and diarrhoea, your child must not return to school for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.
- Hand washing is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections, especially those that cause diarrhoea and vomiting and respiratory diseases. Children should be reminded to always wash hands after using the toilet and before eating or handling food.
- Coughing and sneezing easily spread infections. Please encourage your children to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue and wash their hands after using or disposing of tissues.

I reminded all the children about all of the above in assembly today and I am also ensuring that the tables and door handles are cleaned using anti-bacterial cleaner.

Please let the office staff know of any absence before 9 am to save Mrs Clarke from having to make a call. As part of our new Attendance Policy all pupil absences must be followed up by a written note or letter.

Handwriting Challenge

Mrs Van Cauter, our Vice Chair of Governors, held an assembly this morning to launch the Handwriting Challenge for children in Year 1 to Year 6. Over the next five weeks, there will be a whole-school focus on handwriting and the children will practise writing a poem for the Challenge.



During the week beginning the 22nd May, the children will write the practised poem out in their very best handwriting and add an illustrated border. A selection of governors will judge all the handwriting and prizes will be awarded in an assembly early in the second half-term. As well as prizes for the best handwriting in each year group, there will be two prizes for the most artistic borders.



Book Donations

Thank you for all the books that have been donated to help re-stock our library. We are still collecting any good quality or unused books so please keep your donations coming.

Reading at home

In this busy world that we live in, it can be difficult to find the time to read with your child. However, 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, it's still important for them to read to or with an adult. Please find time to read with your child, whatever their age. Thank you.

School Uniform

We are now in the summer term and it is lovely to see the children wearing their summer uniform. Can I please remind parents/carers that:

- long hair should always be tied back
- Jo-Jo Bows should not be worn to school
- earrings should be studs or non-dangly
- nail varnish and tatoos are not allowed.

Thank you for your co-operation.

St Albans Half Marathon – A message from Mrs Hardcastle

On Sunday 11th June St Albans will be hosting its annual Half Marathon at Verulamium Park. Once again, How Wood School are putting forward a marshal team to help out at the event. I ask for any parents willing to help on the morning to message me directly on 07881783418. Without your help we cannot join the event and the school then misses out on valuable money which in the past has been put towards sporting equipment. Please join in the fun, get amongst the community event and offer your support.

There is also a prize awarded to the most school entries for the children's fun run. We are hoping to encourage as many children from How Wood School to join this event, so get training, enter your children and we hope to see many of you on the day.

PTA

'Design an Easter Egg' Competition

Harper (Nursery), Logan (Reception), Oscar (Year 1) and Niamh (Year 3), were the lucky winners of the 'Design an Easter Egg' Competition and were each presented with an Easter egg in assembly this morning. Well done and thank you for entering!

Car Boot Sale – Sunday 7th May

Please support the school and come to How Wood School's first Car Boot Sale to shop or to sell! Pitches will be £10 and there will be refreshments onsite.

Parking

Please do not park on the yellow zig-zag lines outside school or across our neighbours drives either before or after school, or when dropping your children off for Breakfast Club. Thank you.

Key Stage 2 Playground

May I politely remind all parents and carers that adults should not be accompanying children onto the Key Stage 2 playground in the morning. Thank you.

Disability Awareness Curriculum Enrichment Days - Thursday 25th and Friday 26th May

Do we have any parents/carers who work or volunteer in an organisation that represents or supports people with disabilities? Could you help us run a workshop or come in and speak to the children about your work? Do you or someone you know have a disability that you would be able to talk to the children about? If the answer is 'yes' please email Mrs Fitt at admin@howwood.herts.sch.uk or ring the office to make an appointment to see her. Thank you.

Reminders:

Parent View

Thank you to all the parents who have taken the time to complete the Parent View online questionnaire. So far, 72 parents 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

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.

Tuesday 18th April	Summer term begins - children return to school
Wednesday 26 th April to Friday 28 th April	Year 5 Residential to PGL
Monday 1st May	Bank Holiday Monday – School closed
Sunday 7 th May	PTA EVENT - Car Boot Sale
Monday 8 th May	SATs Week
Tuesday 9 th May	Year 4 trip to Hudnall Park
Monday 15 th May	PTA EVENT - Kids on the Catwalk

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

Term dates for next year (2017 -18)

Autumn Term 2017

Wednesday 30th August – Occasional Day

Thursday 31st August – Occasional Day

Friday 1st September – Occasional Day

Monday 4th September – INSET Day

Children start new school year – Tuesday 5th September to Friday 20th October 2017

Half-term – Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October

Children back to school – Monday 30th October to Tuesday 19th December 2017

Monday 27th November 2017 - Occasional Day

Spring Term 2018

Children back to school – Wednesday 3rd January to Friday 9th February 2018

Half-term – Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2018

Children back to school – Monday 19th February to Thursday 29th March 2018

Summer Term 2018

Children back to school – Monday 16th April to Thursday 24th May 2018

Half-term – Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June 2018

Friday 25th May – INSET Day

Children back to school – Monday 4th June to Friday 20th July 2018

Monday 23rd July – INSET

Tuesday 24th July – INSET

Wednesday 25th July - INSET

Thursday 26th July – Occasional Day

Friday 27th July – Occasional Day

Yours sincerely

Mrs Rowe