



HOW WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL  
ESTABLISHED 1968

Head Teacher: Mrs C Rowe  
Newsletter 8

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

13<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you all had a lovely break over the holidays.

**New staff**

We welcome back Miss Hancock to Year 1. She will be teaching all day Monday and Tuesday mornings.

**Topic Webs**

The class Topic Web outlining areas of learning that will be covered this term will be sent out next week – look out for it in your child's school bag!

**Attendance - Reminder**

I am sure you are aware that The Department for Education has made amendments to school attendance regulations. The amendments make it clear that **'Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances'**. Head Teachers no longer have the discretion to allow up to 10 days in a school year for a family holiday or to agree extended leave for parents to visit their country of origin.

You will no doubt understand that as the Head Teacher I have a duty, along with the school Governors, to promote the highest attendance levels possible. The school is set very high attendance targets by the Government; and our attendance data is regularly scrutinised by the Local Authority and Ofsted and is one of the factors by which they measure the success of the school. The academic progress of a child, whatever his/her level of academic ability, will be adversely affected if they miss school. If a child is unwell then they should not come to school, but if, in addition, they have other time off school, then this will definitely have a detrimental effect on their progress. ***Please take this into consideration when planning trips in the future***

If you believe your circumstances may be exceptional, then please discuss your request with me before making final plans. I will review each request for absence carefully, consulting with the Local Authority's Attendance Improvement Officer where and if necessary, and give you an answer as soon as possible. If you need to make a request for leave, then please download a holiday request form from the school website or school office. We ask that all requests are put in writing using the form at least two weeks prior to any leave.

The overall attendance record of the vast majority of our pupils is very good and I very much appreciate your support in respecting and supporting the school's policy on attendance. ***The***

**policy can be found on the school's website. Part of our new policy outlines the requirement for all parents to provide a written note or letter explaining their child's absence. Staff will actively be requesting letters and it would be most helpful if parents could send this letter in with their child when they return to school.**

**May we also remind you that if you need to collect your child from school for any reason, they must be signed out and signed in if returning to school on the same day.**

### **Absence and illness**

If your child has been physically sick, he/she should be kept at home for a period of **48 hours**, to prevent the spreading of infections. We will endeavour to contact parents of any pupils who are away from school (unless we have been previously informed). Please let the office staff know of any absence before 9 am to save Mrs Gooch or Mrs de Franz 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.

### **Key Dates for Spring 2017**

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

Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	PTA School Disco – times TBC
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	SENCo Coffee Morning group – Well-being Day 9am to 2.30pm
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultations 3.30pm to 6pm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultations 5pm to 8pm
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Last day of half-term
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Children back to school
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	EYFS Walk to shops
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 5 & 6 visit Frogmore Church – Life Expo
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day African Story-telling Workshops
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Quiz Night
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 visit to the Florence Nightingale Museum
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Netball Tournament
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Red Nose Day</b>
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>School Nurse visit</b> <u>Reception:</u> height, weight, vision and hearing <u>Year 6:</u> Height and weight screening
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	School Choir performing at the Alban Arena Concert @ 7pm
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Last day of term - <b>Finish at 1.30pm</b>
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Summer term begins - children return to school

## **Assemblies**

Parents are invited to their child's class assembly at 9am. Year 3 and Year 4 will not be sharing an assembly as they will be performing an end of term production.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Class</b>	
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 6	Parent
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Year 5	Parent
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1	Parent
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2	Parent
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Early Years Foundation Stage – Nursery & Reception	Parent

## **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 (Head Teacher)