



HOW WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL
ESTABLISHED 1968

Head Teacher: Mrs C Rowe
Newsletter 5

10th November 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term. This half-term is full of exciting events to enhance the learning experience of the children at How Wood and the past two weeks have been as busy as ever. Now that the clocks have gone back and it has turned much colder please remember to send your child to school with a coat or warm waterproof jacket for play and lunchtimes.

I have enjoyed teaching in Year 6 this term, helping them prepare for their Enterprise Project and Dragon's Den! The children have indeed been very enterprising and have worked hard on designing two products to sell at the Christmas Fayre, keeping to their budget of £25. Mrs Lennox, Mrs Garman (PTA), Mrs Van Cauter and Mrs Brazier (governors) judged the children's products this afternoon in the Dragon's Den. You will be able to see the results of the Enterprise Project at the Christmas Fayre on the 2nd December.

Our School Improvement Plan

I would like to share the main priorities in this year's School Improvement Plan with our parents. Throughout this academic year, we will all be working hard to meet these objectives and the support of our parents is fundamental to this. Please contact me if you have any suggestions or ideas to further support meeting these objectives.

- *To raise achievement in reading*
- *To raise achievement in spelling*
- *To develop marking in Foundation subjects to ensure accurate assessment*
- *To begin to develop a more creative, cross- curricular curriculum*

Reading

To be able to read and enjoy books is one of the joys of life and we know that a passion for books and literature often starts when children are very young. We cannot underestimate the importance of sharing books with your child and hearing them read throughout their time in primary school. Reluctant readers can learn much about the joy of reading by listening to others read aloud.

This year, we will be trying very hard to raise the profile of reading at How Wood School and promoting the joy of reading. Please support us in this by hearing your child read and sharing books with your child as often as possible. Thank you.

Year 4 Assembly

We were all treated to a delightful assembly this morning with Year 4 surpassing themselves. The children presented a wealth of information about the Egyptians and the model pyramids completed for Home Learning were superb. We were given an insight into the children's maths and English learning and I was moved to tears by their rendition of 'When I grow Up'. Well done Year 4. You were terrific!

Remembrance

This afternoon, we held a Remembrance Day Assembly where the whole school reflected on the reasons for Remembrance Day. I am extremely proud of all the children who demonstrated great respect and thoughtfulness during the assembly.

On Sunday, Michaela and Freddy from Year 6 will lay a wreath on behalf of How Wood School at the Remembrance Ceremony in Park Street. Unfortunately I am unable to attend this year however Mrs Osborne and Mrs Gooch will be representing How Wood School. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Michaela and Freddy being such wonderful ambassadors for our school.



Poppies made today
by Year 3

Wear Red Day

Wear Red Day coincided with our Black History Curriculum Enrichment Days and the whole school wore red in support of 'Show Racism the Red Card', the UK's anti-racism educational charity. Every penny raised during Wear Red Day enables the campaign to work with more young people and adults across the UK to challenge racism in society. How Wood raised £177 - Thank you all.

Young Mathematicians' Award

On Wednesday, Lucas, Charlie, Mya from Year 6 and Isla from year 5 took part in Explore Learning's Young Mathematicians' Award. Unfortunately, How Wood did not make into the second round of the competition but this is the feedback form the team at Explore Learning:

We hope that Lucas, Charlie, Isla and Mya enjoyed their time in the centre. Their ability to work as a team and communicate their ideas with each other really impressed us here in the centre. We loved the way that they allowed everyone to get their ideas across and communicated with each other in terms of who was doing what.

With regards to feedback for each individual child, we found that Isla was fantastic at ensuring that everyone knew what they were doing and also ensuring that they checked their answers thoroughly. Isla used a lot of phrases such as 'we need to check if it is right' and 'is this definitely the best method to solve this problem?' Mya, too, demonstrated fantastic team work skills for example challenging the method that the team were using and offering a quicker method. Charlie was fantastic at consistently ensuring that the team were aware of what time it was and looking at clarifying the understanding of other team members in terms of answering the questions. Lucas also contributed significantly to the team's answers through ensuring that they had a great method for recording their answers which was a crucial part of our mark scheme.

Well done Lucas, Charlie, Mya and Isla! You are excellent ambassadors for How Wood School.

Houses

We have recently introduced a House System and the children have been grouped into four houses. These are: **Courage**, **Determination**, **Friendship** and **Respect**. House Captains were elected by the children last Friday and they are as follows:

Courage

Joshua Drussel & Michaela Cain

Determination

Lucas Hartley and Jessica Breeze

Friendship

Archie Day & Mya Levick

Respect

Thomas Maher & Daisy Sutherland

The House Captains are responsible for leading their House in competitions and events, and representing the school in the community and a range of school events and activities. The responsibilities of the House Captains are:

- to set an example to the other children
- to earn house points (merits) and encourage others to do so
- to represent the house when collecting awards

Mrs Barnes, our PE Subject Lead, will be sending a more detailed letter explaining the system next week.

Changes to the Behaviour Policy

Please note the following changes to How Wood School's Behaviour Policy.

The **How Wood Code of Conduct** has been simplified and now reads:

Always Respectful
Always Kind
Always Learning

This was a whole school decision that included the children's input. It was felt that the Code of Conduct was too wordy to remember and that the three rules above condense the previous eight rules into three memorable ones.



Children will no longer have their name written under a sad face on the white board. We wish to reinforce positive behaviour so a child's name will only appear on the board under a smiley face.

PTA Events

Halloween

The Halloween Party was very successful with a huge turnout. Over 140 children attended and they all had a wonderful time dressing up, playing games and generally enjoying themselves. I would like to thank the PTA for organising another fun event and for raising £450 to go towards improving the outdoor play spaces in Key Stage 1 and 2.

Copper Trail

A HUGE 'Thank you!' to everyone who brought in coins for the Copper Trail Competition. Nursery were the overall winners, collecting £72.78 and the total amount raised was £358.69.

Online Awareness Sessions

The three Online Awareness sessions were attended by the majority of parents and the feedback was very positive. Here are the links to the four websites included in presentation by Mrs Reading.

<http://respectyourself.info/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.miipc.mobile>

Anti-Bullying Day

As many of you are aware, each year we hold an Anti-Bullying Day as part of the National Anti-Bullying Week. Our Anti-Bullying Day will be on Friday 17th November and the theme this year is 'All Different, All Equal'. During the morning the children will be creating a design that symbolises this theme. They will then transfer their design onto a badge that they can take home at the end of the day as a reminder of the importance of recognising that we are all different and all equal. During the afternoon, the children will take part in **Children in Need**.

Children in Need - Miss Nixon and The School Council



On Friday 17th November we are asking the children to come to school in bright coloured clothes or spots for a donation of £1.00 to a fantastic charity. We would also like them to bring a small teddy bear in and some recycled items to create a costume for the best dressed bear competition. I know we are asking a lot, but one final thing we need to make this a success is cakes. After school, the school council will be selling cakes to raise as much money as we can. Any and all donations (homemade or shop brought but no nuts) will be welcomed with open arms!

How Wood School's 50th Anniversary - How Wood School's Summer Ball - update

We have managed to book the immensely popular St Albans Band 'The Push' for the Ball on Friday 11th May. Remember to 'save the date' and contact me if you have anything to auction for our Auction of Promises.

Sporting News

On Tuesday 7th November, our netball team played Park Street School at home. It was a great match and I am delighted to report that How Wood won the match 7 goals to 5! Lucas scored 4 goals, Mya scored 2 goals and Daisy Saunders scored 1 goal. Well done to the whole team!

Key dates for the term

I have included a list of key dates for the term. Further information about the various forthcoming events will be sent out to relevant classes. ***It is important that all parents read newsletters regularly so that they are aware of all events and any changes that may take place.***

Autumn Term 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

May Bank Holiday – Monday 7th May

Friday 25th May – INSET Day

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

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

Monday 23rd July – INSET

Tuesday 24th July – INSET

Wednesday 25th July - INSET

Please keep handy for future reference- additional dates and changes will be shared on future newsletters. Please ensure you read all newsletters carefully.

Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2017

Date	Event
Sunday 12 th November	PTA Event – Photo Shoot
Friday 17 th November	Children in Need – Spotacular
Thursday 16th November	PTA AGM 8pm @ How Wood
Friday 17 th November	Curriculum Enrichment Day - Anti-Bullying
Tuesday November 21 st	Year 3 Lee Valley School Trip
Monday 27th November	Occasional Day (School closed)
Thursday 30 th November	How Wood Choir singing at How Wood Shops – time to be confirmed
Friday 1st December	PTA Event - Non-school uniform day
Saturday 2 nd December 12 to 3pm	How Wood Christmas Fayre
Monday 4 th December	Flu Vaccination – Reception to Year 4
Tuesday 5 th December 10.30am	Christmas Carol Service at St Albans Cathedral

Tuesday 5 th December 10.30am	Foundation Stage dress rehearsal
Wednesday 6 th December 6pm	Foundation Stage evening production
Friday 8 th December - Time TBC	Aladdin Pantomime. Whole School Trip to The Alban Arena – St Albans
Tuesday 12 th December 10.30am	Key Stage 1 dress rehearsal
Wednesday 13 th December 6pm	Key Stage 1 evening production
Thursday 14 th December 1pm	Christmas lunch
Friday 15 th December	Christingle assembly (Y3 parents invited)
Monday 18 th December	Christmas class parties
Tuesday 19 th December - Finish at 1.30pm	Last day of term

Assemblies

Parents are invited to their child's class assembly at 9am. Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will not be sharing an assembly as they will be performing an end of year Christmas production.

Date	Class	
Friday 24 th November	Year 3	Parent Assembly