



HOW WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

ESTABLISHED 1968

Head Teacher: Mrs C Rowe
Newsletter 2

21st September 2018

Dear Parents,

The term has got off to a great start and I have had the pleasure of giving out certificates in Celebration Assemblies for a variety of achievements. It is so lovely to see the children focused on their learning and taking pride in being part of How Wood School. In yesterday's assembly, several children were praised for being amazing role models and other children's accomplishments included having 'excellent enquiry skills' & 'consistently beautiful presentation'. Well done to you all!

How Wood School Improvement Plan

Each year, the governors, staff and I, strive to make improvements in the educational provision that we provide for all the children at How Wood School. We want to ensure that your children have the best education possible and many opportunities to fulfil their potential. This year, we have three main objectives in our How Wood School Improvement Plan which has been agreed by the governors and our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner, Julie Kemp.

Priority 1: *To embed supportive reading strategies so that progress continues to be at least good and attainment is above the national average*

Priority 2: *To embed the raised profile of phonics across the school*

Priority 3: *To develop an enquiry led approach to Science and the Foundation Subjects ensuring that How Wood School provides a broad, balanced, engaging and exciting curriculum that is accessible to all*

Reading continues to be an area where we would like to see improvements. Please support your child at home by reading regularly with them and sharing books and literature as much as possible. Thank you.

Behaviour

Behaviour at How Wood is generally impeccable and we are very proud of how our children conduct themselves in school and when they are out and about on trips and visits. However, we do occasionally have instances of unacceptable behaviour which is always dealt with by the class teacher or a member of the senior leadership team. These behaviours most often happen during break and lunch times when the children are running about, playing games & generally letting off steam. Many of our younger children (and some of the juniors) still indulge in play-fighting even though they have constant reminders that play-fighting is not permitted. I would like to assure parents that I take unacceptable behaviour seriously and always act on any concerns when I receive them from children, staff and parents. I would also urge parents to contact me immediately if they have any worries regarding their child. I

would much prefer to hear from parents personally so that we can try to resolve any concerns together than to have worried parents. My email address is head@howwood.herts.sch.uk

Clubs

I would like to apologise for any confusion over clubs this term. We have started some new morning clubs and have experienced a few teething problems. All clubs are up and running – please see the timetable below.

Clubs

Day	8-8.45am	Lunchtime	Run By	After school	Time	Run by
Mon	Apex Multisport 17/9 – 10/12 Nick	Home Learning Club + Library/ Computer	Mrs Osborne 12.40 – 1.10	Netball	3.20 – 4.20	Mrs Croucher
		Dance	Mrs Croucher 12.40 – 1.10			
Tues	Apex Gymnastics 18/9 – 11/12 Nick	Choir	Mrs Reed 12.30 – 1.10pm	Girl's Football	3.20 – 4.20	Mr Grace
		Chess Y5/6	Mrs Goodfellow 12.40	Football	3.20 – 4.20	Julius Illori
				Apex Street Dance 18/9 – 11/12	3.20 – 4.20	Amy
Wed	No Club	No Club		Home Learning Club	3.20 – 4.20	Mrs Wright & Mrs Shadbolt
				Cheer leading KS1/2	3.20 – 4.20	XLR8
Thurs	Apex Musical Theatre 20/9 – 13/12 Amy	Library + Computer school	Ms Nixon 12.40 – 1.10	Y5/6 Boys Football	3.20 – 4.20	Mr Grace & Mr Illori
		Lego Club Year 1/2/3	Mrs Warner/ Mrs Barnes 12.40 – 1.10			
Fri	No Club	Apex Dodgeball 12.15 – 1pm 21/9 – 14/12	Nick	Apex, Archery, Fencing & Golf 21/9 – 14/12	3.20 – 4.20	Nick
		No Club		Elitefeet Football Club YR to Y6 21/9/-14/12	3.20 - 4.20	Elitefeet

Harvest Festival

Our annual Harvest Festival will be held at **10.00 on Wednesday 10th October** in the School Hall (please note time change). We are now collecting non-perishable donations as we provide baskets of goodies for our local senior citizens. Letter to follow.

Curriculum Enrichment Days - First World War Centenary



On Thursday 25th October and Friday 26th October, the whole school will mark the centenary of the First World War in two cross-curricular days which will include art, music, history, geography, science and RE.

On the Friday we will be taking part in Red, White & Blue Day 2018 and the children can come to school wearing one or all of the colours red, white or/and blue. More details will follow soon.

Voluntary Contributions to the School Fund

Thank you to parents who have made a voluntary contribution to our School Fund.

Fair Funding for Schools – St Albans

On Monday evening, I attended an open meeting in St Albans organised by the group Fair Funding For All Schools - St Albans. There was an excellent panel including Anne Main, MP; Alan Gray, Headteacher at the Sandringham School and Chair of the Hertfordshire Schools' Forum; Sian Kilpatrick, Headteacher at Bernards Heath Primary School and Julie Lowenthal, Assistant Headteacher and SENCO at Bernard's Heath.



Alan Gray shared some bleak statistics including that in 2015, 15 schools in Hertfordshire were in serious financial difficulty - this year there are 104.

Anne Main agreed to take a number of important messages back to parliament on behalf of her constituents including the fact that capital funding for schools is desperately inadequate and that there needs to be more money for mental health provision in schools and for children with SEN.

I thought some of our parents might be interested in the campaign which is currently gathering momentum in St Albans and nationally.

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 2018

Half-term – Monday 29th October to Friday 2nd November

Children back to school – Monday 5th November to Friday 21st December 2018

Spring Term 2019

Monday 7th January – INSET Day

Children back to school – Tuesday 8th January to Friday 15th February 2019

Half-term – Monday 18th February to Friday 22nd February 2019

Children back to school – Monday 25th February to Friday 5th April 2019

Summer Term 2018

Children back to school – Tuesday 23rd April to Friday 24th May 2019

May Bank Holiday – Monday 6th May

Half-term – Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2019

Children back to school – Monday 3rd June to Friday 19th July 2019

Monday 22nd July – INSET

Tuesday 23rd July – INSET

Wednesday 24th July – Occasional Day

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

Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2018

Date	Event
Tuesday 25 th September	Drama for All – ‘The Circus’ workshops for EYFS, Year 1/2/3
Thursday 4 th October 9am	Phonics Meeting for Reception Parents
Monday 8 th October	Year 4 trip to the British Museum
Tuesday 9 th October	Visiting Planetarium – Year 5
Wednesday 10 th October 10.00am	Harvest assembly (All parents welcome- subject to space in the hall)
Tuesday 16 th October	Year 2 trip to Whipsnade Zoo
Tuesday 23 rd October 3.30-6pm	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 24 th October 5-8pm	Parent Consultations
Thursday 25 th October	Curriculum Enrichment Day – First World War Centenary
Friday 26 th October	Curriculum Enrichment Day – First World War Centenary & Red, White and Blue Day (non-school uniform)
Monday 29th - Friday 2nd November	Half Term
Thursday 8 th November	School Photos
Friday 9 th November	Year 6 Peace Event at St Albans Cathedral
Saturday 10 th November	EYFS Open Morning – details to follow
Friday 16 th November	Children in Need & Anti-Bullying Day
Monday 10 th December	M&M Production present Beauty & the Beast Pantomime

Tuesday 11 th December 9.30am	Foundation Stage Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 12 th December 6pm	Foundation Stage Evening Production
Week beginning Monday 17 th December	Christmas class parties – details to follow
Tuesday 18 th December 9.30am	Key Stage 1 Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 19 th December 6pm	Key Stage 1 Evening Production
Thursday 20 th December	Christmas lunch
Friday 21 st December	Christingle assembly (Y3 parents invited)
Friday 21 st 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 5 th October	Year 6	Parent Assembly
Friday 12 th October	Year 5	Parent Assembly
Friday 23 rd November	Year 4	Parent Assembly
Friday 7 th December	Year 3	Parent Assembly