



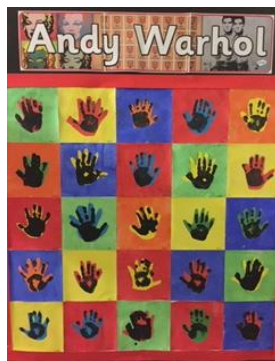
HOW WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL
ESTABLISHED 1968

Head Teacher: Mrs C Rowe
Newsletter 8

18th January 2018

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you all had a lovely break over the holidays. The term has started well and the children are already fully immersed in their new topics. The theme for our displays this term is *Famous Artists* and the walls are adorned with wonderful creative interpretations by the children.



Year 4 Trip to Pizza Express

THE AMAZING PIZZA EXPRESS

Are you wondering how to make the best pizza?

Year 4 in How Wood School went to Pizza Express in Radlett. It was a trip that was definitely worth it. If you go to Pizza Express, you would want to make more than one pizza because they are way too delicious to only have one. The manager is very good at teaching you how to make the best pizza in the universe.

Mental Health First Aid



I am delighted and very proud to announce that How Wood School is the first primary school in Hertfordshire to have completed training in Adult Mental Health First Aid (MHFA). Nine members of the How Wood staff team were trained in MHFA during an intensive two day course led by Lucy Hine.

The course involved learning how to spot the early signs of a mental health issue and how to follow this up with support and guidance. Promoting mental health well-being and de-stigmatising mental health was a key theme that ran throughout the two days.

Ultimately, by looking after our own mental health and well-being we have increased awareness for the children. Lucy told us, "We fit our own oxygen mask before we can help anyone else." The children will always be at the centre of all we do.

Mrs Saunders is the Mental Health Lead and Mrs Oliver is our Pastoral Support Worker.

Praise Postcards



Amber Sparshott in Reception & Maya Bourne in Year 2 received a Praise Postcard for excellent learning. Well done!

Online Safety

Happy #WakeUpWednesday

For their first #WakeUpWednesday in 2019 # WakeUpWednesday have created a free online safety guide for schools to share with parents, carers, staff and children about 'Fake News'; the epidemic plaguing our social media timelines and influencing behaviours across the globe!

You can find their guide for parents and carers on the following social media platforms:

TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety/status/1082967693202993152>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety/photos/a.1681508315488685/1946517172321130/?type=3&theater>

General reminders

- Please ensure that your child comes to school with a warm coat throughout the winter months and when the weather is inclement.
- Children should wear small stud-like earrings and no nail varnish or jewellery should be worn.

Attendance

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.

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.***

Spring Term 2019

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 2019

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 & Tuesday 23rd July – INSET; Wednesday 24th July – Occasional Day

Key Dates for the Spring Term 2019

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.

Monday 7 th January	Inset Day
Tuesday 15 th January	Year 4 visit Pizza Express
Friday 18 th January	Year to Florence Nightingale Workshop
Monday 21st January 3.15pm	Year 6 Parents' SATs Meeting
Wednesday 23 rd January 9am	EYFS Phonics and Reading Workshop
Thursday 24 th January 9am	Key Stage 1 Phonics and Reading Workshop
Tuesday 5th February	Safer Internet Day – details to follow
Tuesday 12 th February 3.30 to 6pm	Parents Consultations
Wednesday 13 th February 4pm to 7pm	Parents Consultations – <i>please note change of time</i>
Thursday 14th February	Year 5 Trip – Saxon Food Workshop at St Albans Abbey
Friday 15th February	Pop Corn Friday – School Council Event – letter to follow

Friday 15 th February	Last day of half term
Thursday 28 th February	Year 1 visit to St Albans Abbey
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day – Dressing-up Day with a Roald Dahl theme
Monday 18 th March	Year 6 Crucial Crew Visit
Thursday 21 st March	Maths Curriculum Enrichment Day
Thursday 21 st March 3.15 to 4pm	Maths Fair – All welcome
Friday 22 nd March 9 to 9.45am	Maths Open Morning – Parents invited to join their children and share in their maths activities and learning
Friday 22 nd March	Year 6 Life Expo @ Holy Trinity Church
Wednesday 27 th March	Choir at Alban Arena
Friday 29 th March	The Railway Children Production
Tuesday 2 nd April 9.30am	Year 3/4 Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 3 rd April 6pm	Year 3/4 Evening Production
Thursday 4 th April	Winning House 'Treat'
Friday 5 th April - Finish at 1.30pm	Last day of term

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.

Date	Class	
Friday 25 th January	Year 6	Parent Assembly
Friday 8 th February	Year 2	Parent Assembly
Friday 8 th March	Year 5	Parent Assembly
Friday 15 th March	Year 1	Parent Assembly
Thursday 28 th March	Reception	Parent Assembly

