



# WOOLGROVE SCHOOL

Special Needs Academy

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Headteacher

Mrs Lisa Hall



Dear Parent/Carers

The last few weeks have flown by and half term is already upon us.



### Parents' consultation evenings

These are taking place on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November and will provide you with the opportunity to meet your child's teacher(s) and staff team to discuss how they have settled into their new class and share targets for the next term. By now you should have already received a letter with a time for your appointment and we look forward to seeing you there.

### Speaking and Listening Week

This past week has been a whirlwind of activity as the children have enjoyed a range of exciting activities to develop their speaking and listening skills. Monday saw the Ark Farm visiting the school. The children were able to see the animals up close and ask questions about where they lived, what they ate and to get to know all about them. The animal theme continued on Tuesday with a very exciting, whole school, trip to Standalone Farm. There were lots of sights, sounds and smells to experience and talk about and the children and staff had a fabulous, if somewhat chilly, day!



Wednesday was the children's opportunity to put some of the things they had seen into action with a drama based session with play acting and singing. On Thursday and Friday each class had an opportunity to visit the Story Tent, for a chance to hear tales and talk about stories they enjoyed listening to.

The week was a really interactive and exciting experience for the children and we would encourage you to support their learning and build on the speaking and listening skills they have been practising by talking with them about all the things they have been doing.

### DSPL Parent Training

Please find attached to this letter a flyer for some free training for parents on ADHD.

### Staffing Update

Today we say goodbye to two of our valued teaching assistants, Mrs Jackie Rushden and Mrs Sarah Rowlands, who are leaving us to take on new challenges. We thank them for all their contributions to the school and wish them all the best for



the future. After half term we welcome three new teaching assistants to the Woolgrove staff team - Miss Felicity Edwards (Blue Class), Mr Tom Reason (Purple Class) and Mrs Liz Clark (3P/W).

### Transport arrangements

Just to let you know that the new arrangements for dropping off children in the morning appear to be making a difference to easing the congestion on the school site. With more pupils in the school over the past couple of years there has been an increase in the number of vehicles entering the grounds so a review of the situation was necessary. I appreciate that any changes take a while to get used to but I would like to reassure you that the reason behind this decision was to make things safer for the children. Can I remind you that we are here to help so please do speak to a member of staff if you have any concerns or would like to feed back your views. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

### Friends of Woolgrove (FoW)

Don't forget to get your glad rags on and come along to the Monsters' Ball which is being held here at school on Friday 11th November. The FoW provided refreshments before the parents' signing



session on Monday afternoon which was very well attended. They are keen to provide opportunities for you to get together as well as encouraging more participation in their events. This week alone they have given the school £1,200 to fund all the enrichment activities for the speaking and listening week. Their next focus is to help up refurbish the school library to encourage all our children to develop a love of reading and books. Please do support them as they really do a fantastic job and it is your children who benefit.

### Operation Christmas Child

During the first week of next half term each class will be putting together a shoebox of basic items and presents to send to children in need via the organisation Operation Christmas Child. If you are able to donate any NEW items that you think would be interesting and useful for a child that has very little, please send them in for our first day back on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November. You can find further information about the project, the children it is aimed at, how to track



your shoebox and suggestions of gifts including toys, school supplies, hygiene and other items at <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk>. Your child's class teacher will be sending out information separately to this letter. If you would also like to do your own shoebox they can be brought into school by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November and we will be happy to send them off on your behalf.

### Work to the school

There's going to be a lot going on here next week during half term. The Red and Purple classroom areas are being redecorated and having new flooring fitted throughout while the library corridor is being re-carpeted. Yellow Class are also having their carpet replaced with new flooring which will be more practical for the children. Fencing is being installed around some sections of the junior playground to provide a barrier from the sloping section outside Mr Fawcett's classroom. All of these changes will make the school environment much more pleasant for the children and I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work in making this happen.

## Key Dates

It is a busy and exciting half term ahead - below are the dates of some events you might like to be aware of in advance

Key Dates	
November	
8th	Parents Evening 4.00pm - 7.00pm
11th	FoW Monsters Ball Family Disco 6.00pm - 8.00pm
16th	Parents Evening 4.00pm - 6.00pm
23rd	Tea Party - Blue Class
23rd	Friends of Woolgrove Meeting 7.00pm
December	
7th	Junior Christmas Play 2.00pm
8 <sup>th</sup>	Junior Christmas Play 7.00pm
9th	Occasional Day (No pupils in school)
14th	School Christmas Dinner
19th	Infants Nativity 2.00pm
20th	Christmas Party 2.00p,m
21st	Term Ends Break up 1.45pm
January	
5th	Term begins

I wish you all a lovely half term break. Just to remind you that we have an inset day on Monday 31st October so the children return after the half term break on Tuesday 1st November.

Please also note that on the last day of term, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December school will break up at 1.45pm

Yours sincerely

Lisa Hall  
Head Teacher