



WOOLGROVE SCHOOL
Woolgrove School, Special Needs Academy

NEWSLETTER

5th April 2019



We have reached the end of another very busy term at Woolgrove, **finishing today at 1.45pm**. I would like to thank all the parents and carers who have supported the learning of their children over the term. Good communication between school and home is vital to achieve the best outcome for the children and whether it is reading with your child at home or attending information or parent evenings at school or even participating in the social activities around school, this really helps the relationship and lines of communication. A big thank you too to the staff, who work really hard and always have the best interests of your children at heart. Last, but most certainly not least, well done to our children who have achieved so much over the last term. I wish everyone a happy and peaceful break and look forward to seeing everyone soon for the busy and exciting summer term!

Maternity Leave

We have to say goodbye, at least for the time being, to Becky Bonnet, one of our Blue Class teaching assistants, as she leaves us to commence her maternity leave. Becky is also the Saturday Club Leader, a role that will now be taken on by Emma Todd. We all wish Becky the very best as she prepares for the arrival of her baby. Leanna Wilson, our teaching assistant from Cone class has also begun her maternity leave and we send her all our best wishes too.

Swimming

Part of the aim of our swimming activity for the children is to promote their independence when getting dressed and undressed. With this in mind it would be very helpful if, on the day that you know your child is going to the pool, they were dressed in items of clothing that are easy for them to deal with (for example not buttoned cardigans etc). Longer hair should be tied up if possible and please try and ensure that your child brings their swimming costume with them on the appropriate day.



You can obtain the dates for your child's class swimming rota from class staff and Marvellous Me and / or notes in the home / school book are usually completed by class staff so please keep an eye out as giving children our 'spare' costumes can cause difficulties at times. Thank you for your cooperation.

Red Nose Day

Thank you for your donations for the Comic Relief appeal. We raised £139.19 and the children had the added bonus of having the opportunity to throw wet sponges at

Woolgrove School Designated Safeguarding Lead
Richard Pritchard
01462 622422

Mr Pritchard! There was much excitement about that as you can imagine ...and thank you to Mr P for being such a good sport!

Parent / Carer Questionnaires

Parents / carers were asked to complete a questionnaire recently. This focused on aspects of school including communication with parents, learning, behaviour and extra-curricular activities. It is really important that we seek your views to assess how effective you think we are being as a school in meeting the needs you and your children and to make any necessary changes.

Whilst there are always improvements to be made, the overall results were very positive. We received 79 responses and to the 16 statements for which there were 4 possible responses (strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree) there were over 70 that either agreed or strongly agreed with each one. All but one category had no more than two responses that 'did not agree'.

We really do value your opinions and we use the results of these surveys to shape the way we develop and grow as a school. The results are shared with staff and governors to identify areas of good practice and areas for development so thank you for taking the time to assist us in taking the school forward.

Friends of Woolgrove

The weather was very kind to us for the Easter Egg hunt this year with beautiful warm sunshine making the search for the hidden eggs very enjoyable for everyone. We had a really good turnout and with ticket sales and refreshments on the day the event made a terrific profit of £178.90. Two golden eggs were still hidden after the day, so this week the classes have been keenly searching! Damien from Yellow class found one and at the time of writing there is still one left to be discovered! Thank you to everyone who came along to join in the fun and to the staff and Friends of Woolgrove volunteers who worked to make it all possible.



The Friends also organised the first Mother's Day gift event. A lot of work went into buying and wrapping all the gifts and the children were very excited to be taking a surprise home with them. Again a super amount of £91.15 was made. All the profit from these events goes directly towards buying equipment and resources to benefit the children and we are really grateful for everyone's support.

Proposed Shepreth Wildlife Trip

Hopefully you all received a letter regarding the proposed trips next term to Shepreth Wildlife Park. The children can benefit a huge amount from off site visits, and we like to give them the opportunity of doing so whenever possible. However the cost of these visits, including travel, entrance fee and additional staffing is considerable and we do rely on voluntary contributions to make them possible.

Thank you to those of you who have returned the slip indicating whether you would be willing to make a £20 voluntary contribution. To date we have not yet had sufficient assurances of contributions to enable us to book the trips. If you have yet to return the slip and would be willing to pay, please do so by Friday 26th April at the latest. Should you no longer have the letter either contact the office for another or let

Woolgrove School Designated Safeguarding Lead
Richard Pritchard
01462 622422

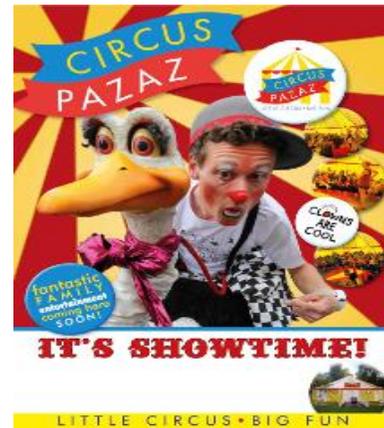
us know that you are willing to contribute. Should we fail to receive enough assurances of voluntary contributions to the trip we will be unable to go ahead.

National Autistic Society - Autism Accreditation

On the 1st and 2nd of May Woolgrove School is being assessed to renew our Accreditation with the NAS as a good school for children with Autism. Those of you with a child with a diagnosis of autism will be receiving information in a separate letter. This is really important for the school and we would appreciate your support in our efforts to ensure that we are successful in retaining our status.

Circus Pazaz

We have some very exciting news regarding an event taking place at Woolgrove on Saturday 8th June. We have teamed up with Garden City Academy, Weston Way Nursery and St Mary's Infant and Junior schools and agreed to host Circus Pazaz, a small, family friendly circus which is big on entertainment. The 'Big Top' will be erected on the field and we really need as many families as possible to come along to support the event. There will be three shows at 11.30 am, 1.30 pm and 3.30 pm and it really does promise to be fantastic fun. There will be more details regarding cost of tickets etc after Easter but please put the date in your diaries and come along and enjoy a different type of Woolgrove experience! Any profit raised from our ticket sales and refreshments will go into the Friends of Woolgrove funds for the benefit of the children.



Social Media

There is no doubt that social media sites have huge benefits when used responsibly and safely. However as a school we are very aware of the pitfalls and dangers that can exist in their use, both from the perspective of our children and the school as a whole. I am aware that recently there have been examples of comments being posted on line which have divulged information about incidents in school. I would urge anyone who wishes to discuss any details about activity within the school to please contact me or another member of staff to discuss the issue. I am in no way trying to restrict your right to voice opinions but would far rather have a two – way conversation in order to ensure that people are in full possession of all the facts.

Wymondley Woods

As I write this the pupils of Pyramid Class are coming to the end of their residential trip at Wymondley Woods. This trip, traditionally taken by our year 6 pupils, is a tremendous learning and development experience for the children during which they are encouraged to be independent. Activities include canoeing, climbing and camp fires with sing-songs as well as shopping for supplies for the week. I went along on Wednesday evening to the camp fire and it really struck me how the children were blossoming as they showed me where they were sleeping and eating. Whilst this is a wonderful experience for the children I would like to extend a big thank you to Mr

Woolgrove School Designated Safeguarding Lead
Richard Pritchard
01462 622422

Pritchard who organised and led the week, together with our amazing staff who work incredibly hard during this week caring for the children day and night. They will most definitely be looking forward to their Easter Break!

Celebration Afternoons

We have held our first few Celebration Afternoons recently. The sessions are intended for parents and carers to come in to school and take part in an activity or have a chance to view their child's work in an informal and relaxed environment. There is also the opportunity to chat with other parents and exchange thoughts and experiences. If your child's class has not held an event yet or it is not shown, don't worry as each class will hold one Celebration Afternoon each academic year, so there is plenty of time. Your child's class teacher will provide you with more specific information regarding how your child's event will run nearer the date of their celebration but please note these start at 2pm.

Class	Date
Cube	Tuesday 21 st May
Cone	Wednesday 12 th June

Diary Dates

We continue to have a variety of activities taking place at school. Please make a note in the diary of relevant dates and you will receive more detailed information as we get nearer. Below is a list of a few key dates.

Please note the change of INSET Day as detailed previously.

April	
Friday 5th	TERMS ENDS 1.45 pm Finish
Tuesday 23rd	Children return to school (no INSET day as previously planned)
Tuesday 23rd	Wymondley Wood's information meeting (Sphere) 6.00 pm
May	
Friday 3rd May	INSET DAY (no school for children)
Monday 6th May	May Bank Holiday (no school for children)
Thursday 16th	Friends of Woolgrove Meeting 9.30 am
Monday 20th – 24th	Wymondley Wood Trip (Sphere Class)
June	
Tuesday 4th	Open Evening 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm (For new and existing families)
Saturday 8th	Circus Pazaz 11.30am 1.30pm and 3.30pm
July	
Wednesday 3rd	Junior Sports Day (Years 4,5,6)

**Woolgrove School Designated Safeguarding Lead
Richard Pritchard
01462 622422**

Friday 5th	Summer Fair 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm – (Including School Art Exhibition)
Wednesday 10th	Reserve Junior Sports Day (Years 4,5,6)
	Information regarding Infant and Year 3 Sports events will follow
Wednesday 24th	TERMS ENDS 1.45 pm Finish



Mrs Lisa Hall,
Head Teacher

Woolgrove School Designated Safeguarding Lead
Richard Pritchard
01462 622422

2018 - 2019 TERM and INSET Dates

Term Dates 2018 / 2019		
SPRING	Term ends	Friday 5 th April
SUMMER	Children start back	Tuesday 23 rd April 2019
	INSET DAY	Friday 3rd May
	Half Term	Monday 27 th May – Friday 31 st May
	Term ends	Wednesday 24 th July 2019

*******PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES ARE FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR*******

2019 - 2020 TERM and INSET Dates

AUTUMN	INSET	Monday 2nd September 2019
	Pupils start	Tuesday 3rd September 2019
	Half Term	Monday 28 th – Friday 1 st November 2019
	INSET day	Monday 4th November 2019
	OCCASIONAL DAY (no pupils)	Friday 6th December 2019
	Term ends	Friday 20 th December 2019
SPRING	INSET	Monday 6th January 2020
	Pupils start	Tuesday 7th January 2020
	Half Term	Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February 2020
	Term ends	Friday 3 rd April 2020
SUMMER	Pupils start	Monday 20th April 2020
	Half Term	Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May 2020
	Term ends	Friday 17 th July
	INSET day	Monday 20th July 2020

Woolgrove School Designated Safeguarding Lead
Richard Pritchard
01462 622422

Woolgrove School Designated Safeguarding Lead
Richard Pritchard
01462 622422