



WOOLGROVE SCHOOL
Woolgrove School, Special Needs Academy



NEWSLETTER

21st MAY 2019

We are fast approaching the end of the school year with a chance to re-charge the batteries before the long last half term. There are several events planned for the summer term including the circus on the 8th June (see details below) and the summer fair (5th July) and we really look forward to you joining us at as many as possible. In the meantime I hope everyone has a restful half term break.

Staffing

As is often the case at there will be some staff changes on our return from half term break. Parents of children in classes affected will receive an individual letter with details.

We have said goodbye to Emma Doherty (Teaching Assistant in Cube class) as she has left to take up a position elsewhere. Katie Lawrence will replace Emma in Cube class from the week beginning 10th June.

Emma Goddard (Teaching Assistant Hexagon Class) will begin her new role as Pastoral Support Worker after half term, working across the school to support the children with their emotional well-being. Lynsey Cooper will be joining Hexagon class.

Thomas Brazier will be joining Cone class after the break as maternity cover for Leanna Wilson.

We wish our leavers all the best in their new ventures and welcome all our new comers to the Woolgrove family and hope that they enjoy the Woolgrove experience.

Circus Pazaz

Hopefully many of you will have already ordered your tickets for the Circus event here at Woolgrove on Saturday 8th June. There are performances at 11.30 am, 1.30 pm, and 3.30 pm. We are joining up with Garden City Academy, Weston Way Nursery and St Mary's Infant and Junior schools to bring this event to the children so please support us if you can. Tickets can be ordered by e-mailing circus@gca.herts.sch.uk.

You will then get a reply confirming your tickets and you will be provided

with the Bank details to allow you to transfer the money for tickets. (If you are unable to pay via this method please contact the school to arrange an alternative payment method). But hurry... tickets will go on sale to the general public on Wednesday 22nd May and we would hate any of our parents to miss out!



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We are also asking for volunteers to help out with the BBQ through the day. If you have a little time to spare please speak to the office. The more offers we have the less burden there will be on those volunteering. The BBQ will be finishing at 3.30 pm so any offers of help for clearing up afterwards will also be much appreciated.

Curriculum Information events

We held two events recently to outline changes to the curriculum which will come into effect in September. We will be making changes to the way we organise our classes and the curriculum we offer our children. We believe that these changes will enable us to provide an even more personalised curriculum for the children and will ensure we are meeting their needs even more effectively. The feedback from those parents who did attend was very positive and for those that were unable to make either of the meetings we will be sending home a copy of the power point from the meetings, explaining the changes in more detail. Please do have a read and don't hesitate to contact myself or Vicky Litchfield if you have any concerns or questions. Please note that we have still not yet finalised the classes for September as we are consulting on the last few new children who will be joining the school next term and putting the finishing touches to the staffing arrangements. You will, however, be informed of your child's new class and staffing in time for the open evening on 25th June

There will inevitably be a settling in period in September but I strongly believe that the changes will be beneficial to the children and give each of them the opportunity to reach their full potential and I appreciate your support in their implementation.

End of Day Procedures



Yesterday was the first day of the trial to try make the end of the day procedures more efficient so that the children can get home more quickly following their school day. It will take a little while for all of us to adjust to the system but the time it took for all our children to leave the site was dramatically reduced. The site was cleared in 12 minutes yesterday when on some days previously it has been taking up to 30 or 40 minutes. We do value your feedback so please speak to a member of staff if you have any observations.

I would like to emphasise that the time the school closes has not changed and remains 3.05 pm. Due to the improved efficiency it may be that your child will arrive home a little earlier than previously so, please bear this in mind when making your childcare arrangements.

Open Evening

We will be holding an open evening here at the school on Tuesday 25th June (not 4th June as originally shown in events diary). The school will be open to all pupils and their families/friends from 4.00pm to 6.00pm so please do join us. The idea is that you arrive any time during the two hours and have the opportunity to wander round the classrooms and outside areas. Staff will be on hand for you to have an informal

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chat with and you can look at all the wonderful displays of the children's work, explore all the classrooms and spend some time getting more of a feel for the school. We have also invited the parents of the new children joining us in September. There will be activities in each room for the children to do and I hope you have an enjoyable evening.

Our cook, Michelle, a representative from Herts Catering and our kitchen assistants Sue and Heidi will be on hand to offer you samples of some of the delicious school meals.

Hot weather

Hopefully we will return to school to some nice weather. A reminder that for the summer term the children need a sun hat and named sun cream in school to help keep them safe. If you require staff to administer sun cream in school you will need to complete a parental agreement form available from the school office. Sun cream is extremely important for children. Their skin is much more sensitive than adult skin, and damage caused by repeated exposure to sunlight could lead to skin cancer developing in later life.



Use of Social Media

At Woolgrove School we believe that a common sense approach should be taken to social networking. We also ask that all members of our school community respect underlying safeguarding principles and basic manners in how we communicate with people, at all times. As a result we ask all families to appreciate the influence, power and vulnerability of social networking and think through their online actions carefully in order to avoid any areas of potential conflict. We ask that any concerns or complaints are discussed with the school and not on social media as the school cannot appropriately or officially respond via social media which may leave your concerns unresolved. We also ask that any photographs or videos taken at any school events are not shared on social media as this may pose a safeguarding risk. Thank you for supporting us in these matters.

Celebration Afternoons

Thank you to all of our parents who have attended their class Celebration Afternoons. 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 generally start at 1.45pm.

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Class	Date
Green	Tuesday 4 th June
Triangle	Friday 7 th June
Cone	Wednesday 12 th June
Hexagon	Thursday 20 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.

May	
Monday 20th – 24th	Wymondley Wood Trip (Sphere Class)
June	
Saturday 8th	Circus Pazaz 11.30am 1.30pm and 3.30pm
Tuesday 18th	Shepreth Wildlife Park (Cube, Cone, Sphere, Pyramid))
Tuesday 25th	Open Evening 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm (For new and existing families)
Tuesday 25th June	Shepreth Wildlife Park (Diamond, Star, Triangle, Hexagon)
July	
Tuesday 2nd	Shepreth Wildlife Park (Blue, Red, Green, Yellow)
Wednesday 3rd	Junior Sports Day (Years 4,5,6)
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

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2018 - 2019 TERM and INSET Dates

Term Dates 2018 / 2019		
SUMMER		
	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
	Half Term	Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May 2020
	Term ends	Friday 17 th July
	INSET day	Monday 20th July 2020

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