



Woolgrove School – Newsletter No. 1

13th September 2022

School Closure

Thank you all for your patience and understanding over the past few days. The closure of the school, due to a faulty fire alarm system, was a decision that was taken solely to ensure the safety of the children and staff. We are pleased to say that the issue has been resolved.

Queen Elizabeth



As a school community we would like to express our condolences to the Royal family following the sad death of Her Majesty the Queen. In line with all schools, **we will be closed on Monday 19th September**, the day of the funeral.

We have circulated a document via Parent Mail to help support the children with any bereavement issues they may face and there is a social story available on our website at:

<https://woolgrove.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/SOCIAL-STORY-Understanding-the-Queens-death.pdf>

Advice and guidance has also been given to staff to assist them in dealing with any concerns the children may have.

Welcome!

It has been lovely to welcome our new children and parents to Woolgrove and to say hello again to some familiar faces. As I have been walking around the school I have been really struck by the excellent learning and calm atmosphere that I have witnessed. The children have settled in really well and we look forward to a fun and productive remainder of the autumn term!

Building Works

I am excited to report that the old mobile unit has been demolished, and work on the new building will be beginning very soon with completion expected before the start of the spring term. The site does mean that transport vehicles are affected and I would like to thank parents for their assistance and patience as we have implemented a new system to manage the arrival and departure of the children.

Systems Upgrade

We will soon be undertaking an upgrade of our data systems which may mean that some information (i.e. attendance data) may not be available for a short period of time. We will let you know precisely when this is taking place nearer the time so please bear with us as we strive to improve our systems which will benefit staff, parents and pupils.

Clothing

To ensure that we are able to keep all the children's uniform and clothing safe, please ensure that all the clothing they wear and bring with them (including coats with a hood, wellies, hats etc) are clearly labelled.



The children should have waterproof coats and wellies in school as we make extensive use of our outside areas and our weather is notoriously unpredictable!

School Meals

School Meals are provided at a cost of £2.85 per day, payable via Parent Mail. Infant Children (Reception / Year 1 and Year 2) are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. Should you feel that, due to your financial circumstances, you may be entitled to free school meals, whether Infant or Year 3 and above, you will need to apply.

You can do this easily via the link on the school website (Drop down menu on the right of the homepage) or you can ring the office and John can assist you. You will

need your National Insurance number available.

Should the amount owing on your child's account go above £12.00 we will ask you to provide a packed lunch until the account is settled. If we can assist in any way please phone the office.

Dates

This is a busy and exciting term and there will be a number of events taking place as we settle into the school year. We will be publishing important diary dates in the near future to give you as much notice as possible.

Contact Details

As the last few days have highlighted, it is vital that we have up to date and accurate contact details for all of our children. If any of your phone numbers / address / email address change, please let us know as soon as possible so that we are able to contact you if necessary.

Attendance

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of our policies regarding attendance. We expect our children to be in school every day and aim for children to attain 100% attendance. We realise that with medical appointments and illness this is not always possible. Should you wish to request a leave of absence for your child for another reason please obtain a form from the school office. We ask that you give as much notice as possible prior to the date requested and in any case at least two weeks, prior to any proposed absence. As a school we have a responsibility to ensure our children are in school meaning that, whilst each case is considered on its merits, absences will only be authorised in

'exceptional circumstances'. You can find the School Attendance Policy on the school website via the link <https://woolgrove.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Attendance-Policy-May-2022-1.pdf>

Lisa Hall,
Head Teacher