



Woolgrove School – Newsletter No. 10

31st March 2023

As we approach the Easter break it is hard to believe that we are two thirds of the way through the academic year. I have witnessed some wonderful work being done by the children on my frequent visits to the classes. Our Governors too have recently been into observe the children's learning and were highly impressed with the calm and positive atmosphere around school. Mixed with the hard work has been a generous helping of fun events and activities, both in and out of school hours, and we thank you for your ongoing and generous support for our school.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Bunny somehow managed to arrange a dry (if breezy!) day for our Easter Egg Hunt last weekend. The event was really well attended with lots of our children and their siblings and friends enjoying searching in the environment area for the hidden treasure! A big thank you to our Friends of Woolgrove team and members of staff (and families) who organised the morning, supplied the prizes and ran the refreshment stalls. We managed to raise the wonderful sum of £594 and these vital



fund raising events couldn't happen without them and, of course, those of you that buy tickets and turn up on the day. The children will benefit directly from the funds raised with the purchase of additional equipment and resources.

A date for your diary

There will be a parents' and carers' information session, regarding the school's assessment system, taking place on Wednesday 3rd May at 1.30 p.m. Further details will be provided at the beginning of the Summer Term but it would be lovely to see as many of you there as possible to enable you to have a thorough understanding of how we assess your child's progress in school.

Friends of Woolgrove (FoW) Meeting

The Friends of Woolgrove are holding their next coffee morning on Friday 10th May at 9.30 a.m. There is always room for new faces to help in the fundraising efforts and to simply meet and have a chat over coffee and biscuits. With the Summer Fair, our major fund raising event of the year, fast approaching (Friday 14th July 4pm-7pm) the more 'Friends' we have the better! Do you work for a company who would be interested in fund matching the event? Do you work for a

company that would be able to provide a raffle prize?

If you know of anyone that could help or would like more information, then please contact the office.

Holiday Requests

As a school we aim for children to have 100% attendance but understand that with illness and medical appointments this is not always possible. It is vital therefore that the children are in school whenever possible and an absence from school will only be authorised in wholly 'exceptional circumstances' as detailed in the school attendance policy which can be found on the school website via this link:

<https://woolgrove.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Woolgrove-attendance-policy-Feb-2023.pdf> .

Our school term dates are published well in advance and again are available via the website (see links below) and a copy attached with this newsletter. Please consult these prior to booking any holidays as any request for absence for a holiday during term time is unlikely to be authorised.

https://woolgrove.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/TERM-DATES_2022_2023.pdf

https://woolgrove.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/TERM-DATES_2023_2024.pdf

Should your child be absent from school for any reason, please ensure you contact the school, either by emailing admin or phoning the office by 9.30a.m.

Thank you for supporting us in our endeavours to ensure that the children are in school and learning as much as possible.

Change of contact details

There are times when we need to contact parents and carers quickly with important messages. It is vital that we have up to date and accurate details for all of our parents and carers. Please let the school know if there are any changes to the contact details (address, email, phone etc.) of any of the named contacts for your child.

Visiting Farms: Health advice



It is the time of year when parents and carers (and schools) start planning trips to farms and zoos. These trips are always fun and interesting but there are health risks associated with animals. We have been asked by the Public Health Authority to provide information and advice around keeping safe and healthy around animals and farms. The main points are highlighted below but please click on the link for further information.

Follow these Do's and Don'ts to keep safe:

Do wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after you have touched

animals, fences, or other surfaces in animal areas

Do wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before eating or drinking

Do remove and clean boots or shoes that might have become soiled and clean pushchair wheels. Then wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.

Do supervise children closely to ensure that they wash their hands thoroughly

Do eat and drink in picnic areas or cafes only

Do not put hands on faces or fingers in mouths while petting animals or walking round the farm

Do not kiss farm animals or allow children to put their faces close to animals

Do not eat or drink while touching animals or walking round the farm. This includes not eating sweets, crisps or chewing gum

Do not eat anything that has fallen on the floor

Do not use gels or wipes instead of washing hands with soap and water. Gels and wipes do not remove bugs in dirt

Pregnant women need to take particular care handling pregnant sheep or lambs as infections acquired from these animals can be harmful to them and the unborn baby.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/newsarchive/handwashing-after-petting-animals>

Dental Screening

The school dental screening team visited us this week and nearly all of our children were able to take advantage of their visit. You should have received a form from the team to return to school so please do complete it and send it back as we want to ensure that the children continue to benefit from their services going forward.

Labelled Clothing

Please can we ask that every item of uniform or clothing that your child brings in to school is clearly marked with their name. This will help to reduce the time that staff spend reuniting children with lost items and also the upset that children experience when they can't find their belongings. Thank you.

Cooking contributions

Cooking and the associated processes and skills are an important part of the children's learning. We ask that parents and carers make a contribution of £2.00



per week (£2.50 for those with dietary requirements) to enable the necessary ingredients to be purchased. The class staff hold this money to enable the buying of the ingredients to become part of the learning experience. For this reason we ask that the cash be sent in to school and

we do not create a parent mail option. You can pay for the term in one payment should you wish to do so.

Outside area improvements

As we continue to ensure we make the most of our outdoor areas, we are having new gym equipment installed in the main playground over the Easter break. We recognise the importance of outdoor learning and development and look forward to the children making the most of the additions during the Summer Term.

Woolgrove Live Laugh Learn Award

Congratulations to all pupils who have been working towards our Live Laugh Award! We have had some fantastic evidence sent to us by parents! This term we have awarded:

- 1 Pupil working towards BRONZE
- 2 Pupils who have achieved BRONZE
- 1 Pupil working towards SILVER
- 1 Pupil who has gained BRONZE, SILVER and is now working towards GOLD

If you would like to find out about the award please visit the award page on our school website:

<https://woolgrove.herts.sch.uk/about-us/live-laugh-learn-award/>

Summer Term Event Dates

Attached is a list of events that are scheduled for the Summer Term. This is to give you notice of upcoming activities. There will be additions as the term progresses and we will update you with further details of each of the events as they come up.

50/50 Club

The first two winners of our monthly 50/50 club draw have received their prizes. February saw Amy Miller take the cash and March's winner was Dave Kavanagh. If you wish to have the opportunity to win and haven't yet joined please contact the office and we can add you to the current members.

Autism Awareness

Today saw the school celebrate Autism Awareness Week with a colouring competition and the children and staff dressed in bright clothing. Congratulations to Red and Sphere classes who won the colouring event and to everyone who brightened the day! We raised £63.00 from contributions which we will forward to the National Autistic Society.

Return to school – No INSET Day

Unlike some Hertfordshire schools **we do not have an INSET day** at the beginning of the Summer Term and **the children return to school on Monday 17th April**. This may differ for schools that other children in your family attend.

I hope that you enjoy the upcoming break with your families and we look forward to seeing the children again for the Summer Term.

Kind Regards,

Lisa Hall,

Head Teacher