



Woolgrove School – Newsletter No. 1

September 2024



Welcome all to a brand new school year! We hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready for all the wonderful events this term will bring. A huge welcome to our new Woolgrove pupils, Parents and Carers. I am pleased to report that the children have settled well into their classes and are enjoying their new environments. Please read on for what I hope will be useful information for you all. We are currently fixing some issues with Parentmail, so we are sending out this paper version of the Newsletter in the meantime.

Communication

Communication between home and school is such an integral tool in bringing the best out of our children and ensuring you are always involved along the way. Some of the ways we communicate are as follows:

- ✓ Newsletter
- ✓ Class email:
[classname@woolgrove.herts.sch.uk]
- ✓ School Office email
[admin@woolgrove.herts.sch.uk]
- ✓ Office telephone 01462 622422
- ✓ Home/school blue book
- ✓ Marvellous Me
- ✓ Website
- ✓ Parentmail
- ✓ Bookbags



Two way communication works best, so please do read the information, get involved and make contact with the school according to your preference. The office team are a friendly crew and happy to help with any queries.

Events for the term



We are currently putting together a calendar of events for this term – these will be sent out soon.

Parents' consultation evening

Our Parents' Evenings take place later on in the Autumn Term after half term, dates to follow.



Magic Breakfast



We are excited to have teamed up with a charity called Magic Breakfast.

Their aim is that 'no child or young person should start the day too hungry to learn'. They have worked with schools for over 20 years to ensure that children and young people have access to a healthy breakfast at the start of the school day, without barrier or stigma. All children at Woolgrove are now offered a range of breakfast items when they arrive at school. There is no obligation for the children to take part, and Parents do not need to send anything in with their children as an alternative.



Snack and Milk

All Key Stage 1 (Years R, 1 and 2) children are offered a piece of fruit for snack. Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) children may bring a piece of fruit or vegetable into school, alternatively we can provide this for your child at a cost of £1.50 per week, paid via Parentmail. If you would like your child to be offered Milk in the morning at a cost of £1.50 per week, please order through Parentmail.

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Lunches/Free School Meals

Children can either choose a school lunch or bring in a healthy packed lunch from home. Please remember that we are a **NUT FREE** school. All children in Key Stage 1 receive a free school meal funded by the Government – this is called Universal Free School Meals. Children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 may be eligible for free school meals, depending on family circumstances. Please see link below:

[Free School Meals – Herts County Council](#)



If you are eligible for free school meals because of your circumstances, the school will also get additional funding, this

is called Pupil Premium. For this reason, you should apply for this scheme even if your child is in Key Stage 1. Please contact the office if you have any queries or need help with applying.

Water Bottles

Please could all children have a named water bottle that can be left in school.

After School Club

Our first after school club of this term is due to commence in September. There are 10 sessions in total which run until 4.15pm at a cost of £7.50 per session. Please look out for a slip in your book bag to sign up, or contact the school office to register your interest. Please be aware that you will need to collect your child at 4.15pm if they stay to after school club as transport will not be available.



Drop off and Collection

You will have seen some changes to the way we organise drop off/collection at either end of the school day. We have seen an uplift in the number of vehicles arriving on site this year and the safety of our children is paramount. All staff in the Transport Team are there to help a smooth transition and are wearing pink Hi-Vis so that you can identify them easily. If you are dropping/collecting your child, please be guided by the transport team and direct any questions to them. Otherwise, please call the office who will be happy to answer any questions.

Please be advised we have a strict 5mph speed limit for cars on site to keep our children (and adults) safe.



In Summary:

- The school gates will close:
Monday - Thursday 9am and 3pm
Fridays 9am and 2pm
- Blue Class Parents may park in the layby
- All other Parents will be directed by the transport team.
- Please stay in your vehicle with your child if you are parked on the playground or main carpark – the class teams will come to you.
- If you walk in with your child, or down from the overflow carpark please stand in the signposted areas for your class.

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Job Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a Midday Supervisory Assistant. If you or anyone you know would like to apply, please visit the [Teach In Herts website](#).

**WE'RE
HIRING!**

Holidays and Attendance

The Government have updated their attendance guidance with a more strict approach and I would like to make you aware of our policy – the full version can be found [here](#).

Our School aims to maximise attendance rates in order to ensure that all pupils are able to take fullest advantage of the learning experiences available to them. We believe the foundation of securing good attendance is that our school is a calm, orderly, safe, and supportive environment where our pupils will want to be and are keen and ready to learn.

If time off is needed due to exceptional circumstances, an Absence Request Form must be filled out in advance and sent to the school office for my attention. Please ensure that you check the term dates before booking any holidays.

In addition, to eliminate safeguarding risks, if we have children absent from school with no contact from home by 9.30am we will be making calls to Parents and anyone else listed as a contact for your child. If we are still unable to ascertain where your child is, we will take further action to ensure they are safe.



Contact Details

Please ensure that any changes to your contact details are shared with the school office as soon as possible. This includes phone numbers for Parents, details for additional contacts, email addresses and home addresses. It is vital that we are able to get messages through if we have to speak with you about your child for any reason, particularly in the event of an emergency.

Friends of Woolgrove (FoW)

Our first FoW meeting of this year will be held in the Meeting Room at Woolgrove, Friday 20th September at 9.30am. The Friends are an excellent way to meet other Parents/Carers, as well as raising important funds for the school. If you are able to offer your help, or require further information we would be delighted to see you at the Meeting.



Welcome!

This term we have been pleased to have Crystal, Sarah-Jane, Salima and Stacey join our Woolgrove staffing team.



Have a wonderful week.

Kind regards,

Lisa Hall, Head Teacher