

Tuesday 15th June 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,



Re: Headteacher's Update

I would firstly like to welcome you back to our last half-term for this academic year. It has been lovely to speak to so many of you on the school gates, so thank you very much for your well wishes and messages of support for my new role as Headteacher of Woodlands.

It has been a great half term with all our pupils fully back in school and I am writing to share some updates with you.

Staying safe in school

Although we now have all our pupils back on site, we are still sticking to strict Covid safety measures including staggered starts and social distancing between bubbles. I would like to thank you for respecting the measures we have put in place and would like to remind everyone to stay socially distanced outside the school gates and wear your masks if you are able to do so. We hope that by next academic year, we are able to welcome parents back in to school for events.

If you would like any more information on the safety measures we have put in place, please take a look at our Risk Assessment which is available on our school website.

Goodbye & Welcome

We are sadly going to be saying goodbye to our Data Officer, Ms Brusa at the end of this week. Ms Brusa has worked at Woodlands for over 4 years and has been crucial in improving attendance at Woodlands. She has been the friendly face that everyone sees when they first visit Woodlands and we are really going to miss her smile every morning! We would like to thank Ms Brusa for her dedication and commitment to the school and wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement. Good luck Ms Brusa. Please do come and visit!



We are pleased to introduce Ms Wojewoda who will be taking over Ms Brusa's role as our new School Administrator. Ms Wojewoda is well experienced in this role and has been working alongside Ms Brusa this week to ensure a smooth transition. We would like to welcome Ms Wojewoda to Woodlands and she will be joining Ms Chamberlain on the gate this week if you would like to say hello!

Welcome back

We would like to welcome back Ms Ashley who has returned from her maternity leave. She is currently working to support the Early Years and Key Stage 1 team and we are delighted to have her back in school.

Learning

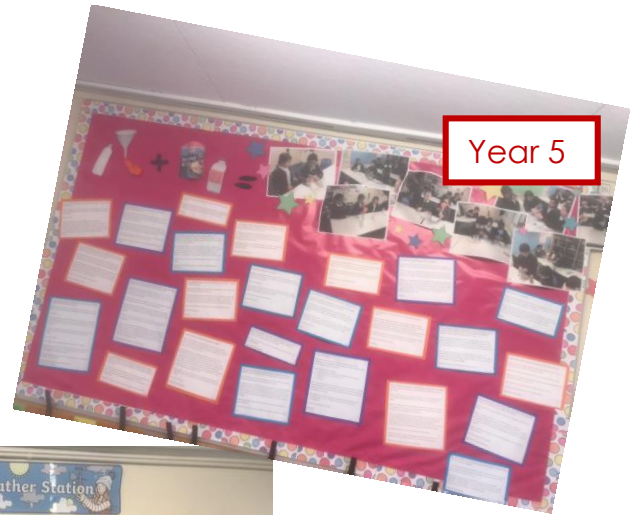
The school days have been jam packed with lots of learning since our return to face-to-face teaching. Staff have been working hard to ensure all curriculum areas are being covered and there has been a focus on catching up on any lost learning. We have had regular half-termly assessments which teachers have used to identify the gaps in learning and lessons have been tailored to support this. As a school we have utilised the Catch-up Funding provided by the government through the use of an Academic Mentor (Miss Hadj) and extra catch up interventions from Ms Mascall. We have also bought new Chromebook devices for the school and these are also being used to support catch up learning.



Children have really enjoyed being back in school and interacting with their peers and teachers in the sunshine! Teachers have been using the opportunity to teach some of their lessons in the outdoors which has really engaged children in their learning. Our weekly celebration assemblies have continued virtually via Google Meet where learning is showcased and shared. This has really supported wellbeing and boosted confidence.

Mr Jones has continued to teach weekly music lessons and is working on some special performances for the end of this year so watch this space!

We look forward to having parents back in to school to take a look at learning and attend fantastic finish days. In the meantime, please do take a look at the lovely displays of learning for each class below:



Parents' Evening

We will be having virtual Parents' Evenings during the week of 5th July where you will be able to meet your child's class teacher and discuss their learning and progress for this year. More information on how to access your child's meeting will be sent out shortly.

Sports Tournaments

Following all the lockdown restrictions, we were so pleased to finally attend our first ever face-to-face sports competition this half-term. A special well done to our Year 5 & 6 TAG Rugby team who attended and achieved a fantastic 4th place in the tournament!

A message from Mr Savage: "I am really proud of what the team achieved in their first tournament. Everyone showed really good sportsmanship and I look forward to our next tournament!"



Library

If you have recently visited our school website or Instagram page, you will have noticed we had a very special delivery! Our new library is slowly starting to come together and staff have been working really hard to organise both our new and old library books so that they are ready to be used. I would like to thank Mrs Kanval, our English Lead who has selected a great choice of new books from all areas of the curriculum which I am sure the children will enjoy for many years to come.

The new library consists of a new roof with skylights, new shelving, seating and a learning area. We are also introducing an online library software which will track all books being taken out and returned. This half-term, children will be taken in to the library to able to read books and listen to stories with their class.

In September we will be launching our finished library and children will be able to sign books out to take home. There will be more information on this in the new academic year.

Weather

All these sunny days have definitely put a smile on everyone's face and we are making the most of the outdoors. As we know, being in the sun can be dangerous if we are not protected. Please can all parents and carers ensure that children bring a water bottle to school every day. Hats are also welcome in school and sun screen should be put on prior to coming to school. Children wearing sunglasses to school will be asked to put them away for the rest of the day to prevent breakages and loss. We recommend hats for eye protection.

I look forward to sharing more very soon. Please remember to look out for our newsletter which will be sent out at the end of term with all the exciting things that have been happening this half-term.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mrs Magan.

Mrs Magan
Headteacher