



# Woodsetts Primary School



[www.woodsettsprimary.co.uk](http://www.woodsettsprimary.co.uk)

January 2015

*To bring inspiration and innovation to every child through highly ambitious teaching and learning which challenges young minds to "Reach for the Stars"*

## Welcome Back

### Christmas Festivities

Many thanks once again to all parents, staff and the wider community who gave up their time to support the Christmas festivities in school. The community worked very hard to ensure the children enjoyed a magical and memorable Christmas. The nativity plays (including FS2 taking part in the 'live' nativity at Chatsworth) were all well attended and feedback was most supportive. The costumes were delightful - many thanks to everyone involved who enabled the children to 'shine.' Please see next page for a breakdown of fundraising we achieved!!! Thank you to the PTA and the staff who all worked hard to secure a very successful Christmas Fayre. Each class was tasked with running an enterprise project, the idea was to make a profit to support funding a "super visit" later in the year. The top class with fantastic business skills was Year 5 Ms Akhtar—well done to all!! The Office team made a great profit of £76.25 too—this was used to buy the Christmas Lunch decorations and was also put towards the KS2 Free Christmas Lunch to ensure all children benefited from a fantastic lunch provided by our kitchen staff—thank you. We would like to also thank one of our generous parents who supplied a number of balloons to decorate the tables.

If any parent can suggest/support fundraising events with surplus stock from their own business we would be more than happy to hear from you in anticipation of our summer fayre!

### Community Cohesion

Well done to some of our school choir members, who sang at Athorpe Lodge in Dinnington. Thanks to Mr Furnival for supporting this event. A number of residents commented on how beautifully the children sang. We always welcome new children to join our school choir (parents are invited too!) We wish all our members the best of luck on the 23rd January when they represent our school at the Young Voices Concert at the Motorpoint Arena in Sheffield. If you are interested in joining please contact Miss Kent. The club is run after school every Thursday 3.30-4.30 and is free of charge.

### Assemblies and Celebrating Success

Our thanks go to the many parents who supported assemblies last term with their specific skills and knowledge. We actively encourage the wider community to support the education of our children with their skills and subject knowledge. Visitors this term have included Mr Butler who led an assembly about Richard III; Mr Bell who led assembly on the rewards of taking part in a triathlon; 'Open the book' (the local church group) continue to dramatise stories from the bible to the children and Mr Blackwell, who (accompanied by some former pupils) spoke to the children about life at Dinnington Secondary School. If any parent wishes to support future assemblies please contact the school office or Ms Akhtar, our School Council leader ([wopakhtar@rgfl.org](mailto:wopakhtar@rgfl.org)). The School Council lead Friday's special mention assembly. We actively encourage the children to bring trophies, photographs and memorabilia to celebrate out of school achievements. Please feel free to send your child to school with any 'news' that deserves recognition.

### Parent helpers

A group of parents now meet at school every Friday morning 8.45-12pm to support with the numerous jobs that need regular maintenance in school such as cutting, laminating and mounting work. We really appreciate the work they do and would welcome more volunteers to school. If you can help please contact the office. Tea, coffee, biscuits and friendly faces all provided!

### Governors

The Governing Body is the school's critical friend. Parent governors support the monthly parent forum meeting. Our aim is to constantly work with parents to provide the best service we can to all our stakeholders. We very much welcome parental suggestions—meeting dates are the first Wednesday of each month, at 2.30pm. Please come along and share your thoughts. If you would like to contact the governing body, contact information is on the school website.

Thank you for your continued support, suggestions and ideas to make us the very best school for our community. Let's hope 2015 brings peace, success and happiness to all.

'Reach for the Stars'

## Fundraising

Thank you for your continued support with fundraising during last half term. We have made a number of achievements:

- ◆ **Photo Commission** in September raised **£322.58**—any feedback is welcomed in the office regarding the photos in readiness for organising next year's photographer.
- ◆ **Children in Need** donations totalled **£165**
- ◆ **Christmas fundraising:**

PTA Fayre raised **£353.82**—Discussions with School Council are on-going to decide which items to purchase.

School Enterprising totalled **£295.54** profit (which included Office £76.25, Year 5 £55.80, Year 1 £53.03, Year 4 £48.07, Year 3 £31.90, Year 2 £17.90, FS £11.50, Year 6 £1.49)

Raffle at Christmas productions **£295.80** profit. Unclaimed prizes White 416-420, White 261-265, White 641-645

Christmas themed non-uniform day raised **£55.05**
- ◆ **Big Lottery Fund** Mrs Ousley recently placed a bid and was successful in gaining a £9,990 grant from the Big Lottery Fund. This was to develop our Inventive & Active Outdoor area. Children now have a wonderful new double sided traversing wall, 2 wigwam tents to sit in, an enclosed sand pit and a huge story chair surrounded with toadstools and benches! The opening of this will follow shortly, a timetable will be issued for classes to ensure everyone has access during lunch & break times as well as the after school club when the weather picks up. Please support us in maintaining the high quality of the equipment by ensuring children refrain from standing / using the equipment unsupervised, as well as the safety aspect for them.

## Kids Club—contact Georgena 07593149134 (7.30-8.45am and 3.30-6pm)

Thank you to all the children who attend, it was lovely to see Christmas cards sent to staff from you all. A polite reminder to parents to please collect their child no later than 6pm. Late Collection Charges are detailed within the Kids Club Policy document and will be implemented where necessary. Many thanks to those who already co-operate. Please note the club is currently rather busy after school therefore set sessions are preferred and we may not be able to facilitate late notification. Please contact the mobile number as soon as possible if you need to cancel. If regular cancellations occur, the place may be withdrawn and offered to other children on the waiting list.

## School Office

The office is open daily 8.30-4.30pm. Mrs Ousley & Mrs Boden-Hook are now also supporting at Anston Brook therefore there may be occasions when Mrs Conlon is on her own and the office is busy. Thank you for your patience. If you need to telephone the school outside office hours, please leave a message. A polite reminder that all monies/forms are to be handed into the Class teacher (not the office) in a named envelope.

## Parking

We try to work together with our immediate neighbours and many have asked that we remind parents/carers to avoid parking across or on the 'edge' of driveways. It is important that the school driveway and zigzag lined area remains clear for easy access to the site. Delivery drivers often struggle to access our site as well as the school bus who regularly report problems with parked cars, especially on the bend onto Wellfield Crescent. Poor parking and a lack of consideration for others causes the school bus children to be late through no fault of their own. If at all possible, please walk to school and leave the car at home. If you need to carry on your journey from school please park at the Butchers Arms Pub and walk the short distance. We understand the parking difficulties but we would appreciate your co-operation with this matter. You will see a new sign outside the school gate reminding you to park safely. There is also a real possibility that Rotherham Council's Mobile CCTV vehicle will visit and fines will be issued.

## School Council

The committee is now established in school. Shortly the members will be wearing burgundy jumpers with the school logo and "Reach for the stars" on the reverse so everyone will identify them. Their first project is a Healthy Eating campaign.

## PE

Unfortunately Mr Steadman is currently on sick leave, recovering from a knee operation. The surgery was unfortunately postponed and has resulted in him being away from school longer than anticipated. We wish him a speedy recovery and he will be back with us in a few weeks. Further updates on After School Clubs will follow upon his return. The termly PE "Gold Band" celebration was held in November. The lucky children attended New York Stadium to watch England U19s v Italy with an impressive 3-0 win. Thanks to Mrs Ousley who also co-ordinated the sale of additional tickets for our families, we sold over 100 tickets.

### **Curriculum news**

Please see the school website for the latest curriculum news. Your child will soon receive their "Magic Moments" book. This contains various activities children will need to achieve during their time at school. Each class has a skill/activity/experience to enjoy which is linked to the current topic. To support their experience they will stick photographs, draw pictures, take quotes etc. within their own personal book. We hope parents will support and engage with the activities. This book will follow your child through their school journey with us. During the Year 6 Leaver's Ceremony, the Chair of Governors will present the book as a memento of their time with us.

### **National government tests**

Advanced notice for current Y1 children who will be in Y2 in September 2015 - KS1 assessments will take place in May 2016. These KS1 assessments have always had a degree of flexibility, but now the dates have been determined by the government, it is important for children to be in school during this time.  
W/c 9 May 2016 - Y1 Phonic Screening Check (for our current FS2 children)  
W/c 13 June 2016 - KS2 tests (for our current Y5 children)

### **English and Maths**

Children in Y6 are now tested at a level expected of an average 14 year old. To support children's understanding of maths and literacy skills at this higher level we are looking for volunteers who are competent in these subjects to run two after school clubs. If you can help or know someone who can, then please contact the school office. All support volunteers will need a DBS check prior to starting. The new curriculum encourages the teaching and reciting of poetry. To support this educational move please share your favourite poems and rhymes with your children and send them into school - we will use them to make a whole school poetry book.

### **Historical and geographical artefact**

To support the curriculum and our school museum, we would welcome any donations of historical and geographical artefacts, pictures, photographs etc. for the children to use in their research about the past and the world.

### **Reading & the library bus**

We are grateful to all parents who support their children to regularly complete their homework—including reading three times a week. Reading is a skill for life. Recent test results show that children who regularly read at home are generally exceeding their age related reading—thank you to you all. Please remember that every child has a password in their home school diary for the school e-book 'bug club' scheme. All children can access the book they are reading in their class through this website scheme. To encourage reading we have secured weekly visits by the council's library bus. If you would like your child to access this service then please ensure a library form has been completed. Please note, books can be returned via school to the mobile library weekly, as each class takes their turn to visit or you can return these direct to the local library.

### **Parents evening / achievement for all meetings**

The Senior Team analyse termly test results in order to implement support strategies for those children not achieving their full potential. We use a strategy called 'Achievement for All' (Miss Richardson, Y1 teacher is the project leader). Some parents will be invited by letter to attend an in-depth strategy meeting to support your child to 'catch up'. If you are invited to one of these meetings it is in strict confidence. We trust you will value this detailed conversation to support your child in partnership between home and school. The project will run for six weeks.

### **If your Child is Ill**

If your child is ill please telephone the school office and leave a message on the answer machine. Once the registers have been taken, if we have not been notified of the reason for your child's absence, school will in accordance with safeguarding procedures, telephone to find out why your child is not here. Any unauthorised absences are subject to scrutiny by the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) who visits the school every two weeks to monitor school attendance. Children with sickness need to remain off school for 48hrs after the last incident of sickness.

### **Attendance and Exceptional Leave of Absence**

Thank you for ensuring that your child is in school and on time. Our overall attendance for last year was 96.4%. Well done to all those achieving 100%. Our target for this academic year is 95.5% and we are currently achieving this—well done! To support the 8.45am start, children should be in their class line for 8.40am to ensure a prompt start. The bells are rung at this time. We must have an attendance policy in place in order to keep all children safe. Please support us all by showing respect to one another when discussing punctuality. Children arriving after 8.50am are marked as late. If the classroom doors are closed, all children MUST report via reception to ensure they are registered and their lunch option is recorded. If you are planning a holiday during term time please complete an Exceptional Leave of Absence form available in Reception. Even if the leave of absence is not authorised, for safeguarding reasons we need to know why children are not at school. If this form is not received we will contact you. If we do not make contact, children will be reported to the Local Authority as Missing in Education.

### **Appropriate Clothing**

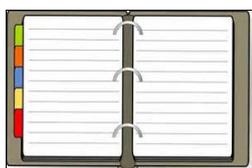
Our children always look smart, and our school uniform encourages a sense of unity and belonging. Thank you for your positive response to our recent request for children to wear sensible black footwear in school, this is very much appreciated.

### Pupil Premium & Adopted from Care-Pupil Premium

Further to earlier communications, we politely ask any parents who maybe eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) to apply via the Local Authority (LA). If you do this, it means the Government will allocate additional funding to school in the form of 'Pupil Premium Funding'. Your information will remain confidential. As I am sure you will agree the children at our school can only benefit if we are able to attract additional funding not just a free school meal. Even if you apply and your child chooses to bring home school sandwiches they will still benefit from the additional funding for resources and staffing in school. The deadline for the funding of the Pupil Premium for April 2015 is Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January so please apply as soon as possible this can be completed online via Rotherham Council's website. Applications can be made throughout the year.

Last year the government introduced Pupil Premium **for children adopted from care, or who left care under a Special Guardianship Order on or after 30 December 2005**. Schools can also claim the Pupil Premium for children who left care under a Residence Order on or after 14 October 1991. The Pupil Premium is designed to help schools raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap with their peers. It is paid to schools in respect of disadvantaged pupils in Reception to Year 11. The Government has extended the coverage of the Pupil Premium in recognition of the traumatic experiences many adopted children have endured in their early lives and a realisation that their needs do not change overnight. To enable the school to claim the Pupil Premium, you will need to inform us about your child and provide supporting evidence, for example, show the school the original Adoption (Court) Order. **You will need to self-declare before 15th January 2015 which is the date schools complete the annual School Census.**

## Diary Dates



**15<sup>th</sup> January** Library Bus—year 5 11.15-12pm  
School Council members meeting 3:30-4:30pm

**22<sup>nd</sup> January** Library Bus—year 6 11.15-12pm

**29<sup>th</sup> January** Library Bus—year 1 11.15-12pm  
School Council members meeting 3:30-4:30pm

**28<sup>th</sup> January** PTA Meeting at The Butchers Arms 6.30pm all welcome

**4<sup>th</sup> February** Parent Forum—Kids Club @ 2.30pm. Drop in to meet Miss Plant and discuss any ideas or concerns.

**5<sup>th</sup> February** Library Bus—year 2 11.15-12pm

**6<sup>th</sup> February** Wear Red to School & support British Heart Foundation fundraising

**12<sup>th</sup> February** Library Bus—year 3 11.15-12pm  
PTA School Disco (after school)

**4<sup>th</sup> March** Parent Forum—Kids Club @ 2.30pm



## Class Trips this Half term

**Year 2, EIS**—Friday 9th January—Multi Skills Festival (See detailed letter. Arrive @ school for 8.15am)

**School Choir, Young Voices**—Friday 23rd January—Children leaving school at lunchtime for rehearsals, performance in the evening at Sheffield Motorpoint Arena—(see detailed letter for more information)

**Last day of term is Friday 13th February—school closes at 3:30pm**

**Half term Monday 16th until Friday 20th February School opens Monday 23rd February**