



# Woodsetts Primary School

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

April 2015

*"To inspire and innovate creative learners to be ambitious in all the challenges set before them".*

## Welcome Back

Welcome back. We hope you have all enjoyed a fabulous Easter break and the lovely Spring sunshine. New staff have joined the team this term. Mr Brightman has moved for internal promotion from Anston Brook to Woodsetts and will teach Year 4. Miss Shepherd will teach Year 2 until the end of this Summer term supported by a supply teacher. Miss Matthews remains off work poorly.

### PTA

A big "Thank You" to the PTA and staff who gave up their free time to organise and manage the Valentine's Disco and Easter Egg Hunt. (The Easter bonnets that you all made at home were wonderful too! What creative people you are.) A super Easter time was enjoyed by all.

The PTA do a fabulous job raising money for school funds. They are always in desperate need of some more support and would welcome new members - please see the school website and click onto their link if you would like to join them. Many current members have children in KS2 who will soon be moving on to new schools. We need some more parents with children in FS and KS1 to join the PTA if their wonderful fundraising events are to be continued. Come and join in—make new friends and support the wider community.

### Polite Reminder

At the end of school discos, KS2 children must be collected by a responsible adult. (A responsible adult must remain with FS and KS1 children throughout the duration of the disco). Please enter by the front door and leave via the community room back door—this helps us to ensure all the children are safe. Parents/Carers are politely requested to collect children on time—staff and PTA members have often worked a 12 hour day on disco nights and it is only reasonable that children are collected promptly. Thank you for your understanding.

### Music

The school's vision has always been for all children to have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument for pleasure. We have a dedicated music room within school for children to have group and 1:1 music tuition. If your child would like to learn to play a musical instrument, we have a variety of visiting music teachers. Please see the school website or call in at the office for more details. This year, some of the children are playing their instruments as musical accompaniment to the rest of the school as they enter the hall for daily assembly. If you would like your child to take part in the initiative, please let us know.

We have recently moved a piano in the Foundation Stage classroom. We would warmly welcome any volunteer from the community who could play the piano for a weekly singing lesson with FS children. Music, rhyme and rhythm all support learning to speak, read and write. If you know someone who would be able to help support us, please inform the office.

Our school is taking part in the BBC "10 Pieces" programme (see website for more information). Miss Kent leads the weekly school choir group, and the numbers of children are growing. If your child would like to join them, please contact Miss Kent.

### Governors

We welcome Liam Kay from Dinnington Comprehensive PE department to our governing body as Sports Fund Coordinator. If you are interested in becoming a school governor and want to find out more about the role please follow the Ofsted link on their site (school governance) or speak to Mr Simon Tweed (Chair) to find out more about their role. Please ask at the school office for contact details.

### SATs Time Again!

You will appreciate that as we approach SATs (Government national tests) we strongly encourage parental support for all the children to have early nights, positive motivation and regular punctual attendance. A morning breakfast to stimulate mind, body and soul, together with drinking plenty of water will all help prepare children to achieve their very best outcomes as they move into the next Key Stage following the Summer. SATs results are used by the next year group / school to assess the children and set GCSE targets. They are VERY IMPORTANT in a child's educational journey. They map out your child's educational future.

If your child is ill during SATs week (Monday 11th—15th May 2015) you must inform the school immediately. SATs can only be taken on the official day for which they are nationally set. Holidays taken during this time are strictly forbidden. Fines and court orders will be issued to any parent who takes their child on holiday during this vital period in their primary education.

During this term, Year 1 also take part in the national phonic screening test (week commencing 15th June 2015) and Year 2 will sit their SAT tests throughout the month of May. Again, good attendance is vital during this period. Please refer to your child's class newsletter for further ideas to support.

Good luck everyone!

### [Channel 4 - George Clark Small Spaces Programme](#)

In a bid to secure a converted double decker bus or a railway carriage as an outside classroom/ common room, the school council have written to Channel 4 to ask if George Clark's programme can help us! We have seen several wonderful examples on eBay (converted buses, boats and trains) at a cost of £10,000. We need the community to help us source the funding- can you help? The children would love a 'unique ' weather proof space outside. If you can help/sponsor us/ donate some funding from your business we would love to hear from you.

### [The Writing Hub](#)

Over the Easter holiday, a wonderful team of dedicated sixth form students from Dinnington Comprehensive school have supported Mrs Walker and Mrs Smith to change what was the original KS1 dining hall into a Writing Hub. Mr Price has also worked tirelessly over Easter painting the room and it has had a nice new carpet -a total revamp! Areas include a news room, story making centre, poetry corner and a 'take it apart/ write some instructions how to put it together again' workshop. All have been created around many props to support children to get creative with their writing. The rationale behind the Writing Hub is to encourage the children to write for a purpose through their personal directive and choice- not the class topic or teacher led. A real post box, a 'kindle' beanbag area, ipod music and numerous new books have been ordered, purchased, recycled and donated to create this wonderful area. We even have a wardrobe from Narnia! Some parents and the PTA have also generously supported the cost of some of the items and sent in picture frames to create 'WOW ' instant displays , whilst other parents have previously volunteered to paint and create new props to support the project. If anyone else can donate dressing up clothes or simple gadgets that children can disassemble / reassemble to help them write/ follow instructions we would be most grateful.

The room was previously used for parents to access the hall for productions etc.

### [Transition](#)

We will inform you about transition arrangements for September in the next newsletter. This year, due to the Y6 children going to so many different secondary schools, we will not move the whole school up 3 weeks before the Summer, as we have done in previous years. However, we do recognise that clear transition is vital to every child's well being . To facilitate this, we will be offering a variety of opportunities before the Summer break for children and their families to meet their new teacher and spend time in their new classrooms.

### [ICT news](#)

Please log onto the school's website to follow your child's 'live' learning journey. You can now also follow us on Twitter— follow the link on our website homepage. You will see for example how Rotherham United opened our new play area- funded by a lottery grant which was applied for by Mrs Ousley our Business Manager.

### [Curriculum news](#)

Foundation Stage will be studying 'Mini Beasts' this term and will make a 'beast hotel'. Y1 will continue their topic on Katy Morag, and also take a trip to the seaside. Y2 are studying 'Where the Wild things are' and will be creating their own habitat for bugs to live.

This term KS2 will once again take part in the Rotherham Festival. Y3 will participate in a Shakespeare play, The Tempest. Parents will be invited to watch the final performance at Magna. Y4 will spend much of their time preparing their entry for the local authority film making festival - the Roscars. Y5 will take part in 'Picture This' where they will study 'The Queen of Sheba' painting. Their own artwork will be displayed at the New York Stadium in Rotherham.

### [Communication](#)

This term, we will continue to randomly select a small group of parents through the text message service and invite them to meet with the Headteacher over a cup of tea. The 'afternoon tea' slot has proved a useful opportunity for parents to share their views, thoughts and ideas to improve the school - look out for your invite this term.

Miss Plant also runs a monthly Parent Forum. Please come and join her to share your views and ideas. (Please see the attached diary page for dates and times).

Issues raised this term:

Q—Why do girls not do as well as boys in their SAT maths papers?

A— Each year it varies, however the school tracks and targets all children during the academic year. We are aware that some girls choose not to readily involve themselves in the Q&A parts of maths lessons and as a school we adopt several classroom management strategies to help them improve their self confidence. We do encourage girls to take part in maths challenges every Friday and celebrate roles for girls within the workplace that involve maths eg the Rolls- Royce STEM project that we annually participate in (thanks to a loyal and dedicated parent). We continually encourage all the children to aim high and believe in themselves. Parents can support at home with basic number skills (learning times tables up to 12) and visual strategies to support mathematical understanding. We use a visual tool called Numicon, which can also be purchased for home use too. It can be used from FS to Y6 and has excellent results. If you are interested, Google their website.

Q— I would like to see inside my child's classroom regularly and have time to ask the teacher brief questions about my child's learning, behaviour etc.

A— We want you to too! Following SATs and Spring Bank holiday we will open school up every Friday morning for all parents to share in their child's learning. We will also begin our annual class assemblies.

Q—We would welcome more after school activities

A— Parents will appreciate that teachers' primary role is to educate their class, which often involves marking at least 60 books daily after school. This is time consuming. Whilst some staff do choose to run after school clubs, we cannot enforce this as a school expectation. However Mr Steadman is paid to run after school sports clubs using money provided by the government from a specially funded PE grant. This money is intended to educate young people about the benefits of sport to personal health and well being. Please read Mr Steadman's webpage to find out what's on!

If any parent or carer has an educational or sporting talent which could enrich the curriculum and they would like to share this through an after school club, please call into the office. We would love to find someone in the community who could run a craft club (sewing and knitting) history club, chess, gardening, etc. It would be brilliant if we could find a parent to lead a 'Bake Off' club (parent and child working as a team against others). If you can help with any of these things, then please pop in!

Many parents have indicated a willingness to pay someone to lead a club. A local Dinnington shop owner has said she is willing to run a sewing and crochet club for parents and children—she will provide the sewing machines but there would be a cost. If you are interested (we need at least ten people to make it viable) please let the office know.

Q— How can I help in school?

A—We embrace parental support for the school, both within classrooms and through general administrative jobs eg photocopying, making and laminating resources, display preparation etc. (There are always lots of jobs to do in schools and many hands make light work!) A parent group meet every Friday morning in the resource room (tea, coffee and biscuits are available as well as the opportunity to meet new friends!) If you can spare some time on a Friday morning please feel free to join them at 9.00 am. For confidentiality reasons, it is school policy that if a parent regularly supports school it should not be in their own child's classroom.

Q—Can you recommend anything I can do/purchase etc to support my child at home?

A— Our school website has lots of ideas for home learning support, eg links to Espresso, 1:1 tutorials and BBC links, -all these programmes aim to make learning fun and creative. We also have a school book shop in the main entrance should parents want to purchase any test books, etc.

Q— I do not agree with red cards in FS

A—This question was placed before the Governing Body, as it involves school policy. Following discussion, governors felt it was important to keep a simple whole school behaviour policy approach. The school however will work closely with parents (in a supportive mission) to improve home/school transition and work with families to support school expectations for good behaviour. It was decided that whilst red cards might be issued in FS, Newday points will NOT be deducted during the first two terms of starting school to allow very young children the opportunity to develop and understand the life rules of being a good citizen. The home school diary for the next academic year will be amended to reflect this.

### **PE News**

Rotherham United Community Sports Trust will continue to run an after school football club but this half term it will be for children in KS1. This will run for 5 weeks, on Mondays (3.30pm – 4.30pm).

The After School Clubs run by Mr Steadman will resume next week for KS2 and FS. The focus for KS2 will be on orienteering and the focus for FS will be on multi skills. If interested, please complete the reply slip or see Mr Steadman.

### **South Yorkshire Cross Country Finals**

Well done to Charlie, Oliver and George from Year 6 who took part in the South Yorkshire Schools cross country finals at Cannon Hall. All three boys did extremely well and have done themselves and our school proud.

### **EIS**

It is that time of year again when we visit the EIS for our annual sports day. This year will run very much like last year. All running races will take place in the morning with children from Woodsetts and Anston Brook competing together. After the final races have taken place there will be a medal presentation. Following lunch, the children will take part in six different sports activities with their own class moving around the arena until they have completed all six: these will range from parachute games, long jump, hurdles and much more. All parents, carers and grandparents are very welcome to come and join in the fun!!!

### **PE Gold Band trip**

Congratulations to those children in KS2 who took part in last term's PE gold band visit. As a special treat these children were rewarded with a tour around the Rotherham United Football Stadium. The children excelled themselves in PE last term, they worked extremely well, supported and encouraged others, showed great sportsmanship, always giving their best efforts and always remembering their PE kits. They looked around the whole stadium and had the opportunity to see areas the public wouldn't usually have access to. They went into the hospitality area, the players bar, the away and home changing rooms, walked down the tunnel and sat in the manager's dug outs on the side of the pitch. The children had a fantastic afternoon.

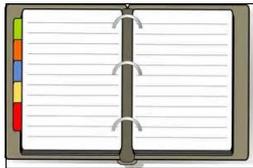
### **Fundraising News**

We have had some excellent fundraising events last term, with the children supporting Red Nose day by "making their face funny for money" and also buying red noses and cakes. This raised £144 for the charity. The raffle for Mother's Day assembly raised £103 for school funds. Thank you for all your generous contributions.

Thank you as always for your community support.

*Reach for the stars*

## Diary Dates



<b>15th April</b>	Parent Forum—Kids Club @ 2.30pm. Drop in to meet Miss Plant and discuss any ideas or concerns.
<b>20th April</b>	Fire fighters bag collection—any unwanted items of clothing, please bring to school.
<b>24th April</b>	EIS Sports Day—whole school event—arrive at school by 8.20am promptly, or if parent transporting to arrive at EIS by 9.30am
<b>29th April</b>	Y1 Phonics screening parents' evening (4.30—5.00pm in Y1 classroom)
<b>1st May</b>	FS1 & FS2 Parent / Carer Assembly at 9am in the Hall—Share and celebrate our achievements
<b>4th May</b>	May Day Bank Holiday—SCHOOL CLOSED TODAY
<b>6th May</b>	Parent Forum—Kids Club @ 2.30pm. Drop in to meet Miss Plant and discuss any ideas or concerns
<b>7th May</b>	Class Group Photographs
<b>8th May</b>	Y1 Parent / Carer Assembly at 9am in the Hall—Share and celebrate our achievements
	70th Anniversary VE Day celebrations—more details to follow
<b>11th May</b>	Y6 SATs Week—Monday 11th May until Friday 15th May
<b>15th May</b>	Y2 Parent / Carer Assembly at 9am—Share and celebrate our achievements
<b>18th May</b>	Y6 Parent meeting for Residential trip –5pm in Y6 classroom
<b>19th May</b>	Careers Day—see website for details
<b>21st May</b>	PTA Disco—more information to follow
<b>22nd May</b>	Y3 Parent / Carer Assembly at 9am in the Hall—Share and celebrate our achievements
	Last Day of term—School ends at 3.30pm
<b>1st June</b>	Back to School
	Healthy Eating Week—see website for details
<b>3rd June</b>	Parent Forum—Kids Club @ 2.30pm. Drop in to meet Miss Plant and discuss any ideas or concerns.
<b>26th June</b>	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR CHILDREN—Inset Day—Staff training



Healthy Schools

## After School Clubs (3.30-4.30pm)

<b>Monday</b>	Football for Y1, Y2 & Y3— Rotherham United Community Trust — (20th April—18th May)
<b>Tuesday</b>	Y5 & Y6—Sports Club (Orienteering) - (21st April—19th May)
<b>Wednesday</b>	FS1 & FS2—Sports Club (Multi skills) - (22nd April—20th May)
<b>Thursday</b>	After School Choir (23rd April onwards)
	Cookery Club for FS1 & FS2 -parent / carer to attend (23rd April—21st May)
	Y3 & Y4—Sports Club (Orienteering) - (23rd April—21st May)
	Y5 Football skills & games (Mr Newton) - (23rd April—21st May)

## Class Trips & Topics this Half term

Year 1—	Tuesday 21st April—Living Seas Centre, Flamborough (leaving school @ 7.45am) - Katy Morag topic
Year 2—	Friday 12th June—Knaresborough Castle—Castles and Knights topic
Year 4—	Friday 1st May—Magna, Rotherham—Green Peace topic
Year 5—	Wednesday 6th May—Quarry Bank Mill (letter to follow) - Industrial Revolution topic
Year 6—	Wednesday 3rd—Friday 6th June—Residential trip following SATs

School is CLOSED for May Day—4th May 2015

Last day of term is Friday 22nd May 2015 —school closes at 3:30pm

Half term Monday 25th May until Friday 29th May. School opens Monday 1st June 2015