

A word from Mrs Milner

Friday 4th November 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

I sincerely hope that children had a restful half term break and that you also managed to spend some quality time with them. It is now 'back to business' and I am pleased to report that all children settled well into their learning after the break. This week, our class teachers had the pleasure to feed back to you regarding the progress your children have made this academic year to date. I am always interested to know your views, so please let me know if there is anything that we need to do to make our parent / teacher meetings more productive. Meetings are scheduled for 10 minutes, which is consistent with other primary schools. Autumn term meetings are designed to give parents an opportunity to learn about their child's emotional and social development i.e., how well they have settled into the academic year and give parents/carers an opportunity to see their English and Maths work books. It is also a great opportunity for our teachers to get to know you and to learn more about your child, as parents are always the proverbial "first teachers".

Unfortunately, I have to share with you some sad news. Both Mrs Drake and Mr Ahmed will be leaving the school at the end of this term. They have both decided on a career change, and will be joining Stony Dean School, a secondary school for children with SEN (EHCP), to teach English and Humanities respectively. Both Mrs Drake and Mr Ahmed have been with us for a long time, as they both trained with us as Newly Qualified Teachers. Their presence will be missed. Whilst recruiting during an autumn term can be challenging for schools, please be assured that we are already advertising for the positions and hope to hold interviews later this month. I will, obviously, keep you fully informed. We wish Mrs Drake and Mr Ahmed all the best in this new career path.

Please can I take this opportunity after this half term break, to remind parents that the office must have up to date telephone numbers for contacts who can quickly get to the school if required. If you recently changed your phone number or job -please let our office know. May I also suggest that you save our office phone number (01494 725 897) in your mobile phone as a contact so, in case of emergency, you will know that you are being called by the school. We are aware that the number comes up as a High Wycombe dialling code, if you have not saved the number.

Mrs Harrison and I, together with our Chair of Governors, were privileged to attend a Leadership Conference on Thursday which, amongst other agenda items, celebrated five years of ODBST Multi Academy Trust. As a MAT, the ODBST is fully committed to ensure that all pupils flourish and achieve, and I am very proud that our school is part of such a dynamic and successful organisation.

Our running track is now complete and some of the children have already been able to be outside enjoying it (when they were able to find a break in the weather). We will let you know the date for our 'official' opening and I sincerely hope that as many parents as possible will be able to join us celebrating this wonderful new facility for our pupils.



Many thanks to all parents/ carers and children for respecting our request relating to our 'winter' uniform policy. It is always so lovely to see all children looking so smart. Just a gentle nudge to our girls -please wear a school tie if you are wearing a white shirt and a grey pinafore dress. Many thanks for your cooperation.

I am looking forward to this half term and, as always, we have many exciting learning and extracurricular activities planned for your children. I know it is going to be an absolutely fantastic half term -leading up to Christmas festivities.

With my warmest wishes

Dorota Milner, Headteacher

Poppies for Remembrance Day

Our Yr 6 children will be taking the poppies around school ahead of Remembrance Day on 11th November. If you child would like one, they can bring in some money from Monday next week. We would suggest that it is in a sealed envelope with their name on in case it falls out of their pocket.



Dates for your diary

Date	Event
12.11.22	PTA Quiz Night (timings tbc)
16.11.22	Bag2School (all bags of clothing to be in school by 9am)
17.11.22	PTA Disco (parents need to book places on Classlist—flyer contained in this newsletter)
18.11.22	Children in Need Charity Day (more details to follow)
19.11.22	Cross Country Event at Hervines Park
21.11.22	Yr4 Benchball festival at The Amersham School
23.11.22	Yr6—School Nursing Team in School for Height & Weight Checks Yr5 Handball festival at The Amersham School
24.11.22	Yr6 Visit to Natural History Museum
29.11.22	School Nursing Team in school for children's 'flu vaccinations
1.12.22	Deadline for entries for Young Artist Competition
12.12.22	Yr3 watching St George's Nativity Play
13.12.22	Rocksteady Concert @10am Yr4 Christmas performance (matinee and evening performances)
14.12.22	Yr4 Ancient Greek Day Christmas Lunch (book via Parent Pay)
15.12.22	Christmas Carols at St Michael's Church (All School)
16.12.22	Christmas Jumper Day PTA Christmas Cheer event (afterschool)
End of Term	Break up at 1.30pm on Tuesday 20th December 2022. Return to school Thursday 5th January 2023.
20.3.22-24.3.22	Yr6 Residential
17.6.22	Advance notice!! PTA Summer Fair—SAVE THE DATE

House Point Totals

	Maple	Willow	Elm	Cedar
This Week	202	166	176	204
Since Start of Term	1388	1467	1156	1360
	Maple	Willow	Elm	Cedar

Safeguarding

As always, we are trying hard to educate parents regarding the latest Internet platforms, where they may present potential risk to the children. Please find below the latest three.

What parents need to know about Amigo

Amigo is a social platform which purports to connect strangers from around the world – and, with built-in translation software, it reduces the expected language barriers. Focusing heavily on one-to-one chat, video calls and live streams, Amigo encourages its users to build up online relationships to unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls: essentially, the more that people chat, the more features become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

Please click [HERE](#) to access Amigo poster.

What parents need to know about Overwatch2

A long-awaited sequel to 2016's successful Overwatch, this is a futuristic shooting game with a focus on teamwork and strategy which gives it an extra dimension to the majority of titles in the genre. Its cast of characters is diverse and memorable, while there's a definite (and rewarding) learning curve to players improving their skill. Created by established developers Blizzard Entertainment, Overwatch 2 is free to play, with an emphasis on competitive multiplayer action – meaning that children may want to play the game even more simply because their friends have it. In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as violent gameplay, in-game purchases and voice chat.

Please click [HERE](#) to access Overwatch poster.

What parents need to know about Sedit

Sedit is an add-on to Snapchat, not a standalone app: it requires users to have an active Snapchat account, which they then connect to Sedit. It's important that trusted adults realise, therefore, that any risks associated with Snapchat also affect children using Sedit. Within the app, people play question games like 'Truth or Dare' and 'Never Have I Ever': users select a question to share on their Snapchat story for their friends to reply to. All responses are anonymous, although – for paying subscribers – Sedit reveals hints about who sent which messages. In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as bullying, harassment and grooming.

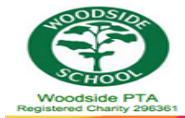
Please click [HERE](#) to access Sedit poster.

Attendance

I am sure that like us, you as parents and carers realise the importance of attendance and punctuality. At Woodside Junior School our staff continue to work hard to try to raise attendance levels and to reduce instances of lateness. There is a lot of evidence to show that good attendance plays a vital role in helping your child to achieve and accomplish. Regular school attendance is not only vital for children's academic performance but also vital in preparation for adult life. How can you, as parents and carers, help your child attend school regularly? Some tips from us below:

- Talk to your child about school.
- Take a positive interest in your child's work, including homework.
- Make sure your child understands why school is important.
- Get everything ready for school the night before.
- Arrange medical/dental appointments before or after school or during the school holidays.
- Take holidays during school holidays and not during term time.
- Only grant days at home for genuine illness. Use the NHS, "[is my child too ill for school](#)" advice website if you are not sure.

From our PTA



**BUY YOUR TICKETS
ON CLASSLIST!**

**WWW.CLASSLIST.COM & SEARCH
FOR WOODSIDE JUNIOR SCHOOL**

SCHOOL DISCO!

THURSDAY 17TH NOVEMBER
YRS 3&4 - 4.00 TO 5.00PM
YRS 5&6 - 5.30 TO 6.30PM

**£5 per ticket, buy on Classlist:
includes bottomless squash, snack &
disco gift (no cash needed)**

**Wear your best disco outfit, see you
in the School Hall!!**

*FTF Yrs 3&4: children will be taken to the disco, and
returned to the Hideout after if needed*

*Hideout Zone: children will be supervised between the
club and disco and returned to Hideout if needed*

*You can notify on Classlist when buying your ticket if
your child is in an afterschool club*

**PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
PLEASE SIGN UP ON CLASSLIST
WHEN YOU BUY YOUR TICKETS**

**Woodside PTA raising funds to enhance the children's
educational experience**

*Please note that children will not be allowed to walk home unaccompanied after
this event due to dark evenings.*