

A word from Mrs Milner

Friday 9th September 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! It has been such a pleasure to welcome all the children back to our school after a six-week break. I cannot believe that we are already almost one week into our new term. Time just flies by so quickly. I sincerely hope that the children had a good summer, with plenty of fun and rest. They must now be more than ready to embrace their new academic year. Although it was so lovely to spend time in the garden and tending to my flower beds, I was more than ready to return to work. I missed the children and all the excitement that is part of any school day. So here we are -today is day four and it seems that summer has not happened at all....

First, please accept our sincere apologies for IT issues. Woodside had a new IT system installed during the summer, as part of a general upgrade of our systems. Unfortunately, there were some 'teething' problems, which were beyond our control. My understanding is that all the systems are now up and running, but please let us know if you are still experiencing difficulties. Mrs Nickless and Mrs Stanton worked relentlessly to ensure that parents were not affected by the circumstances, which were, as I said previously, beyond our control.

I am very pleased to report that all children settled in well - especially our new Year 3 pupils. I am always amazed as to how quickly children adapt to new situations and routines. I am sure that the children will be able to tell you about all the exciting learning that is currently taking place.

Staff update – we welcome Mrs Hosseini, who will be working with our strong team of Midday Supervisors. We also welcome back Miss Revel who will be working as a Midday Supervisor and in our afterschool club. Miss Terebas will be returning from her maternity leave on Monday 12th September.

We are also welcoming Mr Smith, our SCITT student, who will be working with Mrs Drake in Year 6. This school prides itself on training future teachers and, as you know, our current three members of staff trained with us -Mr Ahmed, Mr Harvey-Mott and Miss Croot.

I would like to share my thoughts with you regarding children's attendance. The Government issued an updated guidance to all schools, in place from September 2022. The guidance clearly states that children's attendance at school is everyone's responsibility and that parents have a legal duty to ensure that their child receives education either by attendance or by education otherwise than a school. Where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school. We will, therefore, monitor your child's attendance regularly and contact you, in the first instance, if we have concerns regarding your absence. Term time holidays will not be authorised. I sincerely hope that by forming a strong partnership between the school and parents, we will all ensure that children's attendance remains one of the most important priorities for the school as well as parents. Although, COVID hopefully is behind us, we are still reminded of the time and learning lost due to the pandemic. It is, therefore, paramount that all children have the utmost opportunity to attend the school regularly and not compromise their learning even further.

Thank you very much for respecting our request regarding appropriate school uniform and shoes. It so lovely to see the children looking smart and ready to learn. Can I please remind all the parents and carers that if your child has long hair, it ought to be tied back. Thank you again for your cooperation.

Can I please politely remind you regarding considerate parking. Please do not park across driveways of our neighbours' houses. Every year we have some complaints from members of our immediate community regarding cars parked inconsiderately. As always – many thanks for your understanding and cooperation. Much appreciated.

We now hope that your parental/carer Bromcom—My Child At School (MCAS) accounts have been activated. If you are experiencing difficulties or not sure how to activate your account – please let us know as all 'school to parent' communication will be conducted via MCAS.

The current cost of living crisis will affect us all, but the impact will be disproportionately felt by those who are already struggling to make ends meet. Many families across the country are suffering in silence, as they perhaps feel embarrassed and uncomfortable to talk about their private hardship. Please be assured that our school will always be non-judgemental. I hope that you agree we are friendly and approachable. Please come and chat to us, if you are experiencing a real hardship. We may point you towards the organisations who can help and, on our part, we will try to support you as much as possible and within our means. I still have my 'Open Fridays' so please make use of the time -if necessary. With this in mind, please click [here](#) for the Free School Meal application form. Paper copies are available from the office. Please do this if you believe you may be eligible. Our staff is also currently reviewing all our school trips to ensure that costs are kept to minimum. The PTA will be running the second-hand uniform sale in the future, so please make use of this opportunity to purchase perfectly suitable second-hand uniform for your child. Equally if you have any uniform that you no longer need, please donate it to the school (via the school office).

I sincerely hope that you all will have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards, Dorota Milner, Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
Tues 13th & Thurs 15th Sept	Yr 6 Transfer Test (11+)
Tues 13th Sept	8—9pm PTA meeting (all welcome)
Tues 13th Sept	Deadline for Chartwells school meals bookings for w/c 19th Sept. All bookings made through ParentPay . If you need an activation letter, please contact the school office. Please note that the deadline for bookings is always the Tuesday night (8pm) before the following week.
Thurs 15th Sept	First Touch Football afterschool club starts Click here for flyer
Fri 16th Sept	Yr5 & 6 only Netball afterschool club starts. Children should speak to Mrs Tandara directly.
w/c 19th Sept	School run lunchtime clubs start. All clubs are free and children will sign up in their classroom.
Wed 21st Sept	Taekwondo afterschool club starts Click here for flyer

Wraparound care (breakfast club and afterschool club can be booked through [My ChildAtSchool \(MCAS\)](#)). Activation codes for accounts were sent via email. Please remember to verify your email account to gain access (please check your junk items if you can't find the email).

Upcoming term dates for your diary

Close Fri 21st Oct (Oct half term)	3.15pm
Term resumes Tues 1st Nov	Gates open: 8.35am

More Woodside News

Safeguarding

I will continue to provide you with regular updates regarding safeguarding of our pupils. I sincerely hope that you find all the information useful and not too alarmist. Schools play a very important role in ensuring that pupils are safeguarded against any possible harm. Online safety remains one of the biggest safeguarding risks to our children.

I would like to list some of the possible dangers that you need to be aware of:

- Child-on-child abuse – also known as a form of ‘cyberbullying’, the harmful online behaviours some children experience, may take on new and unexpected forms, with new platforms, features, and technology.
- Misinformation – conspiracies and “fake news”. With more platforms taking on the ‘TikTok style’ short form video, visual misinformation is easier to consume with fewer fact checks and sources.
- Scams – Last year saw an increase in financial scams on chat platforms like WhatsApp, which is expected to continue this year.
- Sexual Exploitation – Since the start of the global pandemic, there has been an exponential rise in child sexual exploitation and abuse online. Last year the IWF warned that nearly half (44%) of the imagery it acted on was ‘self-generated’. · Influencers – With social media platforms accounting for 43.5% of where internet users do brand research many companies are turning to Influencers to help them market products, especially to younger consumers.

Please continue speaking to your child and we, as a school, continue to teach the children about responsible internet use. We will be organising E-safety workshops for parents and carers soon.

Wellbeing - Links with our Community

Please click this [link](#) to find courses on offer from the Family Support Service. All the courses are designed for young people aged 11 to 18. Please do make use of them as they are free.

- How to Build Confidence and Self-Esteem (starting 26.09.2022)
- How to Build Positive Relationships (starting 26.09.2022)
- How to Deal with Stress, Anxiety and Low Mood (Starting 26.09.2022)

A word from our Governors

“Do you want to make a difference to Woodside School?”

- School governors and trustees play an important role in leading our schools. They set the strategic vision and direction, approve the budget and hold the senior leadership team to account. Our Local Governing Body is made up of external governors, and governors elected by parents and by the staff. We urgently need to appoint one more Parent governor. Is this something you would like to do?
- Some of the benefits of becoming a governor include:
- First and foremost, you would be supporting the children in this school.
- You have a chance to develop your professional skills and experience such as strategic planning, chairing, financial planning, and team working, all of which are valued by employers and can assist your own career development.
- Building relationships and networks in your locality

If you think that this might be a role for you, please contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs Jenny Faulkner at lgbchair@wsd.odbst.org to arrange an informal chat.”



Woodside Association


Come and join us for the first
Woodside PTA meeting of the year

Meet other parents and support the school

When: Tuesday 13th September 2022
From 8 - 9pm

Where: Come to the main entrance of
Woodside Junior School. This will be
an in-person meeting.

What: Parent Teachers Association (PTA)
meeting to discuss events and
fundraising for the coming year.

Woodside PTA email: woodsideschool08@googlemail.com  Woodside Parents

numberfit

FREE
to participate

Questions for

2-18

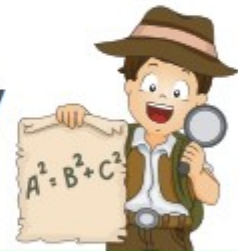
year olds

SCAVENGER HUNT

Make maths **FUN!**

And engage with your community

Don't miss out! Starting this Autumn **completely free**



<p>1</p> <p>REGISTER ONLINE at: numberfit.com/ scavengerhunt</p>	<p>2</p> <p>FIND QUESTIONS in local shop windows</p>	<p>3</p> <p>SUBMIT YOUR ANSWERS at: numberfit.com/ scavengerhunt</p>	<p>4</p> <p>WIN £500 OF PRIZES by answering correctly</p>
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