

A word from Mrs Milner

Friday 16th September 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, Monday 19th September 2022 will be a National Bank Holiday given to the nation to acknowledge the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. All schools have been directed to close. I sincerely hope that you agree with me that regardless of your personal views on the British Monarchy, the Queen was the Head of State and as such played an important role in our nation's history. On a personal level, I admire her Majesty's enormous sense of responsibility, duty towards our country as well as its citizens and her sheer hard work. The school will re-open on Tuesday 20th September 2022 at the usual time. Please note that any school meals booked for Monday 19th September have been cancelled and refunded in Parent Pay.

I would like to share with you my absolute pride and joy watching our pupils celebrate their achievements during Friday's assemblies as well as showcasing their enormous talents. Well done to all the children. Today we had Isabelle (4TB) sharing her achievements in ballet as well as Arnab (4TB) playing the piano as well as Florence, and Dulcie both from 4TB who sang solos. It takes enormous courage to stand in front of all the children as well as the staff and play, speak or sing. Well done once more. You are all stars. I said to all the children that if there were any other volunteers, who would like to share or showcase their talents during Friday's assembly - please let me know.

I am happy to report that all pupils look smart in their uniforms and enjoy their learning. From next week, Mrs Harrison will be writing regular updates (in Friday's newsletter) regarding our curriculum. I am sure that you will find this information both enjoyable and informative. To give you a snapshot, today:

- Our Year 3 pupils are involved with cave paintings, and I personally cannot wait to see their artwork
- Our Year 5 pupils began their swimming lessons.
- This morning, a staff member from Dr Challoner's school was involved in training our Play Leaders, who, in turn, will be involved in setting up games for the rest of the children. Thank you to Mrs Tandara for organising this event.

Thank you again to all the parents and staff (Mrs Tandara and Mr Appleby) for attending our first PTA meeting. As always, my plea is to the whole of the Woodside community - please support our PTA and if you can give as much or as little time to assist with all the events - this will be fantastic.

I have some exciting news.....we hope that the construction of our daily mile track will begin next week. As with any project, start times can be delayed but I will endeavour to keep you informed regarding the exact start date. I am incredibly excited about this project, and although it will not be a full-size running track, it will still be a fantastic facility for the children. Once constructed, we will have an official opening of the track.

I apologise in advance for a slight moan but we already having many children arriving late to school, and it is only week two! Please ensure that your child arrives on time. Being on time allows children to meet their friends and have a degree of social time before lessons start and, most importantly, teaches them the importance of punctuality and reliability – important qualities sought by their future employers.

School Vacancies

School Administrator: We have a vacancy for a School Administrator (26hrs/week, term time only + INSET days). Please click [here](#) to view the full details (including the application form) on our website.

Parent Governor: We are still looking for that special person, who would like to be involved in the governance of this school. Please consider this, as being a school governor will give you a direct ability to shape the strategic direction of the school and will also allow you to hold the school's Headteacher to account for the work that we do, here at Woodside. I cannot emphasise enough what a fantastic opportunity this is to be involved in the life of the school. Please contact our Chair of Governors, Mrs Jenny Faulkner, via the school office if interested.

Open Days

We now have provisional dates for the 'open' morning and afternoon for any prospective parents of Year 2 pupils (7th October 2022 @ 09:30-10:15 and 11:00-11:45 and 10th November 2022 @ 14:00 -14:45). Those dates are only for any prospective Year 2 parents. I will organise, in the future, an 'open morning' for parents /carers of children who are learning at Woodside. I will let you know the date in advance - watch this space! This will give you an opportunity to see your child's school 'in action.' Please remember that I have "Open Fridays" if you would like to discuss anything with me.

We will also be bringing back our ever so popular event – Grandparents / Elderly Relatives Day. This was such a worthwhile and popular event pre-Covid times, and I am particularly very keen to welcome all grandparents / elderly relatives back to our school. On a lighter note - last time we held this event I realised that some of the grandparents / elderly relatives were younger than me – so it is entirely up to you how you judge to be an 'elderly relative'. Equally, if you child has other special adults in their life, they will be very welcome too! I hope to welcome as many visitors as possible within whatever our fire risk assessment allows. I will let you know the date in due course.

I wish you the very best of weekends.

Dorota Milner, Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
Mon 19th Sept	School closed for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's State Funeral
Tues 20th 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.
Wed 21st Sept	Individual and Sibling SCHOOL PHOTOS (from 9am) - smart uniform please!
Wed 21st Sept	Taekwondo after-school club starts Click here for flyer
Thurs 22nd Sept	First Touch Football afterschool club continues—you can still sign up for a place for your child Click here for flyer
Fri 23rd Sept	Yr5 & 6 only Netball afterschool club starts. Club is currently full and operating a waiting list on their website. Details were sent to Yr5 and Yr6 children's parents

Wraparound care (breakfast club and after-school 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 am sure that you are aware of some very serious and extremely sad, but thankfully rare, cases of children being neglected, abused, and dying as a consequence. The most tragic ones are of Arthur Labinjo -Hughes and Star Hobson. We all have a civic duty to protect our children.

What to do if I am concerned about another child?

If you're worried that a child or young person is at risk or is being abused, contact the children's social care team at the local council. In Buckinghamshire it will be the Buckinghamshire First Response Team on 01296 383 962 between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. If you need an urgent response outside of these hours, contact the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on 0800 999 7677. You'll be asked for your details, but you can choose not to share them.

You can also contact the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 (free service, lines open 24 hours a day). They will listen to your concerns, offer advice and support and can take action on your behalf if a child is in danger. You can also report concerns anonymously.

Call 999 if the child is at immediate risk.

Wellbeing - Links with our Community

Walking With You

This is a virtual, parent led support group for anyone supporting children and young people, up to the age of 25, experiencing mental health difficulties. WWY stands for Walking with You. WWY group is a safe space where you can talk freely among people who are walking the same path as you, there is no judgment, and it is completely confidential.

Their next three sessions are:

- Friday September 23rd 10-11.30 Anxiety and challenges around going back to school
- Friday October 14th 10-11.30 School avoidance and exclusion
- Friday November 25th 10-11.30 Gender dysphoria and gender difficulties

If you have any further questions or you would like to join, please contact Participation Lead, Roxy Uritescu at Roxana.uritescu@barnardos.org.uk.

Please click [here](#) to view the document titled Support and Resources for Schools and Families in Buckinghamshire. The document gives you links to a variety of organisations designed to help and support, whether it is financial, food, social or emotional.

Please note that there will be a very special Coffee Morning for parents and carers of Autistic /ADHD children, with a guest speaker Richard Maguire, who himself has autism and ADHD. I am sure that this will be a very informative morning and excellent opportunity to hear first hand about not only challenges but also successes of people with this hidden disability. Please see further information [HERE](#).

And a few reminders of events I mentioned last week.....

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)