

A word from Mrs Milner

Friday 7th January 2022



Dear Parents,

I would like to wish all our parents and children as well as staff a very Happy New Year. I sincerely hope that, despite all the challenges, children had a restful and happy Christmas. It has been so lovely to see how quickly children settled into their routines. Many thanks to our staff for organising an 'Education Through Decades' day on the 5th January 2022, as it enabled the children to gain insight into how schools were organised and run in the past. Especially a big thank you to Mrs Harrison's mum, who spoke to all our pupils about her time at Woodside School in late 1950s. I certainly remember wooden pencil cases and plimsolls. I am pleased that educational experiences for our children are different now.

As you know, Mrs Harrison is our new Deputy Headteacher. Her working days are Tuesdays, Wednesday and Fridays and I am sure that over a period of time, our parental community will get to know her. I am very excited to be working with such an experienced leader.

In order to support your children in their learning, there are a few points below I would like to draw your attention to regarding homework and organisation.

- **Homework:** Spring term tends to be the term when children consolidate and build on their learning achieved during the autumn term and your help is vital to ensure that children continue to thrive. Please contact your child's class teacher if there are any problems.
- **Uniform:** Please make sure your child is wearing the correct uniform, examples of which can be found on the website. This includes black shoes - not boots or trainers. No earrings are allowed, once the piercings have healed. Tape should be applied at home to cover any earrings that cannot be removed. Finally no make-up of any kind, including nail varnish is permitted. Hair of shoulder length should be tied up. Longer fringes should also be secured away from eyes. Thank you for your cooperation in the matter.
- **Timekeeping:** Punctuality is extremely important, as it prepares the children for life as an adult- where being punctual at workplace, as I am sure you appreciate, is extremely important. Whilst occasional lateness cannot be helped, please ensure that your child is not persistently late as it is disruptive to the start of their school day.

Unfortunately, COVID is still with us. Please refer to the link below, which tells you what to do when and if your child displays symptoms.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>
Please [click here](#) to see the Trust's guidance with regards to COVID.

As you will have seen, the playground dividers arrived and Mr Appleby has put them out in the playgrounds. Yesterday was the first day when the children enjoyed having an activity in the designated area. The school receives Sports Premium Funding from the government to support initiatives to encourage children to be more physically active. You can find an overview of the school's strategy for this funding on our website. A key aim for the school this year is to encourage more active playtimes and to provide children with lots of opportunities to "try something new". Every day the children will have an opportunity to "have a go" at different activities or with different equipment in this part of the playground. The remainder (majority) of the playground will be kept clear for free play. Children do not have to sign up for the activities and they can move freely between the free play and organised activities. This week the children have been able to practice their basket shooting and dribbling skills with our basketball/netball and mini hoop sets.

I am thankful to the school staff and Sports Leaders who will be helping to support the various activities. By the end of this academic year we hope that the children will have had opportunities to try skipping, hoops, ankle skips, keepy-uppies, parachute games, team games, table tennis, frisbee, volley ball, mini tennis, football target practice, quick Quidditch along with lots of others! Across the next month, we will also be introducing the children to our new electronic fitness trackers which the classes will take turns in using, during school time, for the children to track their own physical activity. Who knows.....we could be inspiring a new Olympian!

I am feeling very positive about this forthcoming term and I am sure that despite challenges ahead of us, the Woodside School will continue to be the place where children learn and enjoy themselves.

With warmest wishes

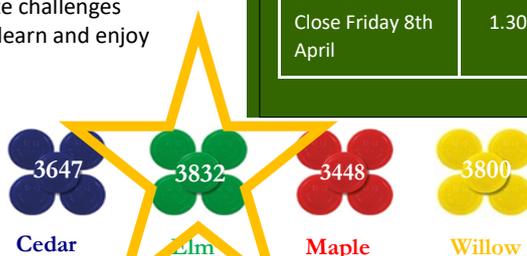
Dorota Milner
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
From Mon 10th Jan	Bring in 5ps for the PTA bottle jars
Wed 12th Jan	Year 5 swimming re-starts
w/c 17th Jan	All extra-curricular clubs start back
Fri 21st Jan	School nursing team in school for Year 6 height and weight checks
Sat 22th Jan	Cross Country Lowndes Park
Wed 26th Jan	Year 4 Bench Ball @The Amersham School
Thurs 27th Jan	Cross Country @The Misbourne School (selected children from each year group)
Fri 28th Jan	Yr3 Egyptian Day
Sat 5th March	Cross Country - venue tbc

Upcoming term dates

Date	Time
Close Friday 18th February	3.15pm
Open Monday 28th February	Gates open: 8.35am
Close Friday 8th April	1.30pm



An update on house points will be available next week

07/01/2022

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Extra Curricular Clubs

The school runs lots of extra curricular clubs for the children to enjoy. Children will be given the opportunity at school to sign up for any of the free clubs that take place during school time. These include Spanish, choir, cartoon (art), colouring, gardening, Digimap, Harry Potter, Lego, storytelling, Woodside Bloggers, current affairs and basic first aid.

The afterschool clubs that we are running this term are detailed below. Please liaise directly with the external club organisers regarding booking/payment through the links provided. Children attending after school clubs must be collected by an adult (or booked into the Hideout Zone if late collection is required). Funded places are available for children eligible for Pupil Premium funding. Please contact Mrs Nickless, School Business Manager via the Office regarding this.

- Wednesday 3.15pm-4.15pm: Taekwondo—[click here for details](#)—club starts Wednesday 19th January (all year groups)
- Thursday 3.15pm-4.15pm: First Touch Football—[click here for details](#)—club starts Thursday 20th January (all year groups)
- Friday 3.15pm—4.20pm: Netball—[click here for details](#)—club starts Friday 21st January (year 5&6 only)

Tuesday Tennis is taking a break until after half term.

Wrap Around Care (including Club Hour)

The school's Hideout Zone provides wrap around care as follows:

- Breakfast Club: 7.45am—registration (breakfast provided)
- Afterschool Club: 3.15pm—6pm (book per hour). Afterschool club includes our popular “club hour” including cooking, dance, team games, arts/crafts etc from 3.15pm-4.15pm. For details please [click here](#). Snack is provided at 4.30pm for children staying later.

Booking and payment should be made through Eduspot (School Money). The deadline for booking is 8pm the night before however, for afterschool club, bookings can be taken on the day through the office. For Breakfast Club, it is possible to attend without pre-booking. Booking in advance, rather than on the day, is a more cost effective option. If you would like to use Childcare Vouchers for your payment, please contact Mrs Stanton in the office.

Music Lessons

If your child is interested in learning a musical instrument or being part of a band, the following visiting specialist teachers/companies support the school. Please contact them directly using the links provided if you require any further information:

- Buckinghamshire Music Trust (string, wind, brass instruments, piano etc) - please [click here](#) for flyers
- Soundbox (drums) - please [click here](#) for their website
- Rocksteady (band) - please [click here](#) for the introductory video

PTA 5p challenge

Call for all plastic bottle tops!

We would like the children to bring into school plastic bottle tops for an art project that we will be doing in the future. We currently have a lot of blue and green so ideally, we would like other colours, but will accept any tops that you have.

The children will receive a house point for every 5 tops that they bring into school.

Children should come to the office by Friday 21st January with their bottle tops and collect their house points.

Thanks in advance!

Reminder regarding Chartwell school meal bookings

The deadline for meal bookings is Tuesday (midnight) for the following week.

For example, the deadline for meals in the week commencing 17th January 2021 is midnight on Tuesday 11th Jan.

All bookings and payments are made through Parent Pay (Chartwell's system). For children eligible for Free School Meals, you can book your meals in Parent Pay and you will not be asked for payment.