

WOODCHURCH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wonder, Commitment and Expectation

www.woodchurchceprimary.com

@WoodchurchCofE

31st January 2024

Dear Parent and Carers,

As we approach the end of January, it is lovely to see signs of Spring appearing with the flowers in the front entrance beginning to show shoots and blossom. We are quickly approaching half term- it seems to have come round so fast. As usual school has been a hive of activity with lots going on.

What's been happening this month?

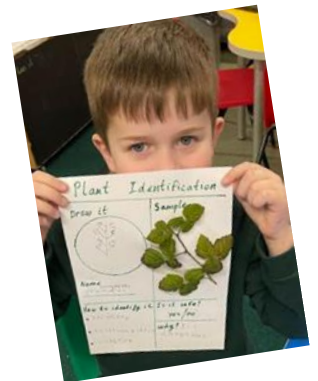
F2 held a stay and play for parents which was very well attended. The children always love having their "grown-ups" in school.

Year 3 have been developing their geology skills through English, Geography and Science. They made sedimentary rocks out of chocolate to investigate how they are formed – I was extremely impressed at their knowledge and their ability to link their learning to explain words such as "ignite" and "metamorphosis". Some children could also give examples of animals that go through metamorphosis.

Year 4 led our Church Service this month thinking about people who have been inspired by their faith.

Year 5 and Year 6 had a presentation from the Lieutenant of Merseyside to help them develop their understanding of the monarchy and the role of King Charles.

Our Vision Ambassadors have begun to take a more active roles in our Collective Worships. Supported by Mrs Wilkinson, they have been delivering class based assemblies. It is lovely to see how their confidence is growing and how enthusiastic they are to participate.



Parent and Carer Meetings

Thankyou to all those who were able to attend meetings with their child's class teacher last week. I do hope that the meetings were beneficial – if you were unable to attend, please contact the class teacher who will be able to offer a telephone catch up at a mutually convenient time.

Staffing

Mr McGregor and Mrs Kirkham continue to be off school at this time.

At half term we will sadly be saying “goodbye” to Mrs Smith in the office. Mrs Smith is often the first port of call for many of you and I know that she will be greatly missed amongst staff and parents. We wish her well and she embarks on her world travels.

Attendance

Attendance at school matters. Our children learn new things every day in school so it is very important that children miss as few school days as possible. There is a direct link between children’s attendance at school and their academic achievement (progress). Attendance also impacts greatly on your child’s physical, social and emotional well-being.

Children who do not attend school regularly are those with attendance less than 90%. We continue to monitor attendance carefully and will contact any parents or carers whose children’s attendance or punctuality may be of concern. We wish to support any families who may be struggling with attendance and we are committed to looking at ways in which we can work together to ensure that your child’s attendance remains above 90%.

Holidays in school time will not be authorised unless they are deemed as exceptional circumstances. Any **holiday of 5 days or more will result in a penalty notice being issued**. We have also been asked to bring your attention to penalty fines surrounding children arriving late. 10 lates within a term under a U code, which is arriving after the close of registers, will result in a penalty notice being issued.

Our current whole school attendance is **93.4% compared to the national average of 94.7%** for primary schools across the UK. With the colder weather, it is not unusual at this time of year for children to pick up bugs and illnesses. If you are not sure whether your child can attend school, please call the school office to check.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Many of our extra-curricular clubs have now started for the Spring Term - the response to the wider range of clubs has been fantastic. We will keep you updated about any new clubs for the Summer Term in due course.

Home – School Partnership

From time to time issues may arise in school and we would encourage any parent or carer with a question, worry or concern to get in touch and come and talk to us as soon as possible. Home -school partnership is important to us and a vital part of supporting your child in school. Please speak to a member of staff on the gate or call into the school office if you would like to make an appointment or would like a phone call. Class teachers are on the yard at the end of the day if you wish to speak and make an appointment to meet with them.

Mrs McCurdy, our Family Support Worker, is also available on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday if you wish to discuss any concerns or would like advice about support for yourself or family.

School Uniform

As previously requested, can we ask that the children have a warm and waterproof coat in school with them – even if they do come to school in the car, they will need it for breaks.

Just a polite reminder about **PE kit**:

- Children should wear suitable footwear for PE. They do not need to be black trainers for PE. **Any child wearing unsuitable footwear such as Converse Boots for PE, may not be able to join in the practical aspects of the PE lesson.**
- Long hair should be tied back.
- Children may wear **plain black jogging bottoms or leggings**. We do ask these do not have any logos on. All children should bring shorts to school with them as they need to wear shorts for gymnastics rather than jogging bottoms or leggings.

Jewellery

- We are still seeing a large number of children wearing jewellery for school, especially amongst our older children. **No jewellery to be worn.** Stud earring are acceptable, but must be removed or taped over for PE – **smart watches should not be worn in school.** We also ask that friendships bracelets, necklaces etc are not worn. Children will be asked to remove such items if they are wearing them.

OFSTED UPDATE

Since our inspection in September, we have been working hard to address the issues that were raised in the report. I thought it would be pertinent to share some of the things that we have been focusing on and to share the progress we have made.

Please refer to the OFSTED update sent out with this newsletter.

Key Dates

Week beginning 5th February - Book fair in school

14th February - 16th February – Y4/5 residential to Barnstondale

Friday 16th February – break up for Half Term

Monday 26th February -school reopens

Friday 15th March -INSET Day

Once again, on behalf of all the staff at Woodchurch CE Primary, I would like to share our thanks for your continued support at this time.

Kind regards,



J Davies

Acting Head Teacher

"For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:20-21).