



# Woodlands Academy Newsletter

## 22nd October 2024

### We need your help!

#### **Parent View Questionnaires**

Usually at this time of year, we complete our parent survey during the parents' evenings. This can sometimes be a little chaotic, if teachers are running late or if you are running to a schedule, so this year we are asking all parents to complete this questionnaire via the link below. Hopefully this will give you more time to think about your responses. This is an anonymous survey. Both parents are welcome to complete the survey. Also, if your children are very different, please feel free to fill it out more than once thinking about each child separately. Please complete the survey by Friday 8th November.

<https://forms.office.com/e/GriPMz3kjq>

#### **Coats and wet play donations**

We are now one week away from half term and it has been a really busy half term. As the winter weather comes in, it is really important that your child has a waterproof coat in school every day. Getting the children outside to run around makes a huge difference to the concentration levels in class especially in the afternoon.

If you have any old (but wearable) or unused waterproof jackets that your family no longer need, we would love them, so we can have some for emergencies to get everyone out.

We are also open to donations of:

Children's good quality reading books

Simple games that can be used for wet break (5/10 minute games)

Colouring pens/pencils/books

Puzzle books

Stencils

Small world toys eg small dolls, animal characters, cars,

Building toys eg building blocks, lego etc

If you are having a clear out over half term (or at any time) in readiness for Christmas, please keep us in mind!

### **Volunteers**

Also, if you have an afternoon or a morning a week that you would be interested in volunteering with us, please catch one of us on the gate. There is a process where we need to collate references, get a DBS check and volunteers will need to complete some simple training, but please don't let this put you off. They don't take as long as you may think!

### **Behaviour Policy Parent Views**

We are currently starting the process of reviewing our behaviour policy. We want the policy to be more consistent and easier to understand. We have been listening to parents views over the past year or so for various reasons. Please look out for a survey soon to collate your views on this important policy change.

## Children In Need



We will be fundraising for Children In Need on Friday 15th November. We would like to invite the children to wear their pyjamas or something dotty for this occasion for a small donation. Please make sure your child is wearing appropriate outdoor footwear and consider your choices carefully in regards to PE and toileting. We will have a coin bucket on the gate for children to drop in their donations (breakfast club will have their tin) on their way into school.

## Important Messages



### Reception and Secondary Applications for September 2025

#### Reception

The window for applying for Reception 2025 places opened on Thursday 12th September 2024, and closes on Wednesday 15th January 2025. We will be holding open days for all prospective parents (more info to follow). If you are aware of any friends or family who are looking for reception places, please feel free to make them aware of our school. Applications for reception places can be made here: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/primary-apply> <sup>1</sup>

#### Secondary

The window for applying for secondary 2025 places also opened on Thursday 12th September 2024, however the window closes on **Thursday 31st October 2024**. You can make your application here: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/secondary-apply>

If you require a paper application but you don't have access to a printer, please speak to the school office and they will be happy to print one for you.

#### Website

We do now have a live website and have started to make changes. You can find it here: <https://woodlandsacademy.clf.uk/> There will be a number of tweaks and further information added over time, but we can now make changes which is great news!

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/primary-apply>

## Christmas Performances

These dates will come out in the next newsletter. We are just finalising when we can use the church.

## Parentmail/Contacts/Ordering Lunches

Please make sure your Parentmail is working and up to date. New families please liaise with our admin team to get set up.

If your contact details e.g. phone number, email address, postal address etc have changed, please let us know urgently.

Please remember to order lunches in advance.

## School Values

Just a reminder to our Woodlands families that our school values are:

Ready     Respectful     Resilient

We will work with your children supporting them to follow these values helping them to be excellent citizens in school and out.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing



This is a really useful website for parents who need to support their children's mental health and wellbeing. It is full of simple tips and strategies, so please have a look! There are also a number of links to other services for further information. <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/>

## Safeguarding



As we come towards a school holiday period, it is likely that the children will have more screen time than normal. Make sure you know what your child is accessing and that you check your child's phone regularly. For more information please see: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> . This section about online gaming is particularly useful. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>

## Attendance



Well done to everyone who has been in school every day and on time this term. Every day counts!

If you are frequently just a few minutes late, please try one of the following:

- Set your clock 5 minutes fast
- Make sure there is more than one alarm in the house, so no one person is responsible
- Put a timetable/routine in place in the morning, so children know what to expect
- Get the uniform out and bags packed the night before
- Have a positive sticker chart with a small reward for children, so they are ready and on time every day

## Our Local Community Events/Activities



**Please** note these events and clubs are not run by school or school staff, so make sure you contact them directly.

### Holiday Club

Unfortunately, we haven't managed to get all of the checks in place for a Woodlands only holiday club this holidays but both school and Ricky's company are committed to getting this off the ground ready for February half term.