



**Woolden Hill**  
**Primary School**  
Achieving Success, Creating Futures Together



## ***Newsletter - January 2017***

Dear Parents/ Carers

Happy New Year! There's been lots happening at Woolden Hill and lots more exciting things to come this term! I would like to take this opportunity to thank the huge parent contributions going on in school. This includes our regular parent readers, those supporting/organising clubs such as cooking, sewing, and choir and of course huge the input from the WHA which contributes to the social aspects of school as well as the financial. I look forward to your continued support and a successful term. Sarah Sadler.

### **Attendance**

It is vital that children attend school to ensure that they are able to make the progress that they should and reach their full potential. Last term, our school attendance dropped to **below 96%**. This is below the National attendance figures and our school target of **97%**.

We monitor attendance very carefully to ensure that children are attending wherever possible. For your child to have a 96% attendance rate, they can only miss a maximum of 6 days schooling per year. Research has shown that children with less than this percentage attendance are likely to achieve less well at GCSE standard and those with 90% attendance rate (the equivalent of 1/2 day absence per week or 4 weeks absent a year) is likely to result in your child dropping at least one GCSE grade on their potential.

Therefore, it is really important that you bring your child to school wherever possible and that appointments for medical events are booked outside of school hours. We appreciate your support with this important matter and look forward to celebrating high levels of attendance this term.

### **Welcome Mrs Saunders!**

As you are hopefully aware, at the end of the term we said goodbye to Miss Hall and wished her the best of luck for the future. Mrs Saunders has taken over from Miss Hall and has already settled very well to the school—this week the children have lots of fun making Muck, Mess and Mixtures with her! We know that she will be a brilliant teacher and help the children

### **Class Assemblies**

As you know, we are always looking for ways to involve our parents in what we have been learning. At the end of term, we had our celebration afternoon to showcase learning from the current topic. We will continue to have these and other events to help parents to share in our successes.

In addition to the celebration afternoons, we will also be having class assemblies. The dates for these assemblies are:

**Acorns (EYFS):** Friday 3rd March at 9:00am

**Willow (Y1):** Friday 26th May at 9:00am

**Maple (Y2):** Friday 30th June at 9:00am

**Sycamore (Y3):** Friday 24th March at 9:00am

**Silver Birch (Y4):** Friday 28th April at 9:00am

**Elm (Y5):** Friday 5th May at 9:00am

**Oak (Y6):** Friday 27th January at 9:00am

We hope to see you there!

### **School Day Times:**

Please aim for your child to be **in school** for **8:45am** to ensure that they are ready to start their lessons at 9am. It is really important that if your child arrives after this time, they sign in through the office, not by going through the side door.

Children must also be collected at **3:10pm**. After this time, they should attend after school care if you are unable to collect your child on time. Unfortunately, we cannot be responsible for children waiting in reception as we have staff meetings and other meetings and therefore are not available to supervise. Thank you for your support with this matter.

### Christmas Celebrations



Our whole school Christmas celebrations were a fantastic mixture of performance, singing and beautiful readings. I was very impressed with our youngest children and KS1 who managed to really show us how to party in their hour 'It's a party' long extravaganza!! If that wasn't enough, KS2 shared fabulous ideas about the meaning of Christmas and thought about what Christmas would be like for those less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you for your donations at the end of the concerts—your generosity helped us raise £228 for the Make a Wish Foundation and Rainbows charities. Our Christmas Jumper day also generated another £73 which is for Save the Children. Wow!



### Young Voices

Our school choir have been working really hard in preparations for our first ever Young Voices concert at the end of January. This is an opportunity for the children to perform with 6,000 other choir members at the Genting Arena (formally the NEC) in Birmingham! Our children (and the staff!) are very excited and can't wait! A big thank you to Miss Burns who gives her time to the running the choir and providing songs and routines that the children really enjoy.



### Sport at Woolden Hill



We start our 2017 campaign after a successful first term of our academic year in sport. With 4 sports subjects per key stage completed with extreme success and incredible efforts from every pupil. The children from KS2 have been learning skills from Football, Tag Rugby, Hockey and Basketball, which has led to them reaching the DSAT Basketball Regional finals and also winning the DSAT Football Tournament held at Sileby Redlands Primary. We have also taken part in a Netball competition which we managed to win one, draw one and only lose one game in a sport the children haven't really taken part in! Football has really begun to take off for girls in the world so its incredible to be able to gather a group of girls who were interested to take part in the DSAT girls football tournament. To see the girls try to exceed in new skills and never give up is the best reason for somebody to use sport as a inspiration. Finally, we took part in the Dance Off, in which we came 3rd

In 2017 we have plenty more competitions and skill learning activities coming up including Hockey, Swimming, Gymnastics and Cross Country.

Thank you for reading on how successful we are becoming as a school in the world of sport and myself and the children will work hard to build a future in a sport of individual talent. Yours Sincerely, Mr Earls



### DSAT Peer Review

At the beginning of December, we had our very first DSAT Peer Review. This will become an annual review that takes place to review our policies, procedures and good practise and how this is developed to help ensure that our children achieve the very best that they can.

The process takes place over two days and this year we had Mr Paul Stone (CEO of the Trust), Mr Jon Brown (System Leader for the Trust) and Mr Matthew Peet (a Headteacher from the Trust) to come and observe teaching, talk to the pupils, staff and Chair of the Advisory board (Sujay Lavingia ).

Despite being a very tiring process, we were very happy with the outcome and are now working hard on the small recommendations that were made during the visit.

### Headlice

There have been some children that have had headlice this half term. Please check your child's hair for headlice . If you child has long hair, please ensure that they tie it back to ensure that the risk of getting headlice is minimised. Thank you.

### Shoe Box appeal

Thank you to all the families that kindly donated a shoe box for the appeal. We had a record number of people donate a shoe box this year. Thank you for your generosity!

