



WOODLESFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr R D Scott B.Ed. (Hons)

Tuesday, 8th September 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

‘Welcome’ to all those joining the school for the first time and ‘Welcome back’ to everyone else!

It was great to see everyone back in school today looking well rested and ready for another action-packed year! I do have to compliment you on how well presented the children were today - a credit to you and school -thank you.

Building works

Over the holiday we have had several projects in progress to improve the appearance and nature of the school building.

The new entrance is now in use so if you need to come into school please use the door at the top of the ramp at the Highfield Road side of the school. Once in the foyer press the button on the left hand side - this is the intercom and alerts the team in the office that you are there so they can ‘buzz’ you in. We hope you find this access far more practical and easy to use - it certainly provides us with a safer way of welcoming visitors into school.

I am sure you will have noticed that we have had the railings at the side of school renovated. The railings not only look far better but are now much safer as sharp edges are gone and missing railings have been replaced. We have already had several compliments from passers-by about the improved appearance!

Work on extending the kitchen and replacing windows in the hall continues for the time being. The contractors are telling us that the kitchen should be ready to use by Monday 21st September, a fortnight from now, as predicted. During the next two weeks we will of course have to run a reduced school meal service as we cannot produce cooked meals on site. Therefore ‘school dinners’ will take the form of a ‘grab bag’ (school packed lunch). If at all possible we will resume the normal school dinner service on or as soon after Monday 21st as possible. Once completed there will be an opportunity to come and have a look and hopefully even a taste of the dinners we will be providing from the new kitchens. We will let you know as soon as a time and date can be confirmed. Reminder that school dinners are £2.20 a day, or £11.00 for the week. This can be paid online through ‘ParentPay’ - the school office can advise if you are unsure about how this works.

Two less noticeable changes are the widening of the access steps to the lower playground and tarmacking over where the old outside PE store used to be. The former of these has been done not just for convenience but also to allow speedier access to the playground when it is used for fire drills for example. The lower playground is the ‘assembly point’ in such cases and by widening the access we can speed up the process by which we make sure everyone is present and correct!

I should also point out that there are currently no bike racks as they have been temporarily removed to allow contractors vehicle access. For the time being please can I ask that bikes and scooters are left at home.

School Phones

Possibly as a result of building work we are experiencing difficulties with receiving and making telephone calls. Engineers are currently on site trying to identify and remedy the situation but in the meantime we are using our FAX telephone number to receive calls. That number is **01132 880314** - however it may well be very busy so if the reason you need to call us is not particularly urgent please use e-mail to contact us.

Road Closure

As you will have seen, the local council have some road works scheduled for next week that will require closing part of Church Street, the road outside school, from 9.30 -3.30. Obviously this will have an impact on both the morning ‘drop-off’ of children and probably to an even greater extent collection times. If you are coming by car you might want to allow extra time to find somewhere to park and also to walk from there to school.



If you are delayed please be assured we would always 'look after' your children until you arrive. We will remind children to come back into school if mum /dad/ grandparent /carer isn't there but if you mention it to them as well it can't hurt. If you would be interested in your child joining the 'Walking Bus' from the Maltings contact the school before Friday and we will try to accommodate you if there are places.

'New' Staff

A warm welcome to Miss Elizabeth Pickard who is joining our teaching staff in Year 3 and although not strictly 'new', over the holiday two members of staff were married and so now have a different name! Miss Deakes is now Mrs Skinner and Miss Latimer is now Mrs Golden - congratulations to both of them.

Some initial dates ...

After-school clubs will start the week beginning Monday 21st September and run all the way through until Friday 13th November at which point sunset is about 4pm so it's just too dark! Teachers who run the clubs will be sending out detailed information in the next fortnight.

Open Morning - Wednesday 23rd September, 9am-10am - a chance to come and visit your child in their new classroom (note: longer time as requested by some with more than one child - there is no expectation that you stay for the full hour.)

Parent's Evenings- Monday 12th -15th October - a chance to discuss your child with their class-teacher - more details to follow including when the booking system will go 'live'.

Each year group will also be holding an 'Introduction to our Year group' event for parents to come to so you have an opportunity to find out what your child will be involved in this year, how the year is organised and any particular events and expectations for the year. The teachers of each year group will write to invite you once they have finalised dates and times.

Obviously there are more dates to follow but I thought a 'head's up' (no pun intended) now might help.

Finally...

You might recall that in mid-July we were inspected by IQM (Inclusion Quality Mark) to see if we warranted this highly coveted award. An IQM assessor examines how a school meets the ever changing diverse needs of a community in delivering an inclusive education. The IQM uses a standard for assessing schools against a nationally recognised framework for inclusion. It recognises and celebrates the inclusion work going on in schools, on both a local and national scale. It is widely recognised as one of the more challenging awards to receive; the application form alone was over 60 pages and required great detail and evidence for what our school does to meet needs and be inclusive for both the children and the wider community.

I am delighted to say that over the summer we heard that we had been very successful and whilst there is no categorisation the report clearly indicates that we 'passed' with flying colours. Thank you to all those that were involved in the inspection - children, parents, governors, teachers and teaching assistants and support staff. We have been invited down to London to receive the award later in September so Miss Fuller (who was instrumental in pursuing the award) and myself will be taking two children from the school council with us to represent Woodlesford Primary School. A proud moment indeed - I will make sure we share the photos with you.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Scott'.

Robin Scott - Headteacher