

A word from Mr Lloyd

Friday 10th January 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas break and took the opportunity to make memories with their families. It has been lovely to welcome the children and staff back to school this week, hearing about all of the different experiences they have had during the Christmas break. It's such a lovely time of year and is wonderful to hear what everyone has been up to.

On Monday this week, we welcomed back staff for an INSET day where we came together as a team to organise and redistribute our maths resources across the school. It was great to see the fantastic resources we have at Woodside and to remind all staff how these can be used in lessons to support our pupils. We also updated lots of display boards around the school; it looks lovely and is great to see children's work adorning the walls. Thanks to all staff who helped with this!

Sadly, in our first week back, we have had two very near misses with cars almost colliding with children on the road at drop-off in the morning. I have spoken with all children today about crossing the road with care, as I observed several children crossing the road without looking this morning, which was the cause of one near miss. The other was caused by a car reversing round the corner without paying full attention, made worse by the number of cars parked illegally on the junction with Briery Way. We are lucky that Mitchell Walk is not really a thoroughfare, so most traffic is school parents dropping off and picking up. However, this means that we have a duty to be responsible and follow the law regarding both double **and** single yellow lines. Between the hours of 8am-5pm, the single lines opposite the school **must** be kept clear. The school will begin to note registration plates of illegally parked cars and reserve the right to report offenders to the local authorities. I am aware that not all parents read the newsletter, so ask that this message is passed on to as many parents as possible via any WhatsApp groups that you have. If we all work together on this, I am sure that we can improve the situation and, ultimately, keep our children safe.

We are also noticing a dip in our attendance figures, which are now below the Trust's average. This is unusual for Woodside and is caused by a significant rise in unauthorised term time holidays. I have liaised with Buckinghamshire County Council this week and referred several cases for them to consider issuing penalty notices. This is not something that we do lightly, especially as the school does not benefit in any way from this. However, children cannot learn our curriculum well if they are not in school and penalty notices are a way of reducing avoidable absence. As the Government has tightened rules on attendance this year, there are likely to be more penalty notices issued in the future. To avoid receiving one, please ensure that you do not take holidays in term time and that your child attends school regularly.

Best wishes,

Mr Lloyd



Plea for Tissues!

In the winter months, we go through a lot of boxes of tissues. To help the school minimise our costs in this area, it would be very helpful if you could send your child in with some tissues for their own personal use. If anyone is able to donate a box of tissues to the school this would also be very helpful! Please bring any donations to the school office. Thank you!

House Point Totals

This week	498	518	445	459
	Maple	Willow	Elm	Cedar

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
W/C: 13.01.25	After School Sports Clubs start back
20.01.25	Year 6 Dodgeball @ Amersham School
21.01.25	Year 5 Mixed Netball @ Amersham School
24.01.25	Year 5 Hockey Festival- Invitation only
31.01.25	4TB Hockey Tournament- Invitation only
01.02.25	Cross Country- Lowndes Park
03.02.25 - 07.02.25	Children's Mental Health Week
11.02.25	Year 6 Fitness @ Amersham School
14.02.25	Last Day of Half Term- School ends 3.15pm
25.02.25	Year 5 trip to Living Rainforest
03.03.25 - 06.03.25	Year 5 Bikeability- selected children only.
05.03.25	Year 4 Yoga @ Amersham School
08.03.25	Cross Country- Lowndes Park
11.03.25	Year 3 Benchball @ Amersham School
21.03.25	Year 4 Benchball
21.03.25	4B Hockey Tournament after school - invitation only
W/C: 24.03.25	Last session for all after school clubs
26.03.25	Year 3 skipping @ Amersham School

[Click here for the calendar of 24/25 Term Dates](#)

Please see our brand new Easyfundraising QR code for anyone who is able to make a donation towards school activities and events which are additional to the regular curriculum. If you are able to, please scan the below code and donate what you can- thank you on behalf of all at Woodside!

