

Featherstone Wood Primary School



17th July, 2015

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful year we have had. This year has been very successful and busy. It has been pleasing to see how the children's attitude to learning has developed significantly over the year and it is very pleasing to hear how they now describe their learning and the skills they have been using. This has helped their progress tremendously and they have adapted well to the increased challenges of the new curriculum.

Behaviour has also improved around the school and although there are still some areas we are working on the children are very clear about what is acceptable and the consequences of breaking our school rules.

Obviously our greatest achievement this year has been the Ofsted inspection result in March. Everyone associated with the school has worked tremendously hard to turn the school around from a four to two in just over two years. This was a tremendous result for the school and its reputation. We have already had other schools referred to us by our HMI to see our work on marking and feedback and our handwriting focus. It really is a massive achievement and we are already working hard to take our progress further.

It is important to thank all the staff and Governors who have worked so hard and given so much to get this result. The commitment from everyone is really exceptional and I thank them very much

for what they have achieved. Everyone is determined and works in excess of their hours on a daily basis while also having their own families and lives to lead. Education is most definitely not a 9-3 job!

Unfortunately for the school we are losing Mr Roles and Mrs Barber as they both move on to other schools. They both arrived at the school to do one day of supply and they have stayed for 18 months. We wish them well and thank them for their hard work.

Sadly we have had a few parents writing unacceptable comments on Facebook. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that commenting about other children or members of staff is not deemed to be acceptable use of Facebook as part of the school's e-safety rules and have been forwarded to the relevant authorities. Please be careful what you put in print as it can have serious consequences.

Next year is an exciting year for us as we continue to drive forward the new curriculum with its higher standards and face all the challenges that are to come. We look forward to working with you further and really putting Featherstone Wood on the map.

Please ensure that you have read the school uniform expectations so that your children have the correct kit for the start of term. Every child is expected to have a school book bag for their learning journals, school diaries, reading books and

homework. From September if your children sign up to a club they will be expected to attend for at least that half term. If they are in school they need to be there. If they have a reason why they can't participate they can always observe and participate in a different way. We are part of a team and in sport if you are injured you still have to attend to support your team mates.

Attendance is vital, if the children are not in school they are not learning. Please do not book holidays in term time, they will not be authorised. Appointments also need to be arranged out of school hours. If a sibling is ill or has an appointment your other children need to be in school. We have had several families fined this year which is never pleasant, so it is important to follow the rules.

The school has also been working very hard with families to reduce money owing and this will continue next year. If you are struggling to pay it is really important you come in and discuss issues with me as there are things we can do to support. However, the school will not allow debts to mount up.

All that is left for me to say is thank you for such a successful year and I look forward to continuing our work with you in September. We hope that you have a lovely relaxed and safe summer. We wish the year 6 pupils a wonderful start to their academic career at secondary school and look forward to seeing everyone else back on Friday 4th September.

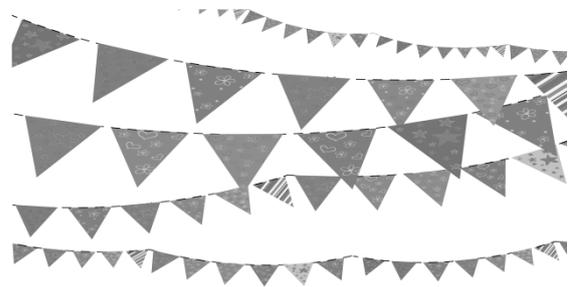
School Governors

We are saying goodbye to two members of our Governing Body - Shirley Roberts and Lilian Strange - and would like to thank them both for their commitment and hard work over the years. Special mention must go to Lilian who has been a member of our Governing Body for over 20 years and has seen the school change in many ways

during that time. We wish her well and hope that she has a long and peaceful retirement.

PofFW Summer Fair

What a brilliant day we all had last Saturday. The weather was kind to us and lots of parents, friends and relatives came along to make the PofFW Summer Fair a great success. Our thanks go to all the parents involved in the organisation of the fair and we have been told that the sum of £739.29 has been raised.



Facebook

It has come to our attention that children and asking staff to be their 'friends' on Facebook. This goes against our school's policy on e-safety and breaches the guidance that children under 13 should not be using Facebook.

Increase in School Meal Prices

Each September, school meal prices are reviewed to ensure that the price covers direct costs with providing a high quality school meal. This year, there will be a higher increase than usual and the price of school meals will be moving from £2.15 to £2.30 for children in Years 3-6; and from £2.05 to £2.20 for Nursery children.

There are two main reasons for this. One is due to an increase in the cost of food from suppliers, following improvements to the quality of ingredients used. This has ensured all meals meet the Food for Life quality standard at Bronze Level, with scope to move to Silver Level in the next year. The other factor is related to increased staffing costs, following a pay

review for all Herts Catering Ltd staff in April 2014.

Herts Catering appreciate that any price increase is not welcome news, but it is necessary to maintain the high standard of school meals being served.



Lost Property

We have a large amount of lost property in school. If you would like to pop in and see if anything belongs to your children, please do so before the end of term as anything left will be disposed of.

We would welcome any PE kits which your children have outgrown so that we can keep spares in classrooms.

Families Feeling Safe

Stevenage Educational Trust is running a free 'Families Feeling Safe' programme from 1st October to 3rd December, on Thursdays, 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. The programme aims to build confidence and self-esteem, manage stress, bullying etc. To book your FREE place contact them at enquiries@familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk or telephone 728653.

Attendance

The winners of this week's Attendance Trophy are Year 6 with 98.8%. This is brilliant Year 6 - what a good way to end your time at Featherstone Wood.



Star Learners

This week's Star Learners are:-

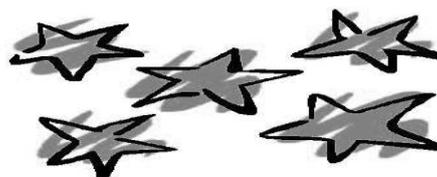
Reception - Maya Ochwat

Year 1 - Sophie Rapp

Year 2 - Femi Omokan

Year 3 - Jesse Innes

Well done everyone - we are very proud of you all.



Dates for your Diary

Academic Year 2014/15:

21st July - Leaver's Assembly - 9.00 am

21st July - Term ends 2.00 p.m.

22nd July - Occasional

Academic Year 2015/16:

2nd September - Inset Day

3rd September - Inset Day

4th September - Return to school

25th September - Crucial Crew (Year 6)

8th October - Year 1 and 2 Topic Assembly

13th October - Parents Evening 3.30 - 8.00

15th October - Year 3 & 4 Topic Assembly

21st October - EYFS Topic Open Morning

22nd October - Spooky Disco

26th - 30th October - Half Term

5th November - Year 5& 6 Topic Assembly

20th November - Christmas Fair

23rd November - SAT's practice week
7th December - KS1 play to school
8th December - Snow Queen Pantomime
9th December - KS1 play - 1.30 p.m.
10th December - KS1 play - 6.00 p.m.
11th December - Carols round the tree - 2.00
14th December - EYFS play to school
15th December EYFS play - 9.30 a.m.
16th December - Christmas Dinner
17th December - Christmas Parties
18th December - Term ends 2.00 p.m.
21st December - 31st December - Christmas break
1st January - Bank holiday
4th January - Inset Day
5th January - School resumes
15th to 19th February - Half Term
25th March - Good Friday
28th March - Easter Monday
30th March - Exhibition Day
1st April - End of term
4th to 15th April - Easter Break
18th April - Inset Day
19th April - School resumes
20th April - SAT's practice week
2nd May - Bank Holiday
9th May - SAT's week
30th May - Bank Holiday
31st May to 3rd June - Half Term

6th June - Inset Day
13th June - Phonics Check Week
20th June - New to Reception Meeting
22nd - 24th June - Year 5& 6 PGL
27th June - New to Nursery Meeting
28th June - Reception Taster Lunch
3rd July - Summer Fair
5th July - KS2 play to school
6th July - KS2 play - 1.30 and 6.00 p.m.
8th July - Sports Day & Proms
14th July - Transition Day/Meet New Teacher
22nd July - Summer Term finishes
25th July - Occasional Day

Louise Shuttleworth
Headteacher