



HOW WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

ESTABLISHED 1968

Head Teacher: Mrs C Rowe
Newsletter 7

31st January 2020

“Be glad of life because it gives you the chance to love, to work, to play and to look up at the stars.”

Henry van Dyke (American author)



Dear Parents,

We have two weeks left of this half term and there is much to look forward to. Please see the 'Next Week at How Wood' poster to keep abreast of future events at school.

Governors' Visit

Today we welcomed five of our governors to the school, Mr Hardcastle, Mrs Winch, Mrs Bone, Mr Warner and Mrs Rowland. The governors' visit was part of their monitoring schedule and they spoke to children; looked at learning in books and in classrooms; met with the School Council and had a sneak preview of our 'Whole School Sing' song. It was a busy and productive morning and a great opportunity for the children and staff to show off our lovely school.

EYFS Chinese New Year Wow Day



Last Friday the children in EYFS celebrated Chinese New Year. The children dressed in red and yellow and took part in exciting activities. Making red money envelopes, dragon



dancing and cooking and eating Chinese style rice. The children were all taught the story about why each year is named after different animals. Did you know that this year it is Year of the Rat?

EYFS & Key Stage 1 Phonic Workshops

The Phonic Workshops held last week were well attended and I hope that it gave parents a clearer understanding of how phonics is taught and how to support their child at home. Thank you to Mrs Parkins, Mrs Reed, Mrs Warner and Mrs Barnes for putting together such an informative event.

FEELING GOOD WEEK!

I hope that parents have seen the letter providing information about our 'FEELING GOOD WEEK!' Mrs Saunders (Mental Health Lead) and Mrs Oliver (Pastoral Support) have planned a wonderful week to support our children, staff and parents mental health and well-being. I am looking forward to seeing parents on Thursday afternoon for the Whole School Sing where the children will shine and brighten your day. Don't forget to book your place as space is limited. We do intend to film the children singing and will post the video on our website so that parents unable to attend can see the children's performance.

Well-Being and SEND Coffee Mornings

Remember to book on to our Well-being and SEND Coffee Mornings – spaces are limited. On Thursday 13th February, parents will have the opportunity to meet our Mental Health and Pastoral Leads (Mrs Saunders and Mrs Oliver) who will share information about their roles. They will be happy to answer any questions parents may have. We will also be sharing with you how we support all our children at How Wood School, including those who have any additional needs. On Tuesday 10th March, Tania Sutherland, Qualified and registered Dramatherapist/Creative Arts Psychotherapist MA HCPC BADth, will be our visiting speaker and she will be leading a discussion on **Managing Anxiety in Children**. You can secure a place by booking via the School Gateway.

Times Tables Rock Stars

We have officially relaunched Times Table Rock Stars at How Wood. To encourage the children to improve on their times tables, each week we will be celebrating: Most Improved, Star of the Week, Highest Coin Earner and Fastest Rock Speed. At the end of term, there will be a prize for each of the categories and no doubt an improvement in every child's recall of times tables.

Praise Postcards



William D'Souza in Reception; Benjamin Edwards in Year 2; Gabrielle Auton Lock & Olivia Hine in Year 3 and Farris Ajoud-Davis in Year 6 received Praise Postcards for excellent learning. Well done!

PPA Event: COIN TRAIL COMPETITION

The PTA will be running a "Coin Trail" fundraising competition for all classes to participate in. Please give any spare change to your child to bring into school between **Monday 10th February to Friday 28th February 2019**. Each year group will be provided with a large plastic container in which to collect and store their coins. The aim is to collect as much loose change in the containers as possible by Friday 28th Feb! At the end of the competition, each group will line their coins up end-to-end along the playground/school hall. The year with the longest coin trail will win a prize and the proceeds go towards the school. Please help us to raise funds and in return we can help keep your pockets clear of loose change! This is a great opportunity for some friendly competition between year groups, so please save your pennies and pass them on to your child!
Many Thanks from your PTA

Staff Appreciation Board

The following staff have been recognised since the last newsletter:

- ❖ **Mrs Sykes and Mrs Barr** for, “ ...the excellent care, support and for going the extra mile with a smile on their face when doing so to support my daughter to learn and have fun at school.”. **Recognised by Mrs Mehmet**
- ❖ **Mrs Oliver** “Mrs Oliver has always been there when she is needed, with her helping hands, listening ears, wisdom, advice and kind words to put any worries to bed. Our daughter is very happy and lucky to have Mrs Oliver in her class and she feels reassured knowing there is a trusted adult she can always turn to. We are very grateful that Mrs Oliver is so caring and supportive. Thank you very much Mrs Oliver you are doing fantastic job!” **Recognised by Mr & Mrs Stuart**

Please send comments to head@howwood.herts.sch.uk or post in the **Suggestion Box** in reception. Thank you.

Second-hand School Uniform

Parents will now be able to purchase second-hand school uniform on the last day of half term. The uniform will be very reasonably priced and on sale in the reception area.

Voluntary Contributions

Thank you to all parents who have contributed to the School Fund so far this term

Sustainable St Albans

As you will probably be aware Sustainable St Albans runs (free) information sessions showing residents how to use a Thermal Imaging Camera which they can then borrow (again free) to see where heat is leaking from their houses. The sessions take place in St Albans (and also in Harpenden) roughly fortnightly throughout the winter. As a result many people make changes which save them money and reduce their carbon footprint.

Please see the flyer attached in the newsletter email next week with further details.

Sporting News

Netball

Tuesday 28th January: Mount Pleasant Lane Home – Score: 3:2 to How Wood

Well done!



Football

Thursday 30th January: Cup Match Quarter Final -Yellow Team Skyswood Home– Score 4 -0 to Skyswood

We are really proud of the team – this is the furthest one of our teams have progressed in the league for sometime. Well done!

PE email

Please use this email address to contact Mrs Barnes in reference to sport and PE.

The email is peteacher@howwood.herts.sch.uk

Key dates for the Spring term - Term 2020

Children back to school – Tuesday 7th January to Friday 14th February 2020

Half-term – Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2020

Children back to school – Monday 24th February to Friday 3rd April 2020

Summer Term 2020

Children back to school – Monday 20th April to Friday 22nd May 2020

May Bank Holiday – Friday 8th May 2020

Half-term – Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2020

Children back to school – Monday 1st June to Friday 17th July 2020

Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st July – INSET

Please keep handy for future reference- additional dates and changes will be shared on future newsletters. Please ensure you read all newsletters carefully. **Newly added dates in red.**

Monday 3 rd February	Florence Nightingale Workshop Year 2
Monday 3rd February	St Albans Mental Health Champion, Cllr Anthony Rowlands, visiting with Stacey Turner, founder of mental health awareness campaign It's OK To Say, visiting How Wood School to see our work on Mental Health & Well-being.
Monday 3rd February	Lis Foy Assembly - 'School in a Bag' charity representative
Monday 10 th February to Friday 14 th February	FEELING GOOD WEEK!
Tuesday 11th February	Safer Internet Day
Friday 14 th February	Last day of half term – Dress Down Friday
Sunday 8 th March	Choir to the Royal Albert Hall
Tuesday 10th March 9.30 to 10.30am	Mental Health & Well-being/SEND Coffee morning with visiting speaker, Tania Sutherland: Managing Anxiety in Children
Tuesday 17th March	EYFS trip to Leighton Buzzard Railway
Thursday 19 th March	Year 4 to Hudnall Park overnight residential
Friday 20 th March	PTA EVENT – Mother's Day Crafts
Tuesday 24 th March	Year 6 Crucial Crew Visit
Tuesday 24 th March 3.30 to 6pm	Parents Consultations
Wednesday 25 th March 4pm to 7pm	Parents Consultations
Friday 27th March	PTA EVENT – School Disco
Friday 29 th March	The Wizard of Oz production
Tuesday 31 st March 9.30am	Year 3/4 Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 31st March	Year 5 Alban Arena Concert
Wednesday 1 st April 6pm	Year 3/4 Evening Production
Thursday 2 nd April	PTA EVENT – Easter Egg Activity
Friday 3 rd April - Finish at 1.30pm	Last day of term - Dress Down Friday

Assemblies

Parents are invited to their child's class assembly at 9am. Year 3 and Year 4 will not be sharing an assembly as they will be performing an end of term production.

Date	Class	
Friday 7 th February	Year 5	Parent Assembly
Friday 13 th March	Year 2	Parent Assembly
Friday 20 th March	Year 1	Parent Assembly
Thursday 2 nd April	Reception	Parent Assembly

How Wood School Term and Holiday Dates 2020/2021

Autumn Term

INSET Wednesday 2nd September

Children back to school: Thursday 3rd September to Thursday 22nd October 2020 (7 weeks and 2 days)

Half term: Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October 2020

INSET Friday 23rd October

Children back to school: Monday 2nd November to Friday 18th December 2020 (7 weeks)

Occasional Day Friday 27th November

Spring Term

INSET Monday 4th January 2021

Children back to school: Tuesday 5th January to Friday 12th February 2021 (5 weeks & 4 days)

Half term: Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2021

Children back to school: Monday 22nd February to Friday 26th March 2021

(6 weeks)

Summer Term

INSET Monday 12th April

Children back to school: Tuesday 13th April to Friday 28th May 2021

(6 weeks and 4 days)

May Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May 2021

Half term: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2021

Children back to school: Monday 7th June to Wednesday 21st July 2021

(6 weeks and 3 days)

INSET Thursday 22nd July