



HOW WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

ESTABLISHED 1968

Head Teacher: Mrs C Rowe
Newsletter 7



16th April 2021

“There is so much in the world for us all if we only have the eyes to see it, and the heart to love it, and the hand to gather it to ourselves”

Lucy Maud Montgomery OBE (Canadian Author)

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back! The summer term is here and we have much to look forward to and, as always, the staff and I anticipate a busy, productive few weeks ahead.

Tuition Groups

Since the whole school return on March 8th, teachers have been carrying out informal, day to day assessments of the children in their classes in order to identify those children who would most benefit from extra tuition during the summer term. At How Wood, we have decided against using external agencies as we know our teachers are best placed to support the children in these groups which will take place after school, twice weekly. With the exception of EYFS, children will be invited to attend and parents of those children will receive a letter early next week with further details of times etc.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

At How Wood School, we are committed to providing an environment where your child's emotional needs are nurtured. We know how important it is that children feel a sense of belonging and are safe in the knowledge that they are important, cared-for and valued. In order to fulfil our collective responsibility to support a thriving school, all staff receive regular training which has a direct, positive impact on our children.

To date this academic year, **staff** have completed the following training:

- Adult Mental Health First Aid refresher training
- COVID related Trauma & Anxiety workshop
- ‘Drawing and Talking’ therapy training
- Process Group and Training x 3 sessions; A Trauma-informed response to Covid19 within the school system
- Attachment and Trauma Aware Training for Schools – ***This invaluable training will be made available to parents via Google Classroom. More details to follow shortly.***
- Wellbeing for Education Return

We also provide **children** targeted support:

- Individuals are targeted for 1:1 and group support/interventions

- 'Go-to Adults' are arranged for children who need them
- Outside agencies involved when required, e.g. Child Support Worker regularly meeting with individuals over 6/8 week periods; dramatherapist
- Drawing and Talking therapy with selected children

Mrs Saunders is the school's Mental Health Lead and Mrs Oliver is our Pastoral Support Assistant and receive regular training and updates throughout the year.

Please click on this link to find expert advice and practical tips on mental health and wellbeing. <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

Online Safety

Please may I remind parents to be mindful that the websites, social media platforms and apps that your children access are age-appropriate. I have attached the latest Herts for Learning Online Safety Newsletter which has some very useful information for parents and carers.

Race Equality

Promoting anti-racism and ensuring that our curriculum celebrates diversity and the achievements of ethnic minorities is a priority at How Wood School. This is a work in progress but we are proud of our achievements which are listed below:

- Books written by ethnic minority authors, and authors from other countries and cultures have been purchased and shared with the children (Thank you PTA)
- Books with representation of ethnic minorities have been purchased for each class (Thank you PTA)
- As a team, we have looked carefully at certain aspects of our curriculum and the teachers have worked very hard to successfully meld history & geography to become more thematic. Whilst re-planning and reshaping history & geography, we have ensured that opportunities to explore cultural diversity are exploited and that the history and achievements of ethnic minorities are celebrated in an authentic, non-tokenistic way.
- In May, the school will be involved in piloting an Anti-Racist Audit, which is a local authority initiative. Rachel Macfarlane, Director of Education Services, will be visiting the school and we will complete the audit together.
- How Wood School is part of a focus group and survey, which is being run by the Museum Development Office for Herts and the HCC BAME committee. The project aims to develop heritage resources that support a more inclusive history curriculum that aims to understand how schools use local museums and archives to enhance classroom teaching.

Trips & Clubs

Trips & visits are an important part of enriching our school's curriculum and I am pleased to let parents know that they will resume this term. Please be assured that we will only be taking trips using establishments that fulfil COVID-safe requirements.

We intend to resume some clubs shortly. Please watch this space and thank you for your patience.

Staff Appreciation Board

Please remember to send your 'appreciative comments' to head@howwood.herts.sch.uk

Thank you to the many parents who have sent messages of support and appreciation during lockdown.

Kindest regards

Mrs Rowe



How Wood School Term and Holiday Dates 2021

Summer Term

INSET Monday 12th April

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

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

INSET Thursday 22nd July

How Wood School Term and Holiday Dates 2021/2022

Autumn Term

Occasional Day Wednesday 1st September

INSET Thursday 2nd September

INSET Friday 3rd September

Children back to school: Monday 6th September to Friday 22nd October 2021

Half term: Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October 2021

Children back to school: Monday 1st November to Tuesday 21st December 2021

INSET Day Friday 26th November

Spring Term

INSET Wednesday 5th January 2022

Children back to school: Thursday 6th January to Friday 11th February 2022

Half term: Monday 14th February to Friday 18th February 2022

Children back to school: Monday 21st February to Friday 1st April 2022

Summer Term

Children back to school: Tuesday 19th April to Friday 27th May 2022

May Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May 2022

Half term: Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2022

Children back to school: Monday 6th June to Friday 22nd July 2022