



HOW WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL  
ESTABLISHED 1968

Head Teacher: Mrs C Rowe  
Newsletter 2



11<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

***'I attribute my success to this - I never gave up or took any excuse.'***

*Mary Seacole  
(Nurse)*

### **How Wood School Improvement Plan**

Each year, the governors, staff and I, strive to make improvements in the educational provision that we provide for all the children at How Wood School. We want to ensure that your children have the best education possible coupled with enrichment opportunities to prepare them for their future lives. Below are the four objectives in our How Wood School Improvement Plan:

Priority 1: To re-establish routines & expectations to facilitate positive learning behaviours, growth mind-set & children's skills of self-regulation to maximise learning opportunities.

Priority 2: To ensure progress & attainment in maths is accelerated by exposing and addressing gaps in learning.

Priority 3: To further promote anti-racism to ensure race equality.

Priority 3.1: Review and development of the music, art and design & technology curriculum to ensure cultural diversity and enrichment opportunities to enhance the children's knowledge and understanding of the world

Alongside the priorities in the plan, we have a whole school focus on oracy, which we will weave throughout the curriculum. Research shows that explicitly teaching speaking and listening is instrumental in supporting progress and achievement for all learners.

### **Attendance**

I would like to remind parents that all planned absences must be authorised by the school. The Department for Education has made it clear that **'Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances'**. Head Teachers do not have the discretion to allow up to 10 days in a school year for a family holiday or to agree extended leave for parents to visit their country of origin.  
Thank you.

### **Parking**

Please can parents refrain from pulling up or parking on the zig-zag yellow lines outside the school gates. It is illegal to park on these lines between 8am and 5pm as it is a serious safety risk for the children arriving and leaving school.

### **Parent / Teacher Consultations**

Parent/teacher consultation sessions will be held next week on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 3.30-6pm and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 4-7pm. Please can parents wear a face covering for their appointment. Thank you.

### **PTA – URGENT PLEA**

The PTA are in urgent need of members. This is a genuine appeal for parents to come forward in order for the PTA to continue to operate. Unfortunately, if they do not increase their membership, they will no longer be able to function which will directly affect the children at How Wood who will miss out on events such as the school disco & Summer/Christmas Fayres, to name just few.

Please contact Mrs Barker or Mrs Law @ [pta@howwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:pta@howwood.herts.sch.uk) if you are able to help.

### **National Poetry Day & Harvest Festival**

Last Thursday was National Poetry Day and Year 2 worked together to write a whole class acrostic poem celebrating the Harvest Festival.



*Harvest is a celebration of the food we have and it's on its way.*

*A time where people share and give food to the less fortunate.*

*Really tasty sweet melon that is extremely juicy and yummy.*

*vegetables have fully grown and are ready to be harvested.*

*Everyone comes together to share fabulous food.*

*Soft golden hay laying in the sun.*

*Time to celebrate harvest and eat delicious food, thanking others for their kindness.*

Thank you to all families who have kindly donated food items for the **Harvest Festival** tomorrow.

## **Electric Umbrella**

The whole school were treated to an uplifting performance by Electric Umbrella on Thursday afternoon. The children and staff team, sang, danced, laughed and enjoyed a musical performance like no other. It was a wonderful way to finish the day. To learn more about Electric Umbrella, take a look at their website: <https://www.electricumbrella.co.uk/>



## **Wear Red Day**

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, How Wood School will take part in Wear Red Day in support of Show Racism the Red Card the UK's largest anti-racism educational charity. Children should wear something red to school for a £2 donation to the charity. Donations can be made via the School Gateway or in cash on the day.



## **Praise Postcards**



Daisy Prescott, Alex Weaver and Cruz Wright in Year 2; George Bone in Year 3; Erin Cukaj in Year 4 and Arkell Makumbe in Year 6 have all received Praise Postcards this half term for excellent learning. Well done!



## **St Albans Rainbow Trail**

We are delighted to be invited to take part in the St Albans Rainbow Trail Community Rangoli Art Project! The event will be running from the 4 -7th November at St Albans Museum and Gallery in celebration of Diwali, Festival of Lights which will showcase the giant rangoli design with contributions from several local schools including How Wood Primary School.

All the children will be creating a rangoli design with 30 being chosen to form part of the larger rangoli inspired design, which will be assembled and exhibited within the Assembly Hall at St Albans Museum and Gallery for the public to visit. Entry will be free.



### Staff Appreciation Board

The following staff have been recognised since the last newsletter:  
Thank you to ...

- ❖ **Florina in Year 3**, created a beautiful piece of art entitled: *'The love I give to all teachers.'*

Please send your message to: [head@howwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@howwood.herts.sch.uk). Thank you.

I have included a list of key dates for the term. Further information about the various forthcoming events will be sent out to relevant classes.

### Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2021

New dates in red

#### Dairy Dates

Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival 10.30am
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Year 4 trip to the Ashmolean Museum</b>
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Reception Phonics Meeting 9am</b>
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Consultations 3.30pm to 6pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Parent Consultations 4pm to 7pm
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October</b>	<b>WFC Trust Diversity within Sport Workshops Y3 to Y6 + whole school assembly with guest speaker</b>
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Last day of half term - <b>Wear Red Day</b>
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October Half term</b>	
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	<b>Year 3 trip to Lee Valley</b>
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 trip to Cadbury World
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Year 2 trip to Whipsnade</b>
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Trip to St Albans Arena Pantomime – Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 1 Dress Rehearsal to parents/carers 9.30am
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 1 Evening Performance 5.30pm
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Christmas Dinner</b>
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Christingle – Y3 parents invited 10.30am
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December - <b>Finish at 1.30pm</b>	Last day of term - Dress Down Friday

## Assemblies

Parents are invited to their child's class assembly at 9am. Year 1 and Year 2 will not be sharing an assembly as they will be performing an end of year Christmas production.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Class</b>	
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6	Parent Assembly
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 5	Parent Assembly
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Year 4	Parent Assembly
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Christmas Assembly	Parent Assembly
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Christmas Assembly	Parent Assembly
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3	Parent Assembly

## How Wood School Term and Holiday Dates 2021/2022

### Autumn Term

**Half term: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

**Children back to school: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November to Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

**INSET Day Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

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### Spring Term

**INSET Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**Children back to school: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

**Half term: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

**Children back to school: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022**

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### Summer Term

**Children back to school: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**May Bank Holiday Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022**

**Additional Occasional Day due to Queen's Jubilee: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**Half term: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022**

**Children back to school: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022**