



Education Resources
Executive Director Tony McDaid
Woodside Primary
Head Teacher: Elaine Renwick



Woodie News - June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a school year this has been! I can hardly believe that we are nearly ready to finish for the summer holidays.

I'd like to thank you for your continued support, patience and understanding throughout this very challenging time. We appreciate this has not been easy for you, juggling family, home life and your own working commitments along with the stress of home learning and all the different changes in school. Thank you mums, dads and carers, your support of Woodside has been outstanding.

A massive and heartfelt thank you to all our fabulous 475 boys and girls. You have all been incredible this year easily adapting to 'class bubbles', 'playground zones', 'handwashing', 'lunchtime arrangements', 'home learning' and 'Google Meets' to name just a few. I am so very proud of you for your enthusiasm and flexibility in this new way of working. Woodside Weans are the best!

At present, we don't know what the new session in August will look like so for now we will continue with the plans and organisation that we have in place. **If** the Scottish Government announce any changes over the summer we will be in touch via email, our website and Twitter feed. Your child's final school report will be issued next Friday, 11th June. The language used has changed according to SLC guidelines, and there is a brief guide to this contained inside the report. We continue to grow as a school and it looks like we will have 17 classes next session, which means we will have to use our science open area as a classroom. We are currently working on the class arrangements for next session and hope to be able to share this with you before the end of term. We may not know the names of new staff members by the end of the session therefore some classes might have to wait until August for the name of the teacher. I also want to highlight the fact that we may have to change the make up of some of our classes. Due to the class configuration, which is set by SLC, we spend a considerable amount of time looking at the 'makeup' of each class and do this focussing on class dynamics, attainment and needs. This is not an easy exercise and please be assured that a lot of consultation and thought takes place during this process.

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to **all** the staff in Woodside! Although, the organisation and routines may have changed, the positive ethos, madness and laughs are still the same. It has been an exceptionally challenging year and we have all developed skills we never thought possible. I want to thank our Support Staff who have been crucial in the safe management of our new routines and have been out there every morning ensuring all children receive a warm welcome into school, to Nikki and our cleaning team who have worked tirelessly to ensure the extra cleaning regimes keep us all safe; to Miss Officer and Mrs Faloon for their dedication and patience and to our teachers for fully embracing the new ways of working and helping our children to continue their learning in challenging times.

Relationships are always at the heart of everything we do in Woodside and throughout this challenging time, we have really tried our best to keep these special with our children. It has also been tough not being able to welcome our parents into our building this session but I hope you know that our relationship with you is still very important and hopefully we can build on this next session. When the summer holidays do arrive please continue to keep yourselves and your precious family safe. I look forward to seeing everyone in August in whatever manner that may be. Keep watching the website for updates!

Take care everyone and thank you again.

Elaine Renwick
Head Teacher

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Standards and Quality Every year at this time we are asked to produce a schools 'Standards and Quality' paper. This document tells the story of the school year and

highlights our achievements. I wanted to share with you a little snapshot from this. If you are interested to read more, the document will be on our website soon.

Key Successes

- Whole school community worked in partnership to follow robust Covid safety measures ensuring limited number of cases.
- Very strong relationships maintained with our children to ensure smooth transitions back into school.
- Very resilient pupils who were able to adapt to changes in the school routine and learning from home.
- Nearly all children engaging in online home learning. All parents supported the school by adhering to new school routines and supporting home learning organisation.
- All staff efficiently developed IT skills to deliver daily live sessions with all the children in their class.
- Positive partnerships formed with Place2Be and YFCL officer to enhance supports available for our pupils and their families.

Achievements

Whole school attendance rates remain high, averaging at 95%. Throughout lockdown, the weekly average online attendance was 86%
41% of parents stated our Remote Learning provision was excellent, and 38% believed it to be very good.

P1/P7 Transitions

Our Primary 7 children visited Hamilton Grammar on Tuesday. This was a hugely exciting trip as we were not sure if it was going to be possible before the end of term. I know they really enjoyed seeing inside the massive building. Please check out the P7 transition area on the website for any new information. P7 boys and girls, this is such a special time for your all. You have been a super group of children: Always eager, helpful, well behaved and never letting your school down. I am so very proud of you all. You will always be special to me! We have a few wee 'safe' treats arranged for the end of term. I want to wish you all every success as you move forward onto the next chapter of your school career. I know it is even more uncertain and scarier than normal, but I have every confidence in you. Team Primary 7 you are a great bunch and I know your confidence and your enthusiasm for learning will see you through! Good luck at Hamilton Grammar and Lesmahagow High.



We are expecting 73 new Primary1 pupils in August. We were able to arrange a short outdoor induction session last week and were so excited to meet them all. It was great to have a brief chat and share a presentation with one of their parents. On the website under the tab 'School News' there is a Primary 1 Transition Area. Please go on and have a wee look as we have added lots of new guidance and information for our families.



Staffing

We have a few staff changes which will be happening after August. Mrs Green, P1, Mr Williamson Miss McEnroy, P4 and Miss Ashwood ,P6 are all moving on to pastures new. Good luck to all of you. Thank you for being part of our team and looking after our children. Mrs Smith will be returning full time and we will also welcome back Mrs Bisset. I am expecting a few new staff members and will update you with this in August.



Sports day

Like everything else this year we have had to do things a bit differently. Mrs Lawson and Miss McLarnon are currently consulting with our children to seek their views on what they would like to do for sports day. More information on this will follow. Unfortunately, parents will not be able to attend but I am sure you will hear about it!

National Team



I need to confess that I don't really 'get' football (sorry!) however I understand that our National Team playing in the Euros is a pretty big deal! If your child wishes, they can come to school on **Monday 14th June** to school wearing something blue, tartan, or Scotland related to support our team! Please can I ask no other football strips be worn.



Parking

We have had a few parking issues again lately. Can I please ask you to respect our neighbours by not parking in their private car parking area. Thank you.

Photographs



A big 'Thank You' to our Parent Council for kindly arranging Covid safe class photographs. After a crazy year it is lovely that each child will have a wee memory from school to look back on. The plan is for the photographs to be taken in the playground on Monday 7th June. Keep your fingers crossed for a dry day!

Classes for next session - At the moment we are looking at the staffing and our classes for next session. As I type this our configuration will be as follows:- P1, P1 ,P1 P2, P2, P2/3, P3, P3, P4, P4, P4, P5, P5, P6, P6, P7 and P7. However, this may change. We are hoping we can update you with more information before the end of the session.