



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

Woodie News September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I have loads to share with you this month so please take the time to read through this Newsletter carefully.

We are all aware of the growing number of Covid cases in the news and I am sure you have seen the numerous letters that have been sent out from school. I know that this is a bit concerning but I want to reassure you that although it's all systems go here at Woodside, the safety and well being of pupils and staff is our number one priority. Our rigorous cleaning and safety measures remain in place in school. Please continue to follow the guidance from the Scottish Government and remember **Test and Protect will only contact you if your child has been a direct contact.** If you have taken your child for a test please **update the school office with the result.** Can I ask that at **both drop offs and pick ups all parents/carers continue to wear face coverings** unless you are exempt. Thank you.

There was big excitement last week when we rearranged the playground to enable year groups to play together. It was lovely to see the children playing with their friends at the same stage, something that I know they have missed. Staggered breaks and lunch times remain in place to reduce the numbers in our playground.

Today at our online assembly I will be announcing the return of our 'Stars of the Week'



and my personal favourite 'Hot Chocolate with the Headie'. If your child is 'Star of the Week' they will receive a certificate and be invited to have hot chocolate with me or one of the deputies.

Our 'Star of the Week' celebration will be linked to our school values and recognise children's efforts. We introduced this idea 2 years ago because in such a big and busy school it can be difficult to see all the children and I wanted to make sure I had some 'special' time with every pupil over the school year. I have really missed it and I can't wait to get started again. If your child is not able to have hot chocolate, a drink of juice or a wee biscuit please can you let me know. Thank you! I am sure you will hear all about it as it will start next week!

Kind regards,
 Elaine Renwick
 Head Teacher

Woodside Primary, Johnstone Road, Hamilton, ML3 7JR Phone: 01698 427811

Email: gw14woodsidedpsoffice@glow.sch.uk

Website: www.woodside-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk



Dates For Your Diary

9th Sep	Parent Council meeting 7pm
13th Sep	Class Newsletters online this week.
24th Sep	Holiday
27th Sep	Holiday
1st Oct	Newsletter Online
4th Oct	Parental calls this week Flu vaccine
8th Oct	Dress down day. More info to follow
11th - 15th Oct	Holiday
5th Nov	Newsletter Online
15th Nov	INSET day. Children not in school.

White envelope

Thank you to everyone who has returned the large white envelope containing important school information. This is a massive job and our office team are making their way through the giant pile and updating any details. Please can I ask all parents to sign into Parent Pay, ideally on a daily basis even if you are not using the school dinner system as this is the quickest way for us to share communication with you. If you have any problems accessing the system please contact our office and someone will help you.





Woodie News-September 2021

Our Recovery Priorities

Already we are working on aspects of this years Recovery Improvement Priorities.

Improvement Priority 1 - Continuity of Learning As the children are now receiving all aspects of the curriculum we are looking at revising our content and making it relevant and progressive for the children in Woodside. This will be an ongoing and major focus for us this year.

All staff have undertaken training on a new approach to teaching spelling which has a greater focus on phonics and spelling strategies. This means we will not be having a Friday spelling test but rather daily practice with lots of pupil led activities. Spelling homework will reinforce content from the previous week. More information on this new approach will follow soon.

Our support staff have all been trained on 'Catch Up Literacy' and this will be rolled out to targeted pupils.

Improvement Priority 2 - Promote the positive health and wellbeing of children, parents/carers and staff - Our 'Emotion Works' programme is back in place in all classes. Evelyn McGonagle our Youth, Family and Community Learning Officer is with us every Wednesday and Thursday. She is already monitoring the attendance and late coming of some pupils and has supported a few Primary 1 families starting school.



Improvement Priority 3 - Planning for Equity Thank you to all those parents who got in touch regarding the focus group for our Participatory Budget. Discussion have taken place with the group and our pupils have all been consulted on how we should spend our money. Watch out for an update on this soon, as your vote will be required to assist with the selection of activities. Joanne Gilford our Place2Be counsellor is available in school all day Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning.

Please read below to find out about these two special ladies who are part of our team.

Place2Be

My name is Joanna and I am the Mental Health Practitioner based in Woodside Primary. I work on behalf of Place2Be, a mental health charity that has over 25 years' experience working with pupils, families and staff in UK schools. I offer a service called "Place2Talk" which is a fifteen-minute counselling drop in for children if they want to have a chat about anything that is on their mind. Children are able to make an appointment to come and see me using the red letter boxes throughout the school. I also offer one to one intervention. This will happen after a child has specifically been referred for this from teachers or parents. Consent will always be needed from the parent before this service can take place. My room in the school is a quiet, safe space filled with various toys and art materials where the counselling intervention takes place. Place2Be also offer "A Place for Parents" which is a counselling service specifically for parents/guardians. These sessions take place through one of my colleagues. If this is something that you feel you would be interested in, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07790977884.



If you **DO NOT** wish you child to access Place2Talk please can you contact the school office. Attached to this newsletter is more information about our service.

Youth, Family and Community Learning

My name is Evelyn McGonagle and I am a Youth, Family and Community Learning Officer. I am delighted to continue working in Woodside Primary School



My job is to work with the staff team and support Parents/Carers and families in a range of ways. This could include: phone calls, informal sessions on helping children's literacy, building confidence/positive relationships with children, and practical tips on helping your child succeed. (These may be offered online due to Covid restrictions). All sessions will be relaxed, provide suggestions on the topics but give Parents/Carers the important time to meet others, share experiences and ideas.

Already I have worked with a few of our new Primary 1 families and it has been fantastic to see their settled start to school. I am also monitoring the attendance of a few pupils and I may be in touch with you on ways to support you in ensuring your child comes to school everyday.

Building positive and genuine relationships with Parents/Carers and families is at the heart of what I do. I look forward to getting to know you and working together to ensure our children are happy, confident and achieve.



Woodie News-September 2021

Buddy Playtime

There was HUGE excitement when we were able to start up our buddy programme again. Our Big Primary 6 Buddies had the chance to meet and play with their Wee Primary 1 Buddies out in the playground. Obviously, we kept this as safe as possible and the playtimes were in class groups over a period of days. It was so lovely to see our P7 Buddies finally meeting their Primary 2 Buddies in person; an experience we can hopefully build on this session.



Google Classroom and Homework

Throughout lockdown we used 'Google Classroom' as a way of delivering online learning and remaining in contact with all our children. This will continue to be our contingency plan if ever needed. Next week your child will change their Glow password in school. They will note this somewhere safe and bring it home. Please can I ask all parents and children to log in to ensure they can access this from home. If you require any support or have issues with the log in please email:- gw07yatesvictoria@glow.sch.uk Please make sure your child knows their new password and has it noted somewhere safe, like their pencil case or a notebook in their bag.



Homework will start week beginning 13th September. Our initial focus will be on reading and numeracy. Your child may have a reading book in their bag and be given pages to read at home with a parent. Each week there will also be a numeracy task to complete and this will be posted on the **Google Classroom**.

Not all homework can be completed online and in infant classes, a different approach will be necessary. More information about this will follow soon.

As teachers are in front of the class everyday we are unable to supply daily class work on the Google Classroom. **Isolation grids** will be popped on the Google Classroom from the 13th September for any child at home who is isolating as they await their PCR test results. If your child is absent due to a positive result, there is no expectation that they need to complete work at home as we want them to focus on getting better again.

Gym Shoes

We have received a number of calls regarding Gym shoes. As we can now participate in PE lessons indoors, I kindly ask that all children have a comfortable and safe pair of shoes which they can leave in school. The children will also wear these indoors throughout the school day. This helps keep our building clean and dry especially as we approach the winter months. I appreciate this is an extra cost for families so please do not feel the need to run out and purchase these straight away.

Parent Council

We are lucky to have a very supportive and active Parent Council in Woodside. Their first 'online' meeting for this session will take place on **Thursday 9th September at 7pm**. If you wish to be included in this online meeting please email : woodsideparentcouncil@hotmail.co.uk



We try to share many different events, successes and photographs on the school

Twitter page :- **@woodsidepschool**

If you are not a follower yet, please click to follow the page. Our Twitter account is one way communication only.