



Woolhampton CE Primary School Newsletter

9th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to our families to Spring Term 1. We had an exciting start to the week with the snow on Tuesday. As we don't have the opportunity to enjoy the snow very often, we decided to make the most of it and go out for a whole school walk. Everyone had great fun and hopefully made some snowy memories! The photographs and videos will be shared via our Instagram account, but here are a few.



Next week, you will receive an update of your child's current attendance. The figure you receive will be a percentage attendance – good attendance is considered to be 95% and above. There is more detail about attendance and lateness overleaf.

I wish you all a lovely weekend,

Mrs Rebecca Cox
Headteacher, Woolhampton CE Primary School

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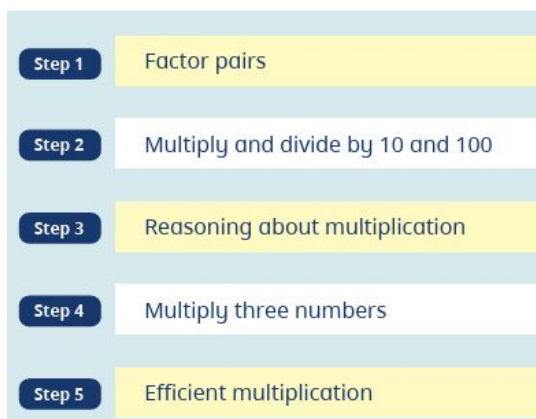
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Attendance and lateness

School attendance is a key focus for the Department of Education this year and for a very good reason. School attendance levels are directly linked to attainment with children who have good attendance greatly out-performing children with poor attendance. Our school attendance for the Autumn Term has been good and we really want to ensure that this continues so that we can make sure that our children achieve the best that they can.

Learning in schools today is fast paced and missing one day means that a child misses out on key parts of a learning sequence. Teachers will do their best to help a child catch up, but it is not possible to repeat learning in the same depth and therefore learning is lost. Below is an example of a maths learning sequence for Week 1 of a unit on multiplication for Year 3/4. If a child misses one of these lessons, they miss a key step making it really difficult for them to understand the next lesson. This is the same for all year groups.



We understand that when a child is ill, the best place for them is at home. There are also a number of illness, such as vomiting and diarrhoea, that require that your child to stay at home for a set time; however, if there are times when you're not sure if your child is ill, or you think they might be better after an illness – we encourage you to send them in and we will call you if they are not coping at school. Similarly, we can not authorise any holidays or other requests for time off, unless these are exceptional e.g. for a funeral.

Lateness – prompt arrival at school is also really important as lessons start straight away at 8:45am. Any child arriving after 8:45am is marked as 'Late' in the register and any child arriving after 9am is marked as 'Absent'.

For safeguarding reasons, any child arriving after the gate closes at 8:45am will have to be bought up to the school office by a parent and signed in. The office will not be able to 'buzz' your child in at the gate without seeing you first.

For more details please see our Absence Policy available on our website and from the school office.

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What's on week commencing 12th January:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School		Golden Mile		Golden Mile	
YR R			Forest School	PE	
Y1 & Y2	PE		Year 1 Forest School		
Y3 & Y4			PE		
Y5 & Y6		PE		Yr 6 Forest School Yr 5 Swimming	
Clubs	Football Years 1 to 6	Dance Club All Years		Taekwondo Club Yrs 3,4,5 and 6	
Before/After School & Team Events					
Additional Information:					
Coming Up....	<p>Wednesday 28th January - Don Rae Chinese New Year Workshop.</p> <p>Half Term - Monday 16th to Sunday 22nd February inclusive</p> <p>Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd March - Year 5 Residential.</p> <p>End of Term - Friday 27th March</p>				

YAMAHA BABY GRAND PIANO DONATION

A Mr J Brown has contacted us about donating his late wife's Yamaha baby grand piano to someone who has a genuine passion for music. Please contact the school office if you would be interested in having it, or if you know someone who would cherish and care for it and we will pass on his contact details.

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I am writing to inform you that I have recently published a new guide, [What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives](#).

Supporting children's safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play.

The last time I published a guide like this, *The things I wish my parents had known: Young people's advice on talking to your child about online sexual harassment*, in December 2021, it was to help parents and carers navigate difficult conversations about sexual harassment online. This guide is different in scope, in recognition of the complex, rapidly evolving landscape in which children – and parents – are navigating. It focuses on the challenge of managing children's everyday online habits.

This guide was written with the direct involvement of children in England. It is a reflection of their views. My office visited schools to speak to teenagers, and spoke to my Youth Ambassadors and Youth Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Panel to get their expertise on what works and what doesn't work between parents or carers and children in the 21st Century.

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When I speak to children about what they would do differently when it comes to being online, with the benefit of hindsight, I ask them: would they give a smartphone to their own teenager? Almost unanimously, they tell me no.

They want to be protected from it as long as possible.

As educators and leaders, you play a vital role in supporting parents and carers to navigate these challenges. Responses to my recent school survey show just how concerned school leaders are about their children's safety online, despite most already taking steps to limit or ban devices from the classroom. Children are clear that they value firm, informed and protective boundaries when adults have concerns about the content they are accessing online.

As parents, carers, and educators, our job must begin and end with our children's care and safety. It's what they expect and what they want from you.

As one young person told me: "Don't be afraid to be firm... If you are worried [that] your child is seeing harmful content and you don't know what they're watching and it's affecting the behaviour, just take it that you know best – they don't."

I hope this guide will be a useful resource for your school community, and I encourage you to share it with staff and parents where appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Rachel de Souza

Children's Commissioner

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