



Woolhampton CE Primary School Newsletter

4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to welcome our children back after the summer break and to welcome our new children starting with us this September. I have spent a lot of time in the classrooms and the children have settled back in exceptionally well. As a school, we are very positive that this year is going to be an exciting time for Woolhampton, building on the successes of last year and looking forward to the many things that we have planned.

This term, we have a number of events arranged including a whole school Welly Walk in aid of Jeans for Genes, Macmillan Coffee Afternoon, playground opening event, Harvest Festival, Parents Evening, open afternoons for new parents, sharing assemblies, school disco, Beech & Sycamore nativity, Christingle Service and a whole school trip to the pantomime. Dates will be posted in the diary section of the newsletter.

There have been a couple of new exciting developments to the school over the summer, including:

Significant improvements to the outside area: a large amount of landscaping work has been done to both the front of the school and the rear playground. Our gardening area has been transformed with the installation of five new raised beds and the planting of a new border and hedge. In the back playground, the old 'quiet area' that was virtually unusable, has been fully landscaped, levelled and new sensory borders and turf laid. Later in the autumn, a living willow arch will be planted. The work and all the materials and plants have been donated by construction firm Morgan Sindall – we are extremely grateful to them for everything they have done.

Today, the children were involved in the work and they helped to plant some of the borders and install some of the new bird and bat boxes that Morgan Sindall volunteers made. The raised beds will be used by the classes to grow a range of fruit and vegetable – all under the guidance of expert gardener, Mrs Howe. The new sensory garden at the back of the school, will be available for children at break times who prefer a quieter environment to play. We will be having an 'official opening' this term which parents will be invited to.



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A new minibus: we are very pleased to be able to tell you that our Chair of FoWS has managed to secure a new minibus for the school! It will take a little while to arrange all the necessary paperwork needed for a school bus, but we hope to be able to start using it shortly. We are extremely lucky to have a minibus as not many schools of our size have their own bus. This has been made possible because of the amazing fundraising efforts of FoWS (and our whole community who support them). Having a bus means that we are able to attend sporting events, school trips and activities that otherwise we would struggle to attend.

Historically, the school received funding for a minibus so that we could transport children who live in the catchment area to and from school. A couple of years ago, West Berkshire reviewed expenditure on transport and made the decision to withdraw our funding. Sadly, the school is not in a position to be able to fund minibus transport to and from school due to our ever-decreasing school budget. To fund this would mean making cuts in other areas. As a result, in order for us to be able to offer a minibus pickup and drop off, we are going to have to start making a small charge to contribute towards the costs of employing a driver and running the bus for these runs. The costs will be confirmed shortly. If you live in the school catchment area and would like your child to use the bus, please contact the office. We will need to ensure that we have enough users to enable us to run the service.

Classroom update: staff have been busy revamping classrooms over the summer to make sure that they provide the best possible learning environments. Our aim is to ensure that every classroom is calm and productive and all children can work to the best of their ability. We aim to make sure our classrooms are 'sensory friendly' so that all children can concentrate and we have lots of resources so that children can independently access equipment that supports them in their learning. Each classroom has 'quiet spaces' – these contain specialist resources to support children if they need a little extra. For example, if someone is feeling a bit overwhelmed, or upset, or anxious, they can access these areas and the resources (e.g. sensory fidgets) to help them to re-regulate and be able to re-focus back on their learning.

In order to keep our classroom environments ordered, calm and free from un-necessary distractions, this year we are providing children with all the learning equipment that they need. As a result, there is no need for children to bring in pencil cases, fidget toys or any other equipment, as these will be provided ensuring that every child is ready and able to learn.

Contact reminders: if you have any concerns or questions this is who to contact:

Safeguarding – the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mrs Cox, Deputy DSLs are Mrs Smith, Mrs Perrin and Mrs Lowther. Contact us via 0118 9712270 or safeguarding@woolhampton.school.org

Concern about your child – your child's teacher is your first point of contact. Either catch them on the gate, or contact the office to arrange an appointment to see them.

General questions about school life, afterschool club etc – contact the school office

I am always on the gate in the morning to talk to parents and teachers will be on the playground at the end of the day. You are very welcome to catch us then, but please be aware that seeing children safely in and out of school is our main priority at that time and we may advise arranging a meeting to discuss things in more detail.

As always, thank you for your continuing support as we begin our new school year!

I wish you all a lovely weekend,

Mrs Rebecca Cox
Headteacher
Woolhampton CE Primary School

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What's on week commencing 7th September:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School		Golden Mile		Golden Mile	
YR R			Forest School	PE	
Y1 & Y2			Year 1 and 2 Forest School	PE	
Y3 & Y4		PE		Forest School	
Y5 & Y6				PE	
Clubs		Wellbeing Walk (lunchtime KS2)	KS2 Hockey Club Yrs 3-6	Garden Club (lunchtime Yrs3 &4) Netball Club Years 4,5 and 6 3:30 - 4:30	
Before/After School & Team Events					

Additional Information:

Coming Up....	Friday 18th September - Welly Walk (Weather permitting) Thursday 24th September - Open Afternoon for prospective parents Thursday 24th September - Harvest Service in St Peter's Church - 2:30pm Friday 25th September - Macmillan Coffee Afternoon - 1:30pm (Douai Pavilion). Monday 28th September - Flu Immunisation - Years R to 6 Thursday 15th October - Open Afternoon for prospective parents Wednesday 21st October - Parent-Teacher Meetings Half Term - Thursday 22nd - Sunday 30th October Wednesday 11th November - Remembrance Service 10:50am Friday 20th November - Sharing Assembly - 2:30pm Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th - Beech and Sycamore Class Nativity. Thursday 10th December - Whole School Trip to the pantomime. Friday 11th December - After School Disco Thursday 17th December - Christingle Service - St Peters Church at 1:15pm Thursday 17th December - End of Term 2:00pm
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Jeans For Genes/Welly Walk

On Friday 18th September the children will do their annual Welly Walk to Beenham. This year we would also like to fundraise for Jeans For Genes. A donation of £1 can be made via Tucasi/Scopay (Trips and Events) for this worthwhile cause. Further details will follow shortly.



Netball Club - Years 4,5 and 6

Mrs Javes will run the netball club for children in years 4,5 and 6 on Thursday after school from 3:30pm to 4:30pm, starting 10th September. If your child wishes to attend please sign up via Scopay. Numbers are limited.

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