



**19<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

Dear Parents & Carers,

As the Autumn Term comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our school community – children, parents, wider families, governors, volunteers, members of St Peter’s church and of course staff for their continued support. I am very much looking forward to taking up the position of headteacher in January and believe that we have some exciting times ahead as we enter this new chapter in the life of Woolhampton school. No doubt we will face some challenges, but we have strong foundations in place and we will continue to work together to overcome these.

I know how important it is for families to be able to come into school and share in their child’s learning and I am pleased to say that we will be organising some sharing assemblies for later in the term. To start the term, we will be holding a parent sharing morning on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 9am. You are invited to join in a short PSHE session with your child focusing on ‘No Outsiders’ (in our school everyone is welcome – there are no outsiders). This will last approximately half an hour and will be followed by a welcome meeting from our new SENCo, Mrs Moore. Further details will be sent out after Christmas. If anyone has any other ideas as to how we can support families being involved in school life, please do let me know.

I wish all of our Woolhampton families a very Happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

Mrs Rebecca Cox

## Some special messages...

### **Mrs Burns' Assembly**

Last Friday, we held a special assembly to say 'Thank You' to Mrs Burns. It was a lovely occasion and the children sang some of Mrs Burns' favourite songs. With the money that we raised from our collection, we presented Mrs Burns with some gift vouchers for some pottery workshops and a bit extra for her to treat herself to something nice. Mrs Burns would like to share the following message:

*Dear All, Thank you so much for the wonderful send off. It is a privilege to have been the Woolly Headteacher and who would have thought it would end like this? It certainly puts everything into perspective! I have so many lovely memories and really felt I could be the best version of myself! I especially loved the gate in the morning, and welcoming the children into school. I was useless at relaying the messages though, even with the clipboard! Woolhampton is an amazing community and I really appreciate being enabled to flourish, with the support of the whole school community. Thank you for your generosity! I'm so pleased that the school is in the safe hands of Mrs Cox. She is so passionate about her school and so knowledgeable, I relied on her wisdom.*

*Merry Christmas, love from Mrs Burns.*

### **Goodbye to Mrs Livermore**

Mrs Livermore's returned yesterday to join us for our Christmas lunch. She has sent the following message to share with you:

*Dear Parents and Carers*

*As we reach the end of the autumn term and the end of my time with you, I wanted to thank you for welcoming me into your school. Everything that I loved about Woolhampton for my own children still shines through - the happy and caring children and the staff who all go the extra mile every day. I have enjoyed my time with you and know that I am leaving you in the very best hands as your journey continues with Rebecca at the helm. The collaboration between our two schools is also set to continue and I have no doubt that this will flourish and both staff and children will benefit from the increased opportunities available when we work together.*

*I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year.*

*Best wishes*

*Jackie*

## Important Reminders for January

### Attendance and punctuality

You may have seen in the news that the government are having a real push on attendance and punctuality and as a school we support this. One area that parents may not be so aware of are the rules surrounding lateness. Statutory guidance means that children who arrive after 8:45am are marked as late; however, children who arrive after the registers close at 9am, have to be marked as absent for half a day (one session). Unless a valid reason can be provided, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. As a result from January, if your child is late, you will need to bring them to the school office and not drop them at the gate. This is so that the office can record the reason for absence – please be aware that we can only authorise absence in very specific circumstances e.g. illness, and we are required to inform the local authority of any child who has ten or more unauthorised absences (ten half days/five full days) in any ten week period. The local authority may then issue a fine.

We do understand that the mornings can be a busy (and stressful!) time, but arriving on time is really important. If we can offer any support to families surrounding this, please do let us know.

### Uniform

Having a smart uniform gives the children a sense of pride in their school, prompts equality and removes the pressure to have the latest clothing or accessories. The holidays provide a good opportunity to check uniform and ensure that your child has everything that they need for the new year. There has been some confusion lately over acceptable items of clothing, so I would like to remind everyone of our winter uniform requirements as outlined in our uniform policy, which is available on our website or from the office:

- Grey skirt or grey pinafore dress, grey tailored trousers or shorts
- Red polo shirt (plain or logo)
- School sweatshirt or cardigan (red **with logo on**)
- Red / grey tights or white / grey socks (no trainer socks)
- Black school shoes (no trainers) maximum heel one inch (2.5 cm)

Please note that FoWS have a large selection of nearly new uniform for sale at a cost of £1 per item. This includes jumpers and cardigans with logos on. If any families require support with the purchase of uniform, please contact the office and we will be able to help.

The following items are not part of our uniform: jumpers/hoodies that are not school jumpers, leggings and trainers (children should wear school shoes and have a pair of trainers in school everyday for use in PE, golden mile and other outdoor activities). Jewellery is not allowed, with the exception of stud earrings, which must be removed for PE and forest school (if this is not possible they must be covered with tape). Watches are allowed, but smart watches or those that connect to the internet are not. We would like to assure you that our classrooms are well heated, but if your child is cold, please provide them with extra layers to wear under their uniform.

## What's on week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School		<b>Golden Mile</b>		<b>Golden Mile</b>	
YR & Y1	<b>PE</b>				
Y2 & Y3				<b>PE</b>	
Y4 & Y5			<b>PE</b>		
Y6	<b>PE/Leadership</b>				
Clubs		<b>Dance Club All Years</b>			
Before/After School & Team Events					
<b>Additional Information:</b>					
Coming Up....	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Spring Term commences</b> Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January – Open Morning for Prospective Parents – 09:30 Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January – No Outsiders Parent Morning – 09:00am Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January – Year 6 Trip to the Houses of Parliament				

**St Peter's Church,  
Woolhampton**

**3.00 p.m. Christmas Eve  
Crib Service**



**Please come and help act out the Christmas Story dressed as angels, shepherds, kings or anything you think will help us tell the story – or borrow our costumes.**

**We will sing well known carols as the story is told, and the service will last no longer than 45 minutes.**

**Everyone is welcome!**

**For further details contact Rev'd Jane on 0118 9712 891**

### **Return of Loaned Clothing**

If your child has been sent home in clothing borrowed from school please could we ask that you return it as soon as possible as we have no spare clothes to use in case of accidents in school. Thank you.

## West Berkshire Food Bank – updated 13/12/24



Below is the updated list urgently needed by the foodbank.

<https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

We are still happy to receive donations for the food bank.

**URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS** – SUGAR (500g), TIN OF BISCUITS, STUFFING/GRAVY/CRANBERRY SAUCE, TOILET PAPER, TIN OF SWEETS/CHOCOLATES, COOKING OIL.

**LOW ON STOCK** – MILK POWDER, SAVOURY BISCUITS, UHT MILK, PRINGLES OR SHARING CRISPS, NON-BIOLOGICAL WASHING POWDER, COOKED MEAT WITH RING PULLS, CUSTARD/RICE PUDDING POTS, CHRISTMS CAKE(LONG DATES).

The food bank greatly appreciates all your donations.