



3rd October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Now that we are settled back into the new academic year, I write to update you on some news and a few upcoming events and to ask for your ongoing support.

The children, young people, new staff and new families are settling into their new routines for the school year and it has been a busy start to the term. It is still early days and some children are still becoming familiar with the expectations of the school environment. Thankfully as we are a special school setting, we are able to tailor the pace and content of our curriculum to the childrens' needs. More information on termly themes for learning can be found on the school website here: <https://www.woodside.bexley.sch.uk/teaching-and-learning>

We also welcome a new class of primary children into Key stage 2 starting today; Monday 3rd October. We extend a warm welcome to all new children who will be joining the newly created Rose class and also welcome their families.

Since the start of term the admin and reception staff have been busy implementing a new school management system called Arbor. This has meant some significant change across the whole school. We hope that for those of you making payments for school meals, this will prove a straightforward process but do not hesitate to make contact if you do experience any difficulties. We have also had several important visitors to the school including the LSEAT CEO, Dr Sam Parrett OBE and the new Chair of Trustees, Christine Whatford, CBE.

Last Wednesday, 20 Woodside children and young people from across the school were awarded LSEAT student awards at The Orchard Theatre. The event was amazing, especially the music from Bexley Music, but I have to say that the Woodside pupils totally stole the show! Being the last school to receive our awards, the children who had all waited so patiently, made the most of their time in the spotlight and shone with pride and achievement. It was a tremendous privilege to present them with their awards and to celebrate their considerable achievements in this way.

The Friends of Woodside (FOW) held a welcome coffee morning which was very well attended earlier in September. This was followed by last Friday's Popcorn party which was a huge success. The event was coordinated by the FOW Committee and supported by a raft of parent and staff volunteers. Funds raised will be put towards school equipment. There will be more to come and details directly from the Friends of Woodside will be sent out shortly.



For those parents who drive to drop off and collect their child from school on a daily basis, please do ensure that you park considerately in either Colyers Lane or Birling Road. We have recently received correspondence from neighbours stating that this is not always the case. We are part of the local community and so our reputation matters. We have worked hard over the years to ensure that all of the children receive a safe and calm arrival in school. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer on-site drop off and although we do staff the roadside to welcome and assist, school staff do not have any jurisdiction or authority over traffic, the conduct of road users or parking. Your understanding and support in this matter is much appreciated.

This Wednesday, we hope to welcome you to our re-instated 'Meet the Teacher' event. Here you will be able to see where your child is based, meet key staff and receive general information about your child's school day. We will also be sharing more detail of how you can access our online reading and home learning resources.

Straight after half term there will be the opportunity for you to discuss your child in more detail with their teacher at the Progress Review Day. In response to parent feedback, these events will now take place termly.

At Woodside, we take our responsibility to educate your child extremely seriously. We want them to achieve personally and in their academic learning. As parents and carers, you are also key to their success, and so our partnership with you is very important. Therefore I encourage you to please speak to us at the earliest opportunity should you have any worries or concerns or wish to share information which will affect your child's day at school. I enclose a communication flow chart for your reference.

I look forward to meeting many of you on Wednesday.

Yours faithfully

Mrs K Freame
Headteacher



COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

If your query is to do with your child's learning, then your first point of contact is the Class Teacher via the contact book or office email account.

If you have a concern about your child, then please inform the school as soon as possible to make us aware of the issue. Please be assured that we will listen and follow up on your concern. Please also bear in mind that this takes time.

Teachers are not available to speak with you or to meet without an appointment as they must prioritise their class and teaching responsibilities. For general queries or requests for more support, the Pastoral Support Worker, Miss Avery is also available.

1. Contact Book

Your child will be issued with a contact book which is a two way means of communication between parent/carer and teaching staff. Please use this book to relay any information you think we need to know or which would help your child in school. Please check the book daily for messages and feedback from the class teacher.

2. Email

You can contact the school office via email at office@woodside.lseat.org.uk. This mailbox is monitored between 8am-4pm Monday-Friday, term time.

3. Telephone

The school office can be contacted on 01322 350 123 between 8am-4.20pm Monday to Friday where a message can be taken by a member of office staff.

4. Correspondence

Letters/information/newsletters and forms will be sent home via Parentmail. Once you have provided us with your email address, you will receive an invite to join parentmail via SMS and email. Please do accept this invite to set up a parentmail account and ensure you read and/or respond to any correspondence sent via this method.