



City Community Learning Trust

Woodthorpe Community Primary School
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Newsletter October 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

The start to the new school term has been positive and busy as always! This shows no sign of relenting as we head towards half term. Please take a moment to read October's newsletter so we can continue to work together to build on this success!

In response to your feedback, I wanted to address a number of areas. Some are easily resolved, and I thank you for bringing them to my attention. Other issues may take more time and effort, but working together, I'm sure we can make progress on all these areas.

Road Safety

This, as you well know, is an ongoing issue and one which is of great concern to us all. Below I have outlined the steps we have taken as a school. This however is not an issue we can solve on our own – we need your support too. Simple steps would help – these may include parking safely and courteously, ensuring your child understands how and where they can cross the road safely and occasionally (if you travel to school by car), leaving the car at home.

To date, the school has:

- Contacted the local police on a number of occasions requesting support in managing traffic and parking
- Contacted Sheffield City Council to request a Crossing Patrol Warden be re introduced on Woodrove Avenue (we have even offered to pay for this service however this is not something the council can offer at this stage)
- Written to a number of taxi firms who frequently park inconsiderately outside school asking them to consider safety issues when dropping parents and children off / collecting them from school

In addition to this we regularly speak to the children in assemblies, class groups and where necessary individually to help them develop a greater understanding of road safety.

Clearly all these issues are ongoing, we will keep you informed as to how they develop.

Reading

As a school we are aiming to further improve our approach to the teaching of reading. To support with this, it would be really helpful if you would continue to help your child at home. Regardless of the age of your child, reading with them, reading to them or listening to them read, are hugely important and enjoyable activities. Did you know that parents and the home learning environment have the greatest effect on how a child develops language and literacy skills? If you can spare just 10 minutes a day to share a book you can make a huge difference to your child's development. For further information and top tips on how to read with your child contact their class teacher or visit www.wordsforlife.org.uk for guidance and activities to help you support your child in learning to read.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We recently ran a questionnaire on the Woodthorpe App. This attracted responses from 70 parents / carers. The most popular requests were for a wider variety of sporting activities (incorporating games, dance and gymnastics) and Arts and Crafts. As a result, we are exploring how we can offer these clubs. I will contact you all again soon with an update on this.

Winter Wonderland Disco

Another parental request was that we hosted a disco. This is now booked and will form the culmination of our Winter Wonderland (to which you are all invited – on December 8th from 1.00pm) the disco will be after school – FS and KS1 – 3.00pm – 4.00pm and KS2 from 4.15pm – 5.30pm. Tickets for this event will be available after half term and will be priced £1. **Parent support for the event is welcomed! If you're able to give up a couple of hours, please let us know!** Finally, as the disco is a celebration of our Winter Wonderland, I wondered if we could entitle the event 'The Snow Ball'!?

Dates for your diary

27.10.17 - School Break up for Half Term

06.11.17 – INSET DAY

07.11.17 – Children return to school

15.11.17 – Parents' Evening

08.12.17 – Winter Wonderland – All parents and carers are invited from 1.00pm – more details to follow

All key dates are on our **website** and you can also receive notifications from the **Woodthorpe App**. If you haven't yet downloaded it, please do so from the App Store!



Dave Smith – Headteacher