



Headteacher: Mrs. Claire Baldock

Weekly Memo 13th December 2024

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PLEASE READ ALL ATTACHMENTS

Important Dates

You can synch to our new website calendar <https://woodcoteprimary.croydon.sch.uk/calendar/>

Fri 13th Dec – Flu Vaccinations

Tues 17th Dec – Headteacher Coffee Morning 8.45am Staffroom

Wed 18th Dec – Christmas Parties – **see information below**

Fri 20th Dec – End of Term 2.30pm – **No AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

Children return Monday 6th January

New Information

Children's Safety – Pick up

As we continue to ensure our procedures for the end of the day are as safe as possible, we want to remind parents that once your child has been handed over to you by the teacher you are taking responsibility for your child. We do have adults on the gate to supervise and support safety, but please ensure your children stay with you and do not run ahead for example.

If you have given your KS2 child permission to walk to the gate or even walk home, the responsibility is handed to you at the point they leave the classroom. We try our very best to monitor the gates, but we cannot remember all 800+ children's permissions and match with correct adults, so your support and understanding of this is appreciated.

Reception 2025

Do you have a child who turns 5 between Septemebrr 2025 and August 2026? If you do, then don't forget the deadline to apply for a Reception place through your own Local Authority closes on 15th January 2025. Any application submitted after this date will be classed as late and the child's application may not be processed until after 16 April 2025.

Christmas Activities REMINDER FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Wednesday 18th December

During the afternoon, we will be having our class parties. **Please send your child in with a named and covered plate of party food to enjoy.** This will be in addition to their school lunch on the day. Please remember we are a **nut free** school.

Friday 20th December

Children can come to school in their own clothes and bring board games in to play with their friends (**no electronic games and at owners' risk**). **All children finish at 2.30pm on this day and there is no After School Club.**

Weekly Welcome

This week we spoke about Save the Children, and why we have Christmas Jumper Day! There is still time to donate if you did not already! We have raised £280 so far, but with over 800 pupils in the school, we are sure we can still hit our £500 target! https://www.justgiving.com/page/woodcote-primary-school-1732006244743?utm_campaign=lc_frp_share_transaction_transactional--page_launched--campaign&utm_content=98fe87cb-6161-4713-ac16-978044477ae3&utm_medium=email&utm_source=postoffice&utm_term=1732006266474

Birthday Sweets – What are your thoughts? <https://forms.gle/NwhRgoRg55ck1a6e6>

Birthday Sweets is something we have continued to support at Woodcote, but there is no expectation for this to happen for any family. Our stance has been that if families choose to, then we will allow distribution, but children are told they are not to eat any item until they are with their adult due to dietary and allergy needs.

We have received a proposal for a change to the current tradition of distributing sweets for birthday celebrations with a possible replacement with an alternative celebration, such as a birthday book donation (a single book donated to the class) or other gesture. Some reasons given for this are;

Healthier Alternatives: With increasing concerns over children's health and diet, moving away from sugary treats would contribute to the school's commitment to promoting healthy habits.

Food allergies and sensitivities: Children with allergies may feel left out if the birthday treat is not suitable for them. Parents may also struggle to find treats suitable to cater for the allergies that may be present in a class. In addition, some children may be particularly sensitive to high levels of sugar and additives, resulting in changes in mood and behaviour.

Sibling rivalry: When a child receives a birthday celebration treat, and their sibling doesn't, it can create feelings of unfairness or competition. This feeling of unfairness is exacerbated if one class has more celebrations than the other.

Cost to parents – The cost of sweets compared to a book is likely to be significantly cheaper for families.

Environmental Impact: Reducing the amount of packaging and waste from sweets would be an eco-friendly step for the school, promoting sustainability in everyday practices. It would also reduce littering on and around school grounds from sweet wrappers and packaging.

Encouraging a Love of Reading: By donating a book to the class or school library in honour of a birthday, children would have the opportunity to contribute to the learning environment, enriching the reading material available for others to enjoy.

So what do you think? Have your say using the form here <https://forms.gle/NwhRgoRg55ck1a6e6>

Headteacher Coffee Morning – Tuesday 17th December

Come and find out what we have been working on this term, our successes and areas for development next term. This is also an opportunity to ask questions and share your ideas – we love to hear your thoughts. Please join us in the Staffroom from 8.45am.

PTFA Messages *Follow us*

on Facebook: [@friendsofwoodcotepprimary](#), Twitter: [@woodcoteptfa](#), Instagram: [@friendsofwoodcotepprimary](#), Website: www.woodcoteptfa.org.uk

My Art Project Festive Card

All orders delivered to school have been sent home with the children. If you haven't received your order, ask your child's teacher. If you have any questions or other queries, email admin@woodcoteptfa.org.uk

Thursday 16 January: Meet the PTFA Coffee Morning 8:45-10am in the staffroom

Join the PTFA committee for a hot drink and a chat. Find out more about what we do including fundraising for the school, upcoming events, and how YOU can help. We promise to have some yummy biscuits too!

AGM: PTFA Annual General Meeting Thursday 6th February, 6pm, in the staffroom

You are all invited to join us at our AGM to:

- Hear more about what we have been doing, how much we have raised and what has been funded
- Share your fundraising ideas or how you would like the funds raised to be spent
- Learn more about who we are and what we do.

It is also a time to vote-in the Key Committee Roles and to welcome new members to the committee.

OTHER EVENTS:

- School Lottery: Weekly Draw – Every Saturday at 8PM. Buy your tickets [HERE](#)
- Summer Fair: Saturday 21st June 2025 (*yes, we like to plan early!*)

Secondhand uniform

Buy secondhand uniform online [HERE](#) (Collection is from the school office).

Stikins name labels

30% off the order price of your multi-purpose labels will go to the PTFA fund. Visit www.stikins.co.uk and quote our school fundraising number 25740.

Reminders

Spring Term Clubs

Attached to this memo is the timetable of clubs for the Spring Term. You can find more information and flyers on our school website and a link for booking clubs run by our own staff can be found below.

<https://forms.gle/pQ5eefFtQmfbALLW7>.

Free School Meal/Pupil Premium Checker

Whilst we understand all children are receiving a free meal, or may not want a free meal, we ask that if you are in receipt of benefits that you check your child's eligibility using the link below. This not only provides additional funds for the school but can entitle you to supermarket or holiday club vouchers, uniform, or support with payment for trips and/or clubs for at least six years. Please log on to the website below and complete the check. The school will be updated if you are eligible. <https://pps.lgfl.org.uk/>

A chance to say Thank You!

Everyone enjoys receiving positive feedback. On the form below we invite parents, carers, visitors, children and other staff to share experiences of a staff member who has gone over and above. All responses are read by Mrs. Baldock and shared with staff. Thank you for taking the time. <https://forms.gle/ioeF9QmvzuhtB3Fc9>

Contacting Members of Staff

If you want to contact members of staff via email, then all staff can be contacted on 'surname'@woodcoteprimary.croydon.sch.uk (for example baldock@woodcoteprimary.croydon.sch.uk) . Please do not send communications through ClassDojo.

Rate our School 2024 – 2025 (we need you to complete this for this year)

Please take 5 minutes to rate our school on the Ofsted ParentView Website. Each parent can share their views, and we really value the feedback this gives us and prospective parents. Each parent/Carer can complete. If you would prefer a paper copy, then please do contact the school office <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=/give-your-views>