



Woodbury C of E  
Primary School

# Newsletter



Spring Term Issue 1 Date: 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## VALUE

Our Value focus for this half term is **Love**. Of all the virtues mentioned in the Bible, the one of love is the most important. As we start a new year, in very uncertain times, let the love of God protect and guide you; for his love is eternal and unconditional.

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. Corinthians 13:13*

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, what a start to the New Year it has been! We are so sorry that we were not able to welcome you all back into school on the 5<sup>th</sup> January as we had planned. We hope that those of you setting up the online learning at home have managed to do so without too many complications. The staff have been so impressed with the number of children who have managed to log into the live lessons. It has been lovely for the children in school to have some contact with their friends who are at home. Thank you for bearing with us as we learn this new way of working, and for the help that you are giving the children with their learning.

Unlike the last lockdown, we now have many children in school due to the number of keyworker families that have increased, therefore all staff are in school teaching from their classrooms. Children will be taught – in school and at home – by their class teacher with the teaching assistants also working alongside them.

Please **only** send your children in to school if you are a critical worker, on the days that you are working and there is nobody else at home who can support them with their learning. We are now at capacity, on certain days in many classes and are holding a waiting list and will be prioritising any new requests according to critical worker status.

Thank you for your kind comments being received from your emails, and on our social media posts, and in person on the gates. It really does make a difference to know that what we are doing is appreciated – so thank you.

## Technology

Please let us know if you are struggling with technology – not being able to post learning, getting the camera working, signing in to Google classroom etc. and we will try to help. We do have some chrome books that we can loan out if your child is not able to fully access all the learning due to not having an appropriate device at home. Please contact us to let us know if you require a device, but again we are nearly at capacity for loaning these out too.

## Updates/Reminders

**Forest School** – for children in school this half term on a Wednesday in **Oak** and **Maple** classes – please can children wear forest school clothes and bring in wellies or other suitable footwear.

**P.E** – you child's class teacher will let you know when their PE days are **via Google Classroom**

**Woodbury School's Facebook Page**– Please take a moment to like and share our Woodbury Primary School Facebook page. We are updating this daily, so please take a look.  
<https://www.facebook.com/Woodbury-C-of-E-Primary-School-102568645045711/>

**Spring Half Term** 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**End of Spring term** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

### **Help with technology at home**

Students may be able to get additional data on their mobile device for free, if they're running out of data on their mobile device due to genuine educational use. Details here <https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data>

### **Welcome to Mr Green**

I would like to welcome Mr Green to the Woodbury team, who will be teaching Maple class on a Monday and Tuesday. It is a shame that it is in such difficult circumstances that he finds himself joining us, but I am sure everyone will make him feel very at ease.

### **Exciting News**

We had wonderful news over the Christmas break that both Miss Davey and Mrs Harwood have had their babies. Miss Davey had a little boy, and has named him Jim, and Mrs Harwood had a little girl and has named her Lyla. Both mums and babies are doing well. Congratulations to them and their husbands, and we look forward to a time when we can all have a cuddle with the new arrivals in the staffroom!

### **Food Bank**

We are continuing to offer support through our community food bank. Please let us know if you would like any support with this. We have an excellent selection of items available and you are welcome to come into school, by prior appointment, to collect items yourself. Please ring us or email us at [admin@woodbury.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@woodbury.devon.sch.uk) if you require any items. Please do let us know if you are aware of anyone struggling in the community, as we may also be able to offer them some help.

Likewise, if you are able to contribute to the food bank we would be very grateful. There is a box in the main entrance where any donations can be placed.

We are now low on the following items:

Kitchen roll  
Washing up liquid  
Surface cleaner /sprays  
Tinned spaghetti  
Lasagne sheets/dry spaghetti  
Pasta cooking sauces  
Tinned tomatoes  
Jars of pesto  
Rice  
Biscuits

### **EARLY HELP - COVID WINTER GRANT FUND**

A COVID Winter Grant Fund has been made available to local authorities and district councils to support families experiencing financial hardship over the 2020-21 winter. Children eligible for free school meals will be issued with food hampers next week and district councils will be able to support families through their hardship grants.

Early Help will also be able to help families in this situation with a grant of up to £100 per family to support them to buy food and pay utility bills over the winter.

#### **Who is eligible?**

The criteria set by Early Help is as follows:

- You are a family (at least 2 people where at least 1 person is either pre-birth or up to 18 yrs old)
- You are not eligible for hardship grant funding through your district council or you have not yet applied

- You are experiencing financial hardship linked to or independent of COVID (e.g. unemployed, furloughed, being made redundant)
- You need financial help to pay utility bills or buy food and essential items for your family

If you think you may qualify for this support please do let us know and we will complete the necessary paperwork. Please email [admin@woodbury.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@woodbury.devon.sch.uk) where all emails will be treated with the strictest of confidence.

### **COVID Isolation**

If you or your child has symptoms then it is important you get tested. If you or anyone in your family has symptoms, then you must all isolate. If you have a positive test then the guidance for isolation period has been adjusted from 14 days to 10 days. Please see the most up to date guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>  
This link is also on our website.

### **Admissions**

If your child is due to start Primary School in September 2021 please ensure you have completed your Primary School admission by Friday 15th January 2021. It is important that no application is delayed beyond the closing date. Each year there are parents who are disappointed that places at local schools are not available because they did not apply on time. To apply for a place please go to:  
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>

### **Website Updates**

As we did before, during the last lock down, we will be posting resources on our website to support you at home. Please see the **Learning at Home tab** and **Mental Health and Wellbeing tab** – both of which can be found on the home page – here you will find links to resources that will be updated on a weekly basis.

### **Fake Vaccination Test**

Please be wary of fake COVID-19 vaccine text alerts. The fake text alerts appear to be from the NHS stating that the recipient is eligible to apply for a vaccine and followed by a link - please do not click on the link - the link is a convincing fake NHS website which asks for personal and financial information. The NHS will never ask for your banking information.

### **Town Lane Parking**

We have been made aware by local residents that there is some inconsiderate and dangerous parking by parents when dropping off and collecting their children. Please be aware of our local residents and think carefully about where you park. Please remember that you can use the free carpark in Flower Street next to the village hall. This is only a few minutes' walk to the school. Thank you.

We are aware that this is a very hard time for many people. The thought of another lockdown and all that it entails will be very difficult for some families. Please be assured that we are always here to help and support in any way that we can. Please do contact us if you need any assistance, however small, and we will always get back to you.

Best wishes to you all,

Gillian Pyle  
Head of School