



# WOODFIELD ACADEMY

17/18  
Issue 07

Friday 18 December  
2017

## A note from the Headteacher...

The adverse weather last week meant that many of our end-of-term events and activities needed to be rescheduled, but we were able to do so without too many issues – even the Malvern residential has been re-booked successfully. As I write, we have just enjoyed a lovely ‘Coffee and Carols’ morning with parents and in particular, a beautiful rendition of ‘O Holy Night’ has put me in the Christmas mood. End-of-term assemblies are reflecting just how hard our pupils have been working and so many rewards, certificates and prizes have been issued! Our rescheduled Christmas Fayre will take place this afternoon and all of our pupils are looking forward to tomorrow’s staff/pupil production of Cinderella. It will be a lovely way to end a long term.

Last week the Nurture department held a successful Christmas coffee morning, which was well attended despite the conditions. On Friday, the rest of the school began to get into the festive spirit, as our choir attended the Barclay’s Christmas Community Event, singing beautifully as always in the Kingfisher Centre. It was also Christmas Dinner day, so pupils were delighted by an extended lunch. Friday was also a whole-school RE day and it was rewarding to see pupils really engaged in lots of activities that brought the story and sentiment of Christmas home, in lots of alternative ways.

Please remember that pupils return to school on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best of health and happiness for the New Year.

S Bond

## Snow Closures

Many thanks to Parents and Carers for your patience during the recent snow closures on 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December. I am fully aware of the impact such decisions have on families and how frustrating this can be. The decision to close on 8<sup>th</sup> December was made relatively late by many schools across the town; from Woodfield’s perspective, the snow hit heavily *after* the point at which the decision to close would usually be made.

Although I am aware that many schools closed due to the weather last week, I must reiterate that the decision to close is made solely on the circumstances of our own school. It is not always appreciated that the Academy is a split-level site built into a hill: water run-off contributes to freezing conditions; it is not possible to clear many large areas of the site using machinery due to the lack of vehicle access; supervision becomes an issue when staff are unable to make it through to work. This is before we consider conditions and circumstances beyond the school gates. A decision to close would never be made lightly - the health and safety of our children and staff is paramount and even once re-opened, we needed to limit access to parts of our site. I am very grateful to the team (Mr Bird, Mr Coward & Son, Mr Hanks and Mr Barnes) that cleared the site ready to re-open and reiterate thanks to those of you who were understanding of our circumstances, which led to the closures.

## Attendance

Attendance is very important to ensure pupils reach their full potential and is something that Woodfield monitors very closely.

### Attendance for the week 11/12/17 - 15/12/17

Year 5 - 93.1%      Year 6 - 86.9%

Year 7 - 88.4%      Year 8 - 88.6%

Whole School - 89.1%

Whole School Target - 93.3%

Congratulations to 5CC who achieved 96.5% the highest attendance this week.

## Important Dates

4th Jan	Back to School
15th-18th Jan	Yr. 7 Trip to Malvern
23rd Jan	SATS Parent Meeting
1st Feb	Parents Evening
5th-7th Feb	Yr. 6 Trip to the Manor
6th Feb	Yr. 6 Think Tank
12th Feb	Yr. 5 Worcester Cathedral Parents Evening



## Positives

The final 'weekly conduct' of the year.  
Year 6 were the top performing year group with 2826 positives—well done.  
Top form groups are as follows:

**5EK 561 Positives**  
**6CP 687 Positives**  
**7GL 605 Positives**  
**8MT 702 Positives**

Over 10,000 positives were awarded last week.



## Parking

Please can we ask that you do not park on the yellow lines outside school as it is causing a hazard. Thank you.

## Attendance

Regular school attendance is an important part of giving your child the best possible start in life. However, if the situation does arise where your child requires time off school, please inform us straight away. This can be done in a variety of ways: Phone call into school (dedicated absence line), on Parent Mail, note in planner or a note to the form teacher. Please keep us up-to-date with all reasons for your child's absence.

## School Opening Times

This is a reminder that **the Woodfield Academy site opens to pupils at 8:30am each morning.**

We have found that an increasing number of pupils are arriving, or being dropped off to school much earlier than this. Please understand that, with the exception of Breakfast Club attendees, pupils should not be on site prior to this time.

## Bingo Night

A huge thank you to all those who attended the Bingo Night and to Mr Bond, Mr Thornewill, Mrs Instan and Mr and Mrs Coward for all of your help. The night was a success and in total we raised £247.60 for Friends of Woodfield.

## JASS

This term has seen the launch of the new JASS programme across all year groups. Each pupil has been enrolled onto this accredited learning programme to further enrich their experiences in school. The programme recognises their wider achievement. JASS develops the whole individual by offering recognition in four key areas – regular physical activity (**Get Active, Stay Active**), exploring a personal interest (**My Interests**), working for the good of the community or the environment (**Me and My World**) and completing an outdoor activity or challenge (**Adventure**) and is designed so that participants move through the levels with increasing commitment, learning, and challenge. Each year group will be taking part in an outdoor adventure day. The dates for each trip will be released in the Spring term.



## PE Kit

We have found a brand new small girls PE kit in a black and pink Bank bag. If you believe this is your child's please come into the school office to describe what is in the bag. Thank you.

## Barclays Community Event

The Barclays Community Event went very well, all children were well behaved and were a credit to the school.

## Competition

As part of our commitment to increasing wildlife areas around the site we are launching a competition to all year groups to design a butterfly garden. The competition will officially launch in January and a full list of rules will be issued then. In the meantime any pupils interested could investigate the types of plants they would need to include in order to attract more wildlife into our school grounds and the types of habitats we could create. More details to follow....

## **Christmas Lights raising money**

A house in Rush Lane, Church Hill North are raising money for the Paediatric Diabetes Fund, a local charity providing support for children and young adults with Type 1 Diabetes and they have decoated their house with lights for all to see and donated.



### **The Worcestershire Countywide Paediatric Diabetes Service**

Our service is run within the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and we have a countywide team of Consultants, Paediatric Diabetes Nurses, Dietitian's and Psychologists whose aim is to support young people, parents, families and anyone else such as teaching staff who come into contact with diabetes. We want everyone involved especially the young person themselves as they grow and develop to gain the skills to manage diabetes to the best of their ability to ensure the young person with diabetes stays healthy in the future.

Type 1 diabetes management is complex and often a very difficult learning curve for the newly diagnosed family. It involves not only physical blood glucose testing 4-8 times per day and injections of insulin 4-5 times a day (sometimes we use an insulin pump), but also learning about food and carbohydrate counting to ensure the right dose is given. There is no day off for anyone with diabetes from all these additional tasks that have to happen several times a day and it is hard work to do it all well and there are times when young people with diabetes can get fed up with all that they have to do extra to their peers. There are also times where you need to be more vigilant such as managing exercise and also illness which can make you blood glucose levels go up and down, sometimes causing hypoglycaemia ( low blood glucose levels ) and hyperglycaemia ( high blood glucose levels). Growing and other hormone responses can also affect your levels so no two days are ever the same in managing the condition.

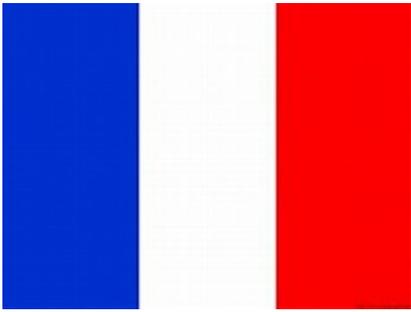
The fund enables us to subsidise the cost or pay for a programme of extra-curricular events such as a Christmas party, a residential activity weekend for 8-13 year olds in the spring and a teenage activity day in the summer. These events are aimed at providing extra support and education for children and sometimes parents. This year we are very excited that the fund has also helped us to put together a professional video to help support our young people transitioning from the paediatric to adult diabetes services – this has yet to be launched, hopefully early next year.

Extracurricular events like these are known to be valuable for young people in a number of ways. Many young people will be the only child in a school and so feel they are the only one with diabetes and so events can provide peer support and raise self-esteem just through meeting other children with diabetes. They are also educational and can improve future life skills in self managing their diabetes such as carbohydrate counting and exercise management whilst having fun and being normal children. We have even seen young people inject for the first time at our activity weekend with the encouragement of their peers and volunteers. Events like this open up young people's minds to the fact that they can try and do anything and that Diabetes should not stop them doing new activities or stop them considering new challenges.

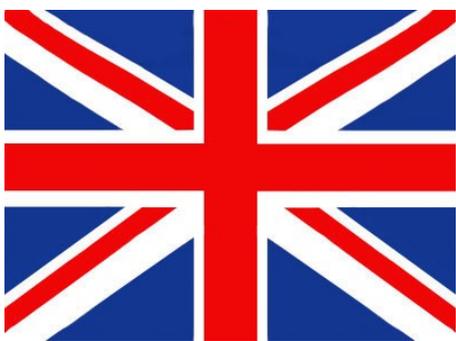
Without your support these activities would not be able to take place so please accept my thanks on behalf of the Paediatric Diabetes Service across Worcestershire County for your fundraising efforts.

**Please note Woodfield Academy does not endorse external events, rather we signpost activities for those who might be interested.**

# Joyeux Noël!



*Frohe  
Weihnachten  
und guten  
Rutsch  
ins neue  
Jahr*



# Merry Christmas

From the Modern Foreign Languages department.