

Woodfield Infant and Junior Schools Federation

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Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to a new term and I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year! Our term has already started with a bang (literally) when we arrived at 7.00am Tuesday morning to find that a pipe had burst in Willow class and there was a very real danger of the whole school being flooded. It was only the hard work and persistence of Mr. Hill that saved us from substantial damage to the school; but unfortunately even he could not save Chestnut and Willow classes from significant flood damage. Everyone here at Woodfield (including all the teaching staff) worked extremely hard on Tuesday to relocate the two affected classes, and the children have quickly settled into this new routine, but it seems that this situation is going to be with us until half term, when we hope the children will be back in their classes, complete with new floor and furniture! The children, as we knew they would, have been amazing; quietly getting on with their learning with minimal fuss and bother and taking it all in their stride (unlike most of us, who seemed much more affected than the children!). Yes, although the sight of Mr. Hill breaking into a classroom and Mr. Hawkins wearing wellies was not a sight I thought I would see before 8.00am on the first day back, the incident again reminded me how wonderfully resilient and adaptable our children are.

And speaking of our wonderful children, I would like to again thank all the parents and relatives that attended our Christmas carol service and helped us to transport the children safely to and from school. I cannot tell you how proud I was to be a small part of the service and would again thank all our staff for their hard work in making the occasion possible.

I must also mention the PTFA, who did a wonderful job in arranging for Santa and **real** reindeers to visit the school in the last week before Christmas. It was a magical day and watching the children's faces, as they saw the reindeer for the first time, was very special for us all. The Express and Star article was a nice bonus, but that wasn't the only reason they were in touch that week. After the KS2 results were published in December, it became clear that Woodfield Junior School had **the biggest improvement in their KS2 results of any other school in Wolverhampton**. This is great news, and something we are very proud of, but we have set our sights even higher for the coming years and I can assure you we are working tirelessly to build on this achievement and improve further. We aim to keep improving until our results compare favourably with other schools not just locally, but nationally; we know it is what our children deserve.

We have a number of extra-curricular activities going on this term, but two things in particular deserve mention: the first is 'Times Table Rock Stars'. This is an online resource that will enable your child to practise their times tables daily. Every child will have their own log-on and their teachers will explain how it works. We would like this to become the main maths homework for every child, because if it is done daily (and it takes 5 minutes) it will transform your child's fluency and recall in mental maths. We have attached a leaflet with details, but if you have any questions, please talk to your class teacher.

Secondly, Year 5 will be engaging their creative skills and developing their independent thinking with support from Windsor Toys, as part of our first community based initiative. Ruth Swallows, the owner of Windsor Toys, Windsor

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Avenue, Penn, will be working with the children as they develop a prototype for a new toy which will be displayed in her shop. Please follow each stage of this exciting project via our Twitter feed. This is the first of a number of initiatives we will be launching as part of our drive to get the children using their skills to link to local, national and international organisations.

Your class teachers will be sending you a curriculum newsletter, detailing some of the learning that will be taking place this term, but I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that we rely on your support to make our school a success. You can help your child to succeed by:

- Ensuring they are here on time, every day
- Ensuring they have the correct uniform and PE kit
- Making sure they do their Rock Stars every day
- Listening to them read (and reading to them)
- Asking them about their day and talking to them about what is going on in school

Finally, a reminder that the school will be closed Friday 16th February for an INSET day, so this half term ends Thursday 15th February. Parents evening will be held next half term, on the 6th and 7th March, but I will send a reminder of diary dates for the second half term nearer the time. Unfortunately, due to the flooding, we have delayed some class assemblies until after half term. Our celebration assemblies, however, **will** still be held every Friday, so please look out for the invitations to attend, should your child be the star of the week. You can continue to follow many of the things we are doing on Twitter @WoodfieldSchool

Thank you for your continued support and have a great half term. As always, should you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's education, please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher or myself.

Yours sincerely

Philip Salisbury

Head teacher