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## WELCOME TO THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR FROM MR BONE

I hope that you and your family have had a great summer despite the limitations and challenges that COVID continues to present. Across the school, we are delighted with the start that your children have made to the 2021/22 academic year. The children are already making new friends in their new classes, developing strong relationships with their new teachers and teaching assistants and displaying strong learning behaviours in class. Yesterday, I read a story to our reception children for the second time and I can't believe how well they have settled into school routines. In addition, we have a number of children who have joined the school over the summer - a warm welcome to the school community to you all.

This term, we are starting two whole school projects across the school. Firstly, Mike Tuckwell, is working with the Open University, the Ilsham Hub and reading guru Teresa Cremin on a 'Reading for Pleasure' project. The aim of the project is to increase the number of strategies that school and home can use to develop a love of reading in our children. We will be sharing strategies and approaches with you during the school year. Connected to this, we are delighted with the new addition to the school library over the summer which you can see in the pictures below. The Woodlands themed flooring was part of our initial plan when we upgraded the library in September 2019 but we ran out of funds! Secondly, we will be introducing a new Phonics scheme (Read Write Inc.) during the year, this project will be led by our phonic lead, Emma Pope. We will be starting the roll out with our reception children over the next few days and will be sharing resources and strategies during the term. Read Write Inc. will be rolled out to other year groups across the year.

The projects above underline the school's commitment to make every child a reader. As part of home learning, we ask that your child reads at home at least 5 times a week to enable them to make good progress. With younger children, this should be a balance between reading their book banded book and sharing a picture book that will have a more exciting plot! If you are struggling to establish reading habits at home, please speak to your child's class teacher who will be able to offer some guidance and support.



Despite the continued challenges of COVID, there is a sense of normality in school this week: our PTA are planning events for the autumn term, clubs are starting next week and I have every



class in school! Long may this continue as we head into the autumn months. I look forward to working with my team and yourselves during the year to ensure that your children have a great year in school.

**SUPERSTAR CERTIFICATES – Friday 10 September** – Eryn Roddy, Theo Hancock, Jacob Skelly, Matilda Bartlett, Lucas Reeves, Holly Wootton, Edward McCaughey, Caellum O'Neill, Harrison Walker-Cox, Jakub Gateley, Zara Skelley, Rosie Mitchell, Daniel Dalton, Meredith Holdstock, Libby Saxby, Harrison Fallon, Chloe Skelly, Erin Armitage, Alex Stanley, Fraser Carter, Max Welsh, Kaycie McTaggart, Cecily Baldwin, Florence McCaughey.



**Friday 17 September** – Ava Mouat, Leo Masters, Ava Starkey, Ollie Moore, Isla Hickman, George Nott, Aaliyah Bowden, Megan Steed, Harrison Catt, Rose Bond, Mollie Smith, Frank Moore, Carolina Calheiros, Maddie Tyler, Josh Granville, Bella Bothwick, Rosie Barracloughb, Freddie Dando, Layla Harris, Kallum Doherty, Arthur Prior, Isabelle Dawe, Etienne Pomeroy and Isabella Smith.



**ONLINE SAFETY TIPS** – National Online Safety have published an online safety guide for children going back to school, please follow the link to access and download your guide:

[https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides/back-to-school?utm\\_campaign=WakeUpWednesday&utm\\_medium=email&hsmi=154836212&hsenc=p2ANqtz--ZmBeDaPWn6XAEkgN83gs\\_U2O4zMAZpnG1rEdBA\\_IVxtODb4EBRaWuUTQMXOzCPA73a-k9s3OylaebFJl2sNBD1ESIXJE0XXOSMEmXFXOwJ5aoLsU&utm\\_content=154836212&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides/back-to-school?utm_campaign=WakeUpWednesday&utm_medium=email&hsmi=154836212&hsenc=p2ANqtz--ZmBeDaPWn6XAEkgN83gs_U2O4zMAZpnG1rEdBA_IVxtODb4EBRaWuUTQMXOzCPA73a-k9s3OylaebFJl2sNBD1ESIXJE0XXOSMEmXFXOwJ5aoLsU&utm_content=154836212&utm_source=hs_email)

**SAFEGUARDING** – Our designated safeguarding officers at school are Mrs Hunter, Mr Bone and Miss Walker. Should you need to talk to one of them, please contact the office. Our Safeguarding Governor is Mr Moyes. Please use the following link to our website to see all our safeguarding policies and links to various websites for more information

<http://www.woodlandspark.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Safeguarding&pid=11>



**ATTENDANCE/HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME** – Children’s regular attendance at school is essential to ensure that they maximise their learning opportunities to achieve their full potential. If your child is unwell please leave a message on the absence line before 8.50 am on the first day of absence. If your child is off school poorly for more than one day could you please send in a letter on their return covering them for the whole period detailing their absence. As you are no doubt aware holidays in term time are strongly discouraged and the school will continue to follow Government

guidelines which do not allow for authorisation of holidays in term time.

**NEXT STEPS, YEAR 6 SECONDARY TRANSFER 2022** – Although the children have only just started in Year 6, the online application facility for transfer to secondary school is now available. You must submit an application by Sunday 31 October 2021 at [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline) or contact the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019 where an adviser will be happy to assist you. National Allocation Day will be Tuesday 1 March 2022.



**HOME SCHOOL COMMUNICATION/SOCIAL MEDIA** - Please can you notify us of any change of details such as change of address, telephone numbers or email address so that your contact information is correct. With regards to emails, we are able to send correspondence to two addresses, so if you’d like us to add another address, please notify the office. There is also a wealth of information available on the school’s website that includes a calendar, letters from school, newsletters, homework, clubs, lunch menu and useful links. Please also follow the links to our Facebook and Instagram pages at the top of

the page to keep up to date with what’s going on at Woodlands, including pictures of our pupil’s achievements, events taking place in our school community and helpful links for parents/carers.



**OCCASIONAL DAY** – As a reminder, the last day of the Autumn term will be on **Thursday 16 December 2021** with the school being closed on Friday 17 December 2021, in recognition of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. This extra day’s holiday will be taken across all WeST Schools.

## DIARY DATES

### September 2021

Monday 20 September	Clubs start
Thursday 23 September	Year 6 Parents <b>ONLY</b> Transition evening – 4-5pm
Wednesday 29 September	Foundation Stage Parent Session – 4-5pm

### October 2021

Monday 4 October	Parent Consultations (Letter to follow)
Monday 4 October	No clubs during this week
Monday 4 October	Year 6 Bikeability week
Thursday 21 October	Tempest Photographs – Individual & Siblings
Friday 22 October	Non Pupil Day - Autumn Half Term begins



### November 2021

Monday 1 November	First day of the second half of the Autumn Term
Monday 1 November	Clubs restart

### December 2021

Thursday 16 December	Last day of the Autumn Term
Friday 17 December	Occasional Day (Christmas half term begins)

## BACK TO SCHOOL - THINGS THAT GET FORGOTTEN OR YOU JUST DON'T KNOW?

- The following items are NOT part of our school uniform: trainers, boots, coloured socks, make up, nail varnish and jewellery with the exception of watches and stud earrings. We will be asking children to remove any jewellery, apart from stud earrings and will not accept any responsibility for loss. Children not able to remove earrings will need to cover them with tape. If they are not able to do so, they will miss PE.
- We recommend that **ALL** children have **book bags** as these go into class with the children making their book easily accessible for reading time, which happens daily. Any communication from school can also go directly into the book bags and hopefully make it home in one piece! Please order book bags via ParentPay if your child would like one.
- Please can long hair be tied back as it can cause a distraction in class. It needs to be tied back for all PE lessons for safety reasons.
- Please can all toys, trading cards and personal items from home not be brought into school for fear they could get lost and damaged, resulting in upset children.
- Tablets, cough sweets, lipsoles or skin creams (except for sun-block to be self-administered) should not be brought into school.
- We are also a **nut free zone** due to the severe allergic reactions they cause to some of the children in our school, so please think really carefully when packing your child's snack/packed lunch (this includes peanut butter and cereal bars).
- Water bottles are encouraged for morning break and KS2 classroom use during the day, these bottles should be clear and contain water. Squash and fruit juices are only for lunchtime.
- Foundation children have a carton of free milk daily until their 5th Birthday which can continue up to Year 6 at a subsidised cost of 22p per day if parents/carers wish.
- Foundation/Key Stage 1 children have a fresh piece of fruit and universal free school meals daily until Key Stage 2.
- Please can all lunch accounts with ParentPay be in credit at the start of each week before lunches are taken.
- **MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS** – When submitting an S2 form for medical appointments, please also include the doctor/hospital letter. We can photocopy it, so that you have the original to take to the appointment.
- **FREE SCHOOL MEALS/SERVICE FAMILIES** – Some children are entitled to free school meals due to all kinds of personal circumstances. To see if you are eligible you can contact 'My Devon' on 0345 155 1019 for an immediate assessment or contact the office for advice or a form. Free school meal entitlement and Service Families attract additional funding which is beneficial to your child's education, so please let the office know if you are entitled.
- **SCHOOL MILK, FREE AND SUBSIDISED** – If your child is under 5 years old they will automatically be registered to receive free milk until their fifth birthday (please contact the school if you wish for your child NOT to receive free milk or has an allergy). Children over the age of 5 years can receive subsidised milk by registering at [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com) the cost is approximately £15.00 a term. Those children entitled to free school meals are also entitled to receive a carton in school each day. Please contact the office if you would like your child to have this.
- All copies of letters, homework and newsletters we send out are on the school website if you need a copy.
- Please send your child to school with a coat everyday as our weather is very changeable.