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SUPERSTAR CERTIFICATES – Friday 7 January – Arlie Gilbert, Amber Colbourne, Tiffany Reeves, Amber Reeves, Emily Marsh, Lewis Walby, Ava Mouat, Theo Hancock, Scarlett Thomason, Gia Apicella-Smith, Katie Maker, Anais Collins, Ben Southern, Frankie Purdey, Mollie Smith, Sophia Millington, Phoebe Freeman, Charlotte Wood, Dylan Parish, Ryan Ireland, William Newman, Aaron Giles, Natasza Morrell, Oliver Harris, Leah Cornwell, Layla Brittin, Riley Chatfield & Finley Hickman.

HEADTEACHER UPDATE - From everyone at Woodlands Park, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year and hope that you had a happy and healthy festive period.

This week, across the school, children have been starting new learning sequences and topics and school has felt remarkably normal. We have many exciting activities planned for the term to enrich the learning experience for the children such as yesterday's theatre trip for our Foundation children and next Friday's space dome visit for our children in Years 1 and 6. Despite an exceptionally positive start to the term, there are a couple of concerns that I need to bring to your attention. One concern to hopefully reassure you and one concern where I need your help.

Firstly, COVID. One of our biggest challenges this term regarding COVID is going to be staff availability. This is going to be an on-going issue during the term and we know we are going to have a week or two where staffing levels are exceptionally tight and where no supply teachers are available. This week, I have developed a staffing contingency plan with Mrs Hunter so that we can maintain the quality of teaching and learning across the term. Your children will have times during the half term when they are taught by different members of the Woodlands team but we hope that we have a plan that will enable us to deal with the challenges ahead. For this, I need to thank members of the team who work part time who are on standby to work additional hours when required this half term.

Secondly, I have spent time with every teaching team this week to look through all assessments that the children completed at the end of the autumn term. These meetings enable us to put things in place for groups of children who might need a bit of support or a bit of a stretch this term to support their progress. Whilst I am in awe of the level of knowledge that my team have for all of your children and the progress that the children made in the autumn term, the impact of the on-going pandemic is evident. Whilst this is to be expected and we are planning proactively as well as reactively around this, I need your continued support. Please continue to find opportunities to read at home at least 5 times a week. Children in Foundation and Key Stage 1 need to read their Read Write Inc. books at home and work with you to practise new sounds (front of the book) and answer the comprehension questions at the back of the books. All children across the school need to read their library book. This will impact on their reading progress, their vocabulary development and their writing attainment (as well as spending quality time with an adult at home and learning from all of the morals and cultures in the stories).

Secondly, please find time each week to complete the homework activities that are set. The activities provide the children the opportunity to consolidate learning from the week. As a parent, I know that homework can get in the way of quality time as a family over the weekend but with careful planning, hopefully you can find a balance. Some parents are reluctant to support children at home with their learning as they worry about getting it wrong. If you feel like this, ask your child 'can you show me how you have been doing this in school?' and also speak to your child's class teacher if you need any further support.

IMPORTANT FUNDING NEWS - Thursday 20 January is census day in school. The information we submit regarding our children affects our funding for the following school year. It is important for us that we maximise the number of **Foundation and Key Stage 1** children who have a universal free school lunch on this census day, as we did for the first census day in October. If your child sometimes has a school lunch, but doesn't opt for a school dinner on the two census days, we receive no funding for your child's lunch for the entire year but will continue to provide a lunch from the main school budget. However, if your child sometimes has a school lunch and opts for a school dinner on both census days, we receive 100% funding for the entire year! This also applies to the pupils who are entitled to **free school meals** in **Key Stage 2**. If you have any questions about this, please ask at the office. Thanks in anticipation of your support! The menu options for Thursday 20 January will be:

Fish & Chips, Sausage & Chips, Veggie Sausage & Chips or Jacket Potatoes



NEW TERM REMINDERS:

ABSENCE - If your child is poorly it is **ESSENTIAL** that you phone the school by 9.00am and leave a message on the answer phone detailing the reason for absence. As part of our safeguarding responsibilities, if we cannot ascertain where a child is, we do have to inform the EWO (Education Welfare Officer) which may result in a visit from them or a senior member of staff that morning to check your child is safe.

If your child is not in school and would usually attend after school club, please contact them direct so they can adjust their registers accordingly.

CLARIFICATION ON THE START OF THE SCHOOL DAY - Punctuality plays an important role in every walk of life and is essential in childhood. The school gates are opened at 8.45 am and registration begins at 8.50am. The class doors are locked at 8.50 am. Please also note that any children who arrive late must **NOT** be dropped off at the school gates or taken direct to class but signed in through main reception by an adult. Thank you.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS/S2 ABSENCE REQUEST FORM – Unless in an absolute medical emergency, please can all regular medical appointments including the dentist and optician be scheduled after school or during the school holidays so as not to interrupt your child's schooling. Any requests for an unavoidable appointment during the school day must be supported by an appointment letter with a completed 'S2' Absence request form. This form is available in main reception or via the school's website for ease. Please complete these forms as soon as you know the date of the appointment so class registers can be updated.

SCHOOL LUNCH ACCOUNTS - These **MUST** be kept in **CREDIT** – meals cost £2.34 per day with options to pay daily, weekly, termly or your own specified amount, but please ensure there is money in the account prior to lunches being taken. Please visit ParentPay at: <https://www.parentpay.com/Parents/Login/> to pay for school meals as well as school uniform and trips.



SWEETS POLICY – We allow children to bring birthday treats in to share with their classmates. Children are told to check with their parents before eating them in case you limit sweet intake. Also, please be reminded that we discourage chocolate bars in packed lunches and we are a **NUT FREE ZONE**.

WINTER UNIFORM & OUTDOOR PE - Now that the colder/wet weather is here, please make sure the children are wrapped up warm in their winter uniform with a coat for outdoor play. Named hats and gloves are also advisable when the temperature drops. **Please can we remind parents that boots, heels, coloured shoes and trainers are NOT part of school uniform and nor are home jumpers/hoodies.** so please bare this in mind when buying shoes for school. For **Outdoor PE**, please make sure the children have jogging trousers and a sweatshirt available in school.

MOBILE PHONE CONTACT NUMBERS/EMAIL ADDRESSES - If there have been any changes over the Christmas period due to new mobile phones/ipads/laptops etc, then please let us know your new details so that we can update our records for the text and email service.

PRIMARY APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO RECEPTION SEPTEMBER 2022 - If your child's date of birth falls between 01 September 2017 and 31 August 2018 you can apply online [here](#) from Thursday 15 November, with the deadline being 15 January 2022 for a Reception place in September 2022. Any queries please contact the Admissions team at Devon County Council on Tel: 0345 155 1019 or make contact with the school office who are more than happy to help.



HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND - The new Household Support Fund will be available this winter to support households in Devon experiencing financial hardship. The fund is designed to provide rapid short-term financial support to address economic vulnerability and financial hardship. Please apply using the website link [here](#).



The AIM Group is excited to include all **Westcountry Schools Trust** Schools in its brand-new **FREE** campaign **#TheDominoEffect**. The aim is to raise awareness of the impact mental health and neurodiversity problems are having on today's generation, all for **FREE**. By gaining an essential understanding of these issues, we can all become better equipped to support individuals and prevent the problem from spiralling out of control. Courses include: Understanding Autism, Understanding Behaviour That Challenges in Children, Adverse Childhood Experiences, Understanding Children and Young Peoples Mental Health.

Please use the following link to register your interest: <https://theaimgroup.co.uk/booking-form/0014J0000ayfBg>

DIARY DATES

January 2022

Friday 14 January	Space Dome – Year 6 & Year 1
Saturday 15 January	Year 6 Bude Trip 1 st instalment deadline
Monday 17 January	Year 3 Kents Cavern Trip
	Spring Term Clubs start
Thursday 20 January	School Census Day – Menu Change
Tuesday 25 January	Flu Vaccinations - Whole School
Thursday 27 January	Year 4 Kents Cavern Trip
Friday 28 January	Year 4 Simply Outdoors Trip deposit deadline

February 2022

Friday 4 February	NSPCC Number Day – Details to follow
Monday 7 February	Last week of Clubs
Tuesday 8 February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 15 February	Year 4 Simply Outdoors Trip 1 st instalment deadline
	Year 6 Bude Trip 2 nd instalment deadline
Friday 18 February	Last Day of Term
Monday 21 February	Half Term begins
Monday 28 February	Non Pupil Day



March 2022

Tuesday 1 March	First day of the 2 nd half of Spring Term
Monday 7 March	Clubs restart
Tuesday 15 March	Year 4 Simply Outdoors Trip 2 nd instalment deadline
	Year 6 Bude Trip final instalment deadline
Monday 28 March	Last week of Clubs

April 2022

Monday 4 April	Parent Consultation Week
Friday 8 April	Last day of the Spring Term
	Year 4 Simply Outdoors Trip final instalment deadline
Monday 25 April	First day of the Summer Term