

MARCH NEWS

Spring is surely on the way...



This newsletter is also posted on the school website: woodmanseyprimary.school. You will find a copy of communications to parents under the 'Letters to Parents' section.

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors, Friends, Staff and Pupils

I don't know about you but February has disappeared within a blink of an eye and March and Easter seem to be in reach. Although Tesco and alike have had Easter eggs on the shelves since the Christmas Trees were taken down, so I think we all have the excuse to feel a little out of sync!

February, although short has been filled with lots of activities in school. More recently the weather has provided many learning opportunities, in not just testing the theory 'are all shoes waterproof?'

Saint David's Day is an important day in my family and I am always pleased if nature produces daffodils ready for the 1st March but with or without daffodils, leeks or Welsh red dragons the day reminds us 'to do the little things in God's presence with conscientiousness and devotion'.

For lent we have been discussing what are the most important aspects of life and how we can be the best we can be and we realised it was the smallest things that made us feel the best, such as remembering to say 'Please' and 'Thank you.'

March brings more for the children to enjoy. With STEM Week and Easter activities the children will no doubt be in need of their Easter break.

The OFSTED report was published and is now visible on the OFSTED website. As we wrote in the accompanying letter to you, we really felt the report was the culmination of a lot of hard work and dedication and was rightly deserved.

I cannot reiterate enough how amazing the children were. Their personalities, humour, wit and their own dedication to learning were all astonishing. We are all so proud of

them and they are such a credit to you all. Thank you.

It is time once again to make an appointment to see your child/ren's class teacher at consultation evening on **Wednesday 21st March**. Letters will be sent out shortly to book an appointment.

However, if I don't see you before the 23rd March, I wish you and your families a very 'Happy Easter' and I looking forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 10th April.

Kindest regards,
Mrs Bethan Nicholls

Head of School





Woodmansey's STEM Week

Woodmansey's STEM week launches on Monday 12th March to coincide with the British Science Week. The children will be focussing on 'Properties of Materials' and the importance of being scientific. The children will be coming up with their own questions to test and their own investigations. Children in years 3-6

will have some guest speakers to talk about their role within the STEM industry including from one of our school governors who works for Croda in Hull. Also the children will be heading into space with Professor Brad Gibson who will be running 'Life in Space: To the Moon and Back' sessions with the whole school. We are very grateful to our volunteers who help to enrich our curriculum continually. Further to all the activities which are happening within school, the children will be bringing home a STEM activity booklet, with ideas for experiments,

investigations and opportunities for problem solving. They are designed for the whole family to enjoy so please take photos of the activities you have enjoyed completing and send them into school.

The idea behind STEM week is to encourage children to challenge themselves and develop questioning skills and not just to accept why something has happened. We also want to give an insight into the career opportunities within STEM and show how valuable jobs within this sector are.

PARKING

A gentle reminder... thank you to those that have worked with us.

I know that the issue of car parking around the school has been long standing and I can totally appreciate that the position of the school is not ideal. Now as I cannot physical change the school's location I can remind you of all possible solutions.

1. The school car park can be accessed and used until 8.30am when the gates will be locked. The gates will be re-opened at 8.50am when children are safely inside the school building.
2. The Warton Arms and The Village Hall have kindly offered us use of their carpark for parents to park and walk the remainder of the journey to school.

I urge you all to consider the safety of the children and the staff when parking at busy times. Parking to cause obstruction to the crossing patrol or entrance to the school gate is parking dangerously and restricting access for emergency vehicles.

WINTER PHOTO COMPETITION

Thank you for all your entries!

I am always so proud of the children and the talents that they display. The photos that I have received are stunning and really made me smile and remember what winter is all about. Here are the winners of the winter competition...



Esmé Gibson - FSU

Darcy Bishop - Year 2

PERFECT PITCH!

You will remember both myself and the PTFA discussing with you the ideas set out for 'The Great Outdoor Project' and the progress so far was outlined in the last PTFA newsletter. The plans to improve the outside area are very exciting and the children will benefit greatly in the long term. Unfortunately due to the wet spell of weather, the plans have been halted as the land cannot be prepared for re-seeding until the land dries out, so please help us by hoping for a dry Easter and warm summer term so the work can continue.



INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS

Smile!

Tempest Photography will be in school on **Wednesday 21st March** to take the individual school photos. Please ensure your child has a school jumper/cardigan. The photographs will be taken in the morning in the school hall. During the summer term the whole school will be photographed together with a special Year 6 leavers photograph.

EASTER EVENTS

On **Friday 16th March**, the children can enter an Easter Bonnet competition which has been decorated/made at home. Please could the entries be worn as children enter school - it is also a lovely image for passers by too! The entries will be judged by the Pupil Council, and prizes are being kindly donated by Taylors Estate Agency.

Great Woodmansey Bake Off is back! On **Thursday 22nd March** the PTFA are asking that decorated cakes are in school to be judged by a representative from 'Whites' in Beverley. Please ask the PTFA for more details.

Woodmansey Easter Service is due to be held at St Peter's Church on Friday 23rd March at 1.30pm. The service will be led jointly between the school and Revd Canon Jonathan Baker. The service is open to parents and carers of children in the school. We will then walk back to school to enjoy the **Easter Fair** 'Share a Slice' in the school hall from 2.30pm. The school is so grateful for all that the PTFA do to support the school so please come and join us on the last day of term.



SNOW POLICY: IMPORTANT

The following is taken from the school's Safeguarding Policy and should prepare parents/carers for what to expect when it snows.

The school will only close without prior notice as a last resort. The Head of School or her representative will remain on site until the last child is collected.

Policy in Practice

What the school does to assist in the event of icy weather conditions.

It is not practical to grit the entire site, but as part of the gritting policy, safe routes round the site and across the Playground have been identified and will be gritted before giving access to the site, thereby minimising the risks to children, parents and visitors. The car park will also be gritted.

Children are not allowed to make slides on the playgrounds.

Playgrounds are gritted if practical before 8:30am and when not, by morning break. At playtimes a decision as to whether children are to be allowed outside will be made by the senior teacher on duty in conjunction with the Head of School.

Children may not throw snowballs on the playgrounds. However if the field is covered by thick snow pupils may be allowed to play on the field in the snow, make snowman and throw snowballs. Those not wishing to throw snow (or indeed be hit by snowballs) should stay on the playgrounds. The school believes that playing in and throwing snow is part of a child's life experiences.

In extreme cases the Executive Headteacher may decide that there is no option but to close the school if there is presented a severe health and safety risk. This done, the Chair

of Governors and the local radio stations will be informed. A severe Health and Safety Risk would be presented if insufficient staff could reach the school or indeed the health and safety of staff meant that they should leave early. Due to the location of the school it is expected that the school will be able to remain open. Closing a school at short notice including closing mid way through a day poses considerable difficulties for parents and will only be taken as a very last resort.

A complete heating failure in the winter and/or a loss of the water supply would however result in the school having to close.

Good communication is essential. Parents receive a copy of specific instructions during the autumn and winter months via the monthly newsletters and the website. Children have the processes explained to them in the classroom. It is expected that parents adhere to these instructions and pass all relevant information to friends and relatives who may also come to school to bring and fetch children. Parents/Carers are asked to be responsible and plan more time for their journey, suitable footwear for having to walk further, wrapping up to keep warm etc....Parents should not expect to be able to park close to the school at these times! Parents and visitors are expected to use the gritted paths rather than walk across the snow and ice.

Snow Policy and Procedures - information for teaching and support staff

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow the prime concern of the school must always be the safety of the pupils and staff.

It is expected that all staff will make every reasonable effort to undertake the journey to school.

It is appreciated that the journey may take longer than normal and therefore some staff may not be

able to arrive before the normal start of school time.

The school will only close without prior notice as a last resort. The Head of School or her representative will remain on site until the last child is collected.

In the event of severe weather, a decision to close the school for day pupils will be made by 7am. The Head of School will contact Radio Humberside and Viking Radio to ask them to broadcast the information.

PARENTS WILL BE INFORMED BY TEXT IF THE SCHOOL IS TO CLOSE.

Updates will be posted on the Twitter Feed - @WoodmanseyPS

In the event of the normal timetable being suspended, a programme of activities will be organised for pupils who arrive at school. Teachers and Teaching Assistants will be delegated to supervise these activities.

Rather than a full closure it is more likely that the school will remain open on a reduced capacity. In such an event, parents/carers will be asked if it is possible to make alternative arrangements for pupils. Where this is not possible the school will remain open for those who need to come to school or for those who cannot go home in the case of an unexpected early closure. As the number pupils remaining decreases, they will be moved to other classes or the hall.

DIARY



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March

Thurs 1st	Finance and Premises Governing Body Meeting World Book Day (see additional newsletter for news)
Fri 2nd	FSU Stay and Play (sign up with Ms Eastwood)
Mon 5th	1.30pm German and Polish Students working with Year 5/6 with 'Life in a Box Project'
Thurs 8th	Full Governing Body Meeting
Fri 9th	Year 3/4 visiting Hull and East Riding Museum FSU Stay and Play (sign up with Ms Eastwood)
Mon 12th	STEM Week
Wed 14th	Professor Brad Gibson, 'Life in Space: To the Moon and Back'
Thurs 15th	Sam Gorman from CRODA to talk STEM with KS2 KS2 Orienteering event
Fri 16th	Easter Bonnett entries due Sport Relief Week
Wed 21st	Tempest Photography in to take individual photos Consultation Evening (letters to book an appointment will be sent out shortly)
Thurs 22nd	Easter Bake Off Judging
Fri 23rd	Easter Service at St Peter's Church, 1.30pm. PTFA Easter Fayre, 'Share a slice', 2.30pm School Hall. 3.30pm School closes for Easter break.

April

Mon 9th	Training Day for staff
Tues 10th	School open for pupils
Thurs 19th	Full Governor Meeting
Fri 27th	Bikeability Training (letters will be sent out)

We give thanks and rejoice in the hard work, fun, and fellowship that our staff, volunteers, and all those unknown to us played in making our event a wonderful experience for all.

May we find gladness and satisfaction in all of our successes, and even in our challenges and lessons.

May this experience of teamwork and sacrifice strengthen our bond as a staff and deepen our commitment to our mission to serve others.