

Thursday 5th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the new school year and a particularly warm welcome to any new families joining us this September. We are looking forward to getting to know you all, and supporting with your child's transition, whether this be into our Early Years classes or another year group.

I hope this letter finds you well and you've had a fabulous summer. We have been busy in school but unfortunately some work hasn't gone to plan, meaning school doesn't look as fantastic as we would have liked for your return so there will be a little bit of ongoing work in the next couple of weeks to get things finished. This is mainly in our entrance where we are planning a new Reception area so please bear with us, I am sure it will be fantastic when it is finished.

Sadly we are a man (or lady) down in the office as Mrs Davey is poorly so please also bear with us, as the office staff try to manage without her over the next few days. The school office will be very busy as we re-open and the team will be doing their very best to support you with your queries.

There is lots of staff news to update you on with 2 weddings taking place over the summer and 4 engagements! Our congratulations to Miss Flatters (Year 5 teacher) who married and will now be known as Mrs McNulty. Congratulations also to Mrs Ruda (Hummingbirds TA) who will now be known as Mrs Corcoran. Both brides looked stunning and had a wonderful day and we wish them both well in their new married lives.

We also have some weddings to look forward to in the future, as there were 4 proposals of marriage over the summer too. Engagement congratulations go to Miss Hobday (Year 6 teacher), Miss Atkinson (Year 3 teacher), Miss Wilson (EYFS teacher) and Mr Gray (P.E. teacher) who proposed to Miss Holroyd (Year 3 teacher last year but now left the school.)

In addition to this we have 2 members of the team expecting their first babies in 2025 so congratulations to Miss Gilbert (EYFS TA) and Miss Wilson (EYFS teacher). We look forward to sharing their excitement over the coming months and watching their bumps grow!

In addition to welcoming new children into school this year we are also welcoming nine new members of staff as follows:

- Mr Tom Hutton – Year 5/6 Phase Leader and teacher in Year 6
- Mr Marcus Akester – Year 6 Teacher
- Miss Emily Folgate – Year 4 Teacher
- Mrs Rekha Bali – Year 3 Teacher
- Mrs Claire Moss – Year 5 Teacher
- Mrs Karolina Migacz – TA in EYFS
- Miss Alice Barros – 1:1 TA for visually impaired pupil in Year 4
- Mrs Nikolina Williams – TA in EYFS
- Mrs Sanja Poole – TA in Years 3 and 5

I am sure you will join me in making our new team members feel welcome. We are really proud of how successful we have been in recruiting such fantastic staff and we look forward to working with them in their first year at Woodston.

Not forgetting of course that following Mr Mansell's retirement we are also welcoming Mrs Lorraine Grecco as the new CEO of OWN Trust. She has already started getting to know the team at Woodston and will be spending lots of time with us over the coming weeks. We are looking forward to working with her and drawing on her experience to make our fabulous school even better as we look to the future and plan for our children's needs. Mr Nick File from the Trust Education team will also be based at Woodston four days per week, supporting all of our teachers but particularly our Early Career Teachers.

I am sure we will send lots of information to you over the next few days and it may feel overwhelming at times. If you have any questions or concerns, please do call us or speak to a member of staff. There can be a lot to take in but we are here to help.

I am very excited about the opportunities that await in the year ahead and can't wait to see the children back in school. Thank you, as always for your support, I look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours sincerely,



Becky Ford
Headteacher