



Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

### **Opening thoughts**

As we run up to the preparations for Christmas in our schools, I take time to reflect on this time last year and consider what was missing from so many of our schools. As schools we were lacking in the connection across our community and like some of you, our staff and children had a need to connect. With so much lost time in school, the focus this term has been around re-inspiring connection, re-building our community, promoting joyful learning and creating a place where every child is challenged, allowing them to surprise us and flourish.

This week's letter offers lots of opportunities for us as a community to re-establish connection and as always can I take this opportunity in advance to thank you for your continued support.

### **Children in Need fundraising**

A huge thank you to all of our families and children for supporting our mufti day last week. As a result of your dedication and generosity we were able **to raise £100 for Children in Need**, which once again just shows how wonderful our community is. Thank you all for your continued support.

### **Parent View**

As part of my commitment towards collective responsibility and based on previous feedback from our Collective Community Partnership group. Could I ask for your support by completing a quick survey which allows parents to give their views about their child's school. By 'parents', we mean any person with parental responsibility for a child at Woodford CE school.

All responses will be collated and used to see what is working well and for any areas of development to be addressed. **Please click here to open the online version of the survey.** A paper version of the survey is also available from reception should you wish to complete one that way.

### **School car parking arrangements**

Can I take this opportunity to remind parents of our school car park arrangements. We ask that parents are not using our car park in the morning to drop off children in their cars. Some visitors and staff cannot park on site during this time and the congestion caused is a risk for our children. Finally, can I raise awareness that there is also a disabled parking space on site which must only be used by those who have a valid Blue Badge permit.

### **Mufti Day**

There will be another opportunity for our children to wear their own clothes to school next week on **Thursday 02<sup>nd</sup> December**, and once again we also respect your decision if you do not choose to do this. We are not asking for a cash donation for this, but would in fact like to do it a little differently. We are currently in the process of gathering some prizes for our upcoming Christmas Raffle / Tombola as arranged by our wonderful Parents of Woodford PTA.

We are asking that for this mufti day children donate a prize of your choice and this may be in the form of food, sweets, drinks, books, toys, the options are limitless. All donations will then go towards our upcoming Christmas Raffle / Tombola (details below). If you have any questions about anything linked to the donations please do contact [pow-parents\\_of\\_woodford@outlook.com](mailto:pow-parents_of_woodford@outlook.com).



### **Christmas Cards**

The children will have received their class fundraising Christmas Cards by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Each child will bring home their sample card and an order form payment envelope. Please ensure that all payments and order envelopes are returned to the school by **Thursday 02<sup>nd</sup> of December**. We will then receive the order within 14 days and the children can bring them home or they can be collected from the school.

### **Christmas Fete**

There will be a Christmas Fete here at Woodford CE Primary School on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> of December 10.00am - 14.00pm**. There will be a range of stalls including businesses selling Christmas items, activities for children to enjoy and refreshments, plus there will be a grotto too for all the children to attend if you wish. If you are able to volunteer I know the Parents of Woodford PTA would welcome this because once again this is being organised by them. So, if you have any questions about this event or are able to help out, please contact [pow-parents\\_of\\_woodford@outlook.com](mailto:pow-parents_of_woodford@outlook.com). It would also be lovely for as many of you to attend as possible, so please do come and join us.

### **Christingle service**

We are currently finalising our upcoming Christingle service which will be held at St Mary's Church in Woodford. The service will be taking place **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> of December at 18.00pm**, and it would be lovely for as many of you to attend as possible, so please do come and join us.

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

After the last two years, we could all do with some fun, and this is a party you can join no matter where you are! **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> of December** is a chance for children to come to school wearing mufti, but this time the theme is Christmas Jumpers. This is a charity fundraiser so we are asking for a £1 donation from children to support Save the Children. You're not just wearing a jumper - you're becoming a superhero and making a difference for others.

### **Panto season...**

We are really looking forward to our Reception-Year 2 Christmas play. We are planning on performing this in front of a live audience but with national COVID-19 cases still unpredictable, there will be some additional safety measures:

- We will only be allowing members of the child's household to attend. This means this year unfortunately we will not be able to welcome grandparents and other relatives to come and watch. This will limit the number of households mixing.
- All children over 11 and adults should take a lateral flow test on the day of the performance, for details of how to access these free tests please [click here to visit the website](#)
- Please DO NOT come to the performance if you develop any symptoms of Covid (high temperature, new continuous cough or a change/loss of sense of taste/smell.)
- Please wear a face mask if you would like to.

The performance date is **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> of December at 09.30am**. We very much look forward to welcoming you in to school to celebrate the festive season.



### **Christmas Raffle / Tombola**

Continuing with a Christmas theme, we would also like to invite you all to attend our end of term Christmas Raffle. We will be opening the doors on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> of December at 15.15pm** and you will have an opportunity to buy tickets and hopefully take-home lots of wonderful prizes. If you are able to come and join us, please do pop in and support because it would be lovely to see as many of you as possible as we reach the end of the term.

### **Raunds Christmas market**

Please find attached a flyer for the upcoming Raunds Christmas Market. All details are on the flyer and please support if possible.

### **Stay Connected newsletter**

Please find attached the latest edition of the North Northamptonshire Stay Connected newsletter. This newsletter focuses on the work of partner agencies to Northamptonshire Children's Trust which support children and families.

### **Community Room**

We are currently in the early stages of setting up a community room to support as many families as possible in a range of ways. We would like to use the room to allow people within the community to reconnect because here at Woodford being part of this local community matters to us and we want to be able to support our families and friends.

We would like to support the local community by becoming a base for collecting food donations from the local foodbanks. Please also feel free to donate to this cause too if you are able to. We will place a box in reception every Thursday morning for any food donations you are able to make.

We would also like to support by offering you a chance to collect any second-hand uniform you may need at that time. Again, we will place a box in reception every Thursday morning for any food donations you are able to make.

The future plans for the community room will expand to us being able to use this time and space as a chance for families to attend before and after school pick ups to just have a chat (drinks and biscuits will be available too).

However, as we start to establish this project, the primary purpose of the room will be for families to use for the collection of food parcels or uniform collections and we will **open the doors on a Thursday afternoon 14.00pm-15.30pm**. We will start this new project next week (**Thursday 02<sup>nd</sup> of December**) so if you can offer any support or if this is something we can help you with please do get in touch with me [head@woodford.ce.northants.sch.uk](mailto:head@woodford.ce.northants.sch.uk)

Kind Regards

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