

Woodthorne Primary School
Woodthorne Road South
Tettenhall
Wolverhampton
WV6 8XL



Email: woodthorneprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Web: www.woodthorneprimary.org

Headteacher

Mr T Hinkley

Chief Executive Officer

Mrs A Cheema OBE



Part of Perry Hall Multi-Academy Trust
Company Number: 08566185

Tel: **01902 921160**

12th September 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school, I hope that your children have had a great first week. It has been just lovely seeing them back in school and hearing about their summer. On Wednesday in assembly, I asked them to tell me about what they have been up to – I have heard some wonderful recounts of events from them. We have also received a lot of new children over the Summer Holidays, so I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new families at Woodthorne.

I just wanted to take this opportunity at the start of term to provide some general information and reminders. Firstly, we welcome new staff to Woodthorne. Mr Roberts, who is our new Caretaker, took up post in the Summer Holidays. We have also had two Teaching Assistants start; Mrs Vaughan has joined us in Year 1 and Miss Farkas in Nursery. We will be advertising for a School Administrator in the next week or so, but in the meantime we have Monique supporting in the office for a temporary period. In addition to our new staff, we have also had some internal changes as well. Before the Summer break, Mrs Jones was successful in becoming Deputy Headteacher and Mrs Hodgkiss is now permanently the EYFS and KS1 Phase Leader, having been previously in the post on a temporary basis.

This year, one of our key priorities is to improve attendance and especially lateness. We have observed a significant decline in both since COVID and it is imperative that we improve this. Please ensure that your children attend school every day and that they are on time. The pace of the curriculum is very fast, and it is difficult for children to catch up on what they have missed due to absence. Furthermore, the curriculum is designed to build upon accumulative knowledge, so a lesson missed can be problematic for learning later. Please remember that your children need to be entering school at the time their doors open. We only keep them open for 10 minutes after this time to receive any messages from parents. Learning begins as soon as your children are in. If you do arrive after the door has shut, then your children must be signed in at the front office with the reason for lateness being given. Below is an extract from our attendance and late procedure, which I have attached for further details:

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Phase	Registration & Lesson Start	Doors Close	Register closes
Nursery	8.45am	8.55am	9.00am
Reception, Year 1 and Year 2	8.40am	8.50am	8.55am
Year 3 – Year 6	8.50am	9.00am	9.00am

I have also attached Lateness and Attendance overview sheets, which contain information about how many days or hours of education are missed. It is quite alarming to see how many days education are missed from only being 5 minutes late each day.

I am sure that your children will have come home and talked about house points and Dojo. We will be sending out information later this week about our behaviour system and how it works. We have made a few tweaks to it to ensure that we are raising expectations and also giving more acknowledgement to those children who always behave well and make the right choice.

Could I make a plea to all parents please. At the end of the academic year, I received a report with details of debt on Parent Pay. This year, the total was close to £3000, which was made up of lots of really small amounts that some parents owe. Most of these totalled no more than approximately £10 - £15, but as there were so many the total debt is very high. We just cannot afford to absorb this loss as a school so please, please could I implore everyone to check their Parent Pay account to ensure you are up to date.

On a final note, I have attached a copy of our home school agreement to this email. The home school agreement is a set of principles linked to our Core Values shared between Woodthorne, the children and parents. Please could you read and sign it. There will be the option to agree to this on Parent Pay from tomorrow. If you have any questions about this, then please let me know.

As always, please feel free to come and have a chat if you have any concerns, queries or suggestions about school. I very much look forward to another year of working with you all.

Yours faithfully,

T Hinkley
Headteacher