



Great [Wood] News

Spring Term 1



Telephone: 01538 702355 option 4

Text: 441538542001

Email: office@greatwood.staffs.sch.uk



Diary Dates

16th January	-	PTFA Meeting, 6.30pm - All Welcome
17th January	-	PTFA Meeting, 3.30pm - All Welcome
30th January	-	Y5 Bikeability
31st January	-	Y5 Bikeability
14th February	-	Valentines Lunch
15th February	-	Y6 Transition Morning @ The Cheadle Academy
	-	School Closes for Half Term
25th February	-	School Re-Opens
5th March	-	Pancake Lunch
7th March	-	World Book Day
14th March	-	Scholastic Book Fair
8th April	-	Academy Class Photograph's and Year 6 Leavers
11th April	-	School Closes for Easter
29th April	-	School Re-Opens
6th May	-	Bank Holiday - School Closed
13th May	-	SATS Week
17th May	-	Y5 Transition Morning @ The Cheadle Academy
24th May	-	School Closes for Half Term
3rd June	-	School Re-Opens



Michael Bradbury

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart, that we have to inform you that Michael, our fabulous site supervisor, has sadly passed away, at the age of 72. Michael has been part of our Great Wood family for the past twelve years and will be truly missed by us all. Michael had become an integral part of Great Wood, always working hard to keep the school ticking over and running smoothly. He always had a smile for everyone and nothing was ever too much trouble, for which we will always be grateful.

Our condolences, thoughts and prayers go out to Michael's family and we will, of course, be represented at his funeral.

Love and Peace Michael.



Welcome back we hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are looking forward to starting 2019 with a full and fun packed, busy term, with lots of exciting things to look forward to. We would like to say a big hello to Henry, Skye, Isla and Maxwell who have joined our school family and we look forward to getting to know him better over the Spring term.

Applications for Reception September 2019

The closing date for applications for this year's reception class, in September, is fast approaching. If you, or anyone you know has a child who is due to start school in September, please be aware that the closing date for all applications is **January 15th 2019**. All applications must be done online at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions selecting no UID number.

Please be aware having your child's name in the school book DOES NOT mean you automatically have a place and an online application has to be made.



Information/Reminders

- The text number is 01538 542001. Texts will be collected at regular intervals throughout the school day, but this number should only be used for non-urgent messages.
- Please ensure that your child's name is on their uniform and PE kit.
- **All** dinner money for the week ahead should be sent in on a Monday morning, in a **purse or envelope** clearly marked with your child's name, so that we can ensure that we send you the correct change.
- Please help us to keep our children safe by parking considerately when dropping off, or collecting children. A reminder that the school car park is for staff and visitors to school only. Unless otherwise arranged.
- The school office is closed on Thursday afternoons. Urgent messages may be left on the answerphone.
- Our school day begins at 8.50am, when the doors open to children. They remain open until 9.00am when registration takes place. Children should arrive at school between these times, to ensure that they are marked present and do not incur 'late' marks.
- If your child is ill, please ensure that you contact school to inform us as soon as possible on the first morning of the illness. This can be done via phone 01538 702355 option 4, text 01538 542001 or email office@greatwood.staff.sch.uk. Thank you.



Many thanks for your help and support with all of the above.

Newsletters

From next week we will not be sending out paper copies of our weekly newsletters. We will be putting our newsletter onto our website www.tmpf.staffs.sch.uk/great-wood for your convenience and to help preserve the planet!

Of course there will still be paper copies available, from the school office, should they be required.

Initially we will be sending a text out to inform you that the newsletter has been put onto the website, whilst everybody gets used to the new system.

If you have any queries regarding this change, please contact the school office.



Year 3/4 Swimming

Years 3 and 4 will start swimming on **Tuesday** 8th January 2019. The children will leave for their lesson on **Tuesday** mornings at 10.30am, so pupils will need to have their swimming kit with them. Swimming caps are available to buy from the school office at a cost of £2.

Please note girls will need to wear a one piece costume and boys are not allowed to wear baggy shorts.



Reception Children Muddy Mornings

This half term, reception children will be taking part in Muddy Mornings! These will be on Wednesday 23rd January and Wednesday 6th February. Please see separate letter for full details. All children will need outdoor clothes and shoes with them on these days. Thank you.



Break Sales

Our wonderful Lesley and Jan, in the kitchen, provides break sales for children in year 1-6 each morning.

Prices are as follows:

Toast	20p ** Please note our reduced price**
Cheese Oatcake	60p
Milkshake	60p
Hot Chocolate	50p



Uniform



At Great Wood we aim to have our children smartly dressed in our school uniform. All pupils are required to attend school appropriately dressed and, for the assistance of parents, our school has adopted guidelines on dress.

Pupils are expected to wear clothing of a type appropriate for the school's activities. Unusual styles that may be distracting are not permitted.

Boys

Black trousers/shorts for summer

White school shirt

School tie

Great Wood 'v' neck jumper

Sensible black school shoes

Girls

Black skirts, pinafore dress or trousers

White school blouse

School tie

Great Wood 'v' neck jumper/cardigan

Black socks/tights and white socks for summer

Sensible black school shoes, not sandals

Uniform reminders - A reminder to children and parents about the governors' policy on items of clothing, footwear, jewellery and hairstyles -

- Trainers are not to be worn; they are not part of school uniform.
- Children are not to have inappropriate hairstyles for school (these would include shaved patterns and colours in hair).
- Jewellery cannot be worn for PE lessons. If earrings have to be worn in school (as a child has their ears pierced), only plain studs are permitted; a number of children have been wearing diamond studs, these are not allowed for safety reasons. Please do not allow your child/children to come to school in magnetic or stick on earrings.
- Stick on transfers or tattoos are not permitted in school.
- Children are not allowed to wear make up, or nail varnish in school.



We are also having an increasing number of children arriving in school without their tie. We would be grateful if you could ensure that your child wears their tie every day because, as you are aware, it is a compulsory part of our school uniform. Ties are available to purchase from the school office at a cost of £4.85.

Thank you for your co-operation in maintaining our dress code standards.

Espresso Home Access

Pupil username: student28055

Pupil password: forest

Web address: <https://online.espresso.co.uk>



Espresso is used in school to enrich the curriculum subjects using a variety of activities, videos, games, websites and follow up work. There is also a section that is useful for SATS revision and phonic support. By using the above information both children and parents/carers can access the Espresso site and take advantage of these resources at home, as school has bought into the special pupil home access.

Coming to school and messages for staff

If you need to convey a message regarding your child/children, there will be a member of staff at each door, who will be able to deliver the message for you. For urgent/confidential messages an appointment can be made to speak to their teacher during assembly time, or at the end of the school day (via the member of staff on duty at the door).

Parents/Carers are asked not to enter school via the front doors, but to use the individual doors for each class. If you require to speak to Mrs Bromley, or Mrs Buckley in the office, this can be done via the hatch in the foyer. This policy is for safeguarding and insurance purposes.

When taking your child to their cloakroom door, please allow them to sort their belongings and coats onto their pegs. This is to avoid congestion in the cloakroom and to promote the children's independence. Thank you for your help.



Health and Safety



Unfortunately due to Health and Safety legislation we are unable to issue medicine to children, unless it has been prescribed by a doctor. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Weather



Brrrrrrrr, cold! Now that the winter seems to be closing in, keep an eye (and an ear!) out for any potential snow problems. In the unlikely event that we do have to close, we will endeavour to contact parents as early as possible via text messages and a message will be posted on the county website www.staffordshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures. Mrs Wilkinson will be working very hard to ensure our safety, by gritting the paths into school on icy mornings. Please can all parents, children (and staff!) make sure they walk only on the pathways she has gritted.

With this in mind, please remember to keep the school office updated with any change in contact details, should, for example, Santa have brought you a new phone for Christmas!

School Office

Please may we remind you that the school office is closed every Thursday afternoon from 1pm. Therefore, we kindly request that you please contact us before this time to advise of any changes to the collection of your child/children. Urgent messages may be left on the answerphone and naturally, we will still contact you should any need arise, but we ask that you please do not contact us via text message, or for non-emergencies on Thursday afternoons.

Please may we also remind you that at this busy time of year the office is dealing with a lot of queries at the school door, therefore it may take some time to answer the phone. Please feel free to text on 01538 542001 or email office@greatwood.staff.sch.uk. These messages will be answered as soon as possible.

Many thanks for your help and co-operation with this.



After School Clubs

Welcome to the Spring Term, we will once again be running a selection of after school clubs. The clubs available are as follows:

	Key stage 1 (Reception, Y1 & Y2)	Key Stage 2 (Year 3, 4, 5 & 6)
Monday	ASM Sports £3 per session	
Tuesday	Construction (max 30)	Bug Club (max 16) £4 per week
Wednesday	ASM Sports £3 per session	
Thursday	ASM Sports £3 per session	
Friday	Art and craft club £1 per week	Chess Club (max 30)



Clubs will start week commencing 14th January 2019 and run from the end of school until 4.30pm. The last week for clubs will be week commencing Monday 11th February 2019. On Tuesdays after school Mrs Roberts will be running training sessions for our Gym team. These will be by invitation only and a separate letter will be sent out to those involved.

Please complete the slip below and return to school as soon as possible, for children taking part in craft club please enclose your payment of £5 for the half term. Please see separate letter for Bug Club.

Childs Name	Clubs they would like to take part in:

Younger children should be collected at the end of the club. Upper Key Stage 2 may walk home with your permission.

I do/do not give permission for my child to walk home (delete as required)

Signed _____ Parent/Carer