



Great [Wood] News

Autumn Term 8

School Contact Details



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Diary Dates

15th November	-	BBC Children In Need
16th November	-	Cheadle Christmas Lights Switch on
18th November	-	Y6 Safe & Sound Event @ Cheadle Fire Station
20th November	-	Y6 Transition Day @ TCA
22nd November	-	Flu Vaccinations - All Children **NEW DATE**
23rd November	-	Poppy Party
24th November	-	Baby & Children's Table Top Sale, 10am-12pm
25th November	-	Y5/6 Swimming Gala, am
27th November	-	Y5/6 Football @ St George's Park
29th November	-	Christmas Craft Afternoon - Year 3,4,5&6 - Parents Welcome
	-	Tean Christmas Lights Switch on
1st December	-	PTFA Christmas Shopping Trip - Meadowhall, Sheffield
2nd December	-	Non Uniform Day - Chocolate Donations
4th December	-	PTFA Christmas Bingo, 6pm - All Welcome
5th December	-	Royal British Legion Lunch & Nativity Performance
6th December	-	Nativity Performance, 2pm - All Welcome
9th December	-	Nativity Performance, 5.30pm - All Welcome
10th December	-	Festival of Christmas Music @ Victoria Hall
11th December	-	Reception/KS1 Visit to The National Forest Adventure Farm
12th December	-	Christmas Lunch
13th December	-	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
	-	Christmas Extravaganza
15th December	-	Churches Together Festival Of Carols
16th December	-	KS2 Visit to The New Vic Theatre - The Prince & The Pauper
19th December	-	Christmas Breakfast
	-	PTFA Christmas Disco, 6-7.30pm
20th December	-	Christmas Church Service
	-	School Closes for Christmas Holidays
7th January	-	School Re-opens for Spring Term
16th January	-	Year 4 & 5 Bikeability
17th January	-	Year 5 Bikeability



SELLING FAST

PTFA Christmas Shopping Trip

Once again, this year our wonderful PTFA have organised a Christmas shopping trip. This year we are going to Meadowhall Shopping Centre in Sheffield, on Sunday 1st December. This is a very popular PTFA event and gives you an opportunity to enjoy your Christmas shopping, with friends and family, without having to drive, or worry about the dreaded Christmas parking!

The coach will be leaving school at 9.00am and will leave Meadowhall at 5.30pm for the return journey. Tickets are priced at just £12 per person, available from the school office.



There will be an exciting raffle taking place during the journey, where you could win lots of goodies for Christmas!

Keeping warm!



As we say a reluctant goodbye to the summer and the cold weather creeps in, we ask that all children bring a coat to school, to wear at playtime and lunchtime. Also, as it becomes appropriate, please can you ensure that your child/children have hats and gloves to keep them warm, when they are on the playground. Children that do not have suitable outdoor clothing, will not, as the weather becomes colder, be allowed to have an outdoor playtime and will have to remain inside at break and lunch times. Thank you for your help in keeping our Great Wood children warm and cosy.



At this time of year, it's important to **Be Bright and Be Seen** when you are out and about near roads.

BE BRIGHT – wear fluorescent or brightly coloured clothing when walking to and from school – it shows up well in daylight and at dusk.

REFLECTIVE – When it's dark outside, wear reflective clothing to be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well.

IMPROVE – improve your visibility with accessories, clip on reflectors, armbands and stickers added to your coat or bag are a great way to improve your visibility.

GREEN CROSS CODE – always choose routes and crossing places that are well lit and remember to use the Green Cross Code.

HEADLIGHTS – if you like to cycle, it's the law to have clean and working headlights on your bike at night (white at the front, red at the back) as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.

Give Love In A Box This Christmas

Thank you for your tremendous support with our T4U box appeal. Filled shoe boxes need to be returned to school by Monday 18th November. Your support has been amazing!



Festival of Christmas Music 2019

Once again this year our choir are taking a part in the Festival of Music on Wednesday 5th December. This is a wonderful Christmas event combining the Staffordshire Youth Orchestra and massed schools choirs. Separate letters have been issued to those involved.



Bugs! - We have a couple of bugs going around school at the moment, to help stop these spreading please can you refrain from sending your child back to school until 48hours after any episode of sickness. Thank you.



Remembrance

Pupils at Great Wood took part in the Remembrance Service on Sunday 10th November, as part of the community who remembered those who fought in the Great War. Our four team captains laid a wreath on both the war memorials in Tean and seven year five pupils read out the soldiers' and service personnel's names, who died during World War One. The school hosted the refreshments after the service. Thank you to all the pupils who attended during the morning, you represented the school with dignity and were highly praised by the local community. The Royal British Legion were in attendance and were thankful for the fundraising the pupils have supported this year.



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Espresso Home Access



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 brought into the special pupil home access.

Pupil username: student28055

Pupil password: forest

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

School Office

Please may we remind you that the school office is closed every Thursday afternoon from 12.30pm. 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 01538542095 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.



Busy, Busy!



You may have already noticed that this term is an extremely busy one! We have lots of events taking place, including numerous outings for our children. All of these outings require permission slips, which have been/will be sent home accordingly. There is a great deal of organisation involved in providing these activities for our children and it would help immensely, if you could ensure that all slips and monies due are returned to school promptly. This will prevent staff having to chase slips, or children having to miss activities. Please can you also fill in all sections of the return slips. Thank you for your assistance with this matter and for helping to make a smooth running, fun-filled term, with the help of our dedicated staff.

Academy Photographs

Please ensure that you return your Academy Photographs to school by the close of the school day on **Monday 18th November**. We are unfortunately unable to process any orders received after this date.



Jewellery

No jewellery is to be worn for PE, swimming, after schools sporting clubs. This includes watches, fitness trackers, earrings and earring retainers. Any new piercing should be carried out at the beginning of the summer holidays so that jewellery may be removed. If a pupil cannot remove their studs for any reason, they may not be able to take part in the physical elements of the lesson due to the associated risks, however, alternative involvement in the lesson will be provided. No jewellery is permitted to be worn whilst representing the school at sport.



PTFA Bonfire Extravaganza!



A fantastic turnout produced an extremely enjoyable evening and great PTFA fundraiser. We would like to say a special thank you to all those that helped on the day, especially our fantastic bonfire builders, firework team, organisers, soup makers, stall holders and marshalls. This event takes a tremendous amount of hard, but worthwhile, work. The funds raised by our fantastic PTFA team, via your amazing support, enable our children to benefit from, all the important extras they provide.

Parent Forum Meeting

We had our first Parent Forum meeting of the year on Thursday November 7th. A huge thanks to all parents who attended and contributed so well to our meeting.

We discussed the following items:

Parking discussion

The group agreed there are parking options at Christ Church Hall, Great Wood Hall and the White Hart Public House. Yet, a minority of parents and carers continue to park illegally on Vicarage Road. It was agreed to purchase traffic cones and place them at key points to discourage people from endangering our children by reckless parking.

Wrap-around-care provision

Parents thanked Jean and Gina for the excellent service they are providing and the group agreed the provision is a school asset. The club is to trial offering hot food for those children/parents that require it – more details to follow.

Homework

The group held a discussion on the subject of homework and it was agreed the current amount and frequency was acceptable. Some parents required additional information in some areas specifically e-learning. School will run a e-learning workshop in the new year – more details to follow.

At the end of the meeting the group requested the following agenda item for our next meeting:

Parent evening for IT use.

It is our desire for parents/carers to decide upon future discussion items so if you have any school matters you would like to bring to the group, please email:

office@greatwood.staffs.sch.uk.



Applications for Reception September 2020

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 2020**. All applications must be done online at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions and by following the links to 'Apply online'.

Please be aware that 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.

If any parent requires help with the application process, please contact the school office, who will be happy to help.



Year 3/4 Class Dojo's



As you may be aware our year 3/4 class are earning dojo points. These can be earned for good behaviour, work, attitude and kindness. However, dojo points can also be removed for inappropriate behaviour. There will be a prize for the winners at the end of each half term.

The BIG  **SPOTACULAR**

This year we will once again be supporting the BBC Children In Need Appeal at Great Wood. We will be selling 'Glow in the dark' key rings, festival wristbands, pin badges and glow wristbands, at the following prices:



**Pudsey
Glow in the
dark Keyrings
£2.00**



**NEW Silver or
Gold Pin
Badges
£1.00**



**Selection of
wristbands including
Colour Changing
wristbands
£1.00**



**Blush or Pudsey
Ears
£2.50**

Fancy Dress day, Pudsey style!



On Friday 15h November ,why not come to school dressed up in spots, bright colours, or even as Pudsey himself!

Wear your brightest colours or your spottiest clothes, pyjamas, or onesies, or just wear a pair of stylish Pudsey ears and join us for a day of Great Wood Children in Need fun!



We ask you to donate £1 per child!



Pudsey Biscuits!

Also on Friday 15th November, for one day only, Lesley and Jan will be selling their amazing Pudsey Bear biscuits priced at just 50p each. Once they are gone, they are gone!



Pudsey Raffle

As part of our fundraising activities for Children in Need this year, we will be holding a Pudsey Raffle. Tickets will be 50p each and will be available on the day. The prize will be a super-cuddly Pudsey Bear. The raffle will be drawn towards the end of the school day, on Friday 15th November.

Headlice



We have, unfortunately, got the problem of headlice in school again. Please be extra-vigilant in checking your child's hair each week and treating as necessary, to help us to eliminate this persistent problem. Many thanks for your help.