



# WOODGATE NEWS 28/01/26



Welcome to our Spring 1 Newsletter

## Message from the Head Teacher



We love being on the gates each morning to welcome you and the children, and have so many lovely conversations. We try and be there in all weathers. Thank you to everyone that shares a joke with us or simply says hello. It's a great start to our day! Unfortunately, we can't be out on the gates at the end of the day as we have other commitments, but we do see the children out at the doors.

You may have noticed that we have replaced the banners on both school gates.

Parking and driving around the school at the beginning and end of the school day continues to be of a concern to us. Despite our requests and repeated reminders, some parents drive far too quickly up Lutley Grove and down Trimpey Road, and park in the most inappropriate places.

Do not park across neighbours' drive ways. Do not park over the dropped kerbs, on the zigzags or on corners. Do not mount the pavement where people are walking. Some parents also stop their cars in the middle of the road and children get out into the road.

Over recent weeks, there have been several near misses at both entrances as children are walking into the road.

So, once again, I am asking all parents, whether driving or walking to school, please use common sense and be vigilant. If you are driving, you do not need to stop as close to the gates as possible, park further away, safely and walk. If you are walking, do not walk the children down the centre of Ludford Road opposite the gates. Cross, where it is safe to do so.

If you drop off at Lutley Grove, please do not stop directly outside the gates, blocking the turning area for other cars. If there is no space, turn around and go back down the road to pull in and drop your child off.

A reminder, that in the mornings, senior leaders are on both gates and staff are on all doors until 9:00am to welcome the children. Therefore, you can drop off at a safe place and let the children walk in on their own rather than park the car. This would reduce congestion around school considerably. However, this is only appropriate for children from Year 3 and above.

Please support this issue, and let's work together to make it safer for us all. It would be devastating if any of our children or parents were involved in an avoidable accident.

## Key Dates:

### Advance notice: School Closed on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 for Parent Consultation Day

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February - Year 4 Museum Visit.  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Year 3 Performance for parents – 2:40  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Break up for half term.  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – return to school  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Explorer visitor to Year 5  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Year 6 visit to Hampton Court Palace  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March – World Book day  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Year 6 visit to Islamic Exhibition Centre  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Parent Consultation day – school closed to children  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March – Reception children to Attwell Farm  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Year 1 Easter Production 2:30pm  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Year 5 Easter Production 2:30pm  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Easter Garden competition and Easter Bonnet Parade 2:40pm  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Break up for Easter holidays  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April – Back to school  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May – Bank holiday -school closed  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May – local elections -school closed to pupils due to being a polling station.  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 SATs week.  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May – Sponsored Walk event.  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Break up for half term  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June – back to school  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July – End of the school Year.

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Staff training days  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2026 – Year 1 - Year 6 children return to school.

## Attendance Update

We know that great attendance doesn't happen by accident—it's the result of caring, committed families who make education a priority every day. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all parents and carers who ensure their children arrive at school regularly, on time, and ready to learn. Your efforts make a real and lasting difference.

It has been a struggle to keep attendance up so far this term, with chicken pox, tummy bugs and poor weather.

However, we are just about managing to stay in line with national and local standards. In fact, we are slightly better than at the same time last year.

Worryingly, 80 children are persistent absentees, which means their attendance is less than 90% (9 days off school already this academic year). This will be impacting on their progress.

Please continue to do your best to make sure your child attends school every day unless they are too unwell to be here. Do not book holidays in term time. We cannot authorise them and you may well receive a penalty notice. Did you know that both parents receive the notice(fine) and for each child? So, if you have 2 children, there would be 4 fines to pay.

7 penalty notices and one court fine of £741 have recently been issued to Woodgate parents due to unauthorised absences, including holidays taken during term time. Thank you for your continued partnership, encouragement, and dedication. Together, we are helping every child thrive.

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## Reception and Gruffalo Room

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## Assistant Headteacher - Safeguarding and SENDCo

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## Assistant Headteacher

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## Deputy Headteacher

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## Head Teacher

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## Attendance Queries

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## General Enquiries

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