



WOODGATE NEWS 19/11/25



Message from the Head Teacher

Welcome to our Autumn 2 Newsletter. We have had a very positive and busy start to the half term.

Our School Improvement Partner visited our school last week for the day. She observed learning in classrooms, pupils' behaviour in lessons and around school and spoke to parents on the gate. Her report is overwhelmingly complimentary. She praised the skill and subject knowledge of the staff and congratulated the manners, attitudes and behaviour of the children. I know what a wonderful school Woodgate is and how lucky I am to work here, but it is always lovely to hear it from someone independent who visits lots of schools.

Thank you to everyone that came to parents' consultations last week. The atmosphere in school was so positive and warm and lots of parents and children went home very proud and happy!

I hope that you have enjoyed dropping in to the Maths open lessons this week and finding out a bit more about how maths is taught in your child's class.

You may have noticed that we have had a new portacabin installed in the grounds of the school (on the infant grass field). We are delighted to have this new space so that we can offer more courses for parents, a confidential meeting space and a place for more regular coffee mornings for parents. The space will be called The Gateway. I hope you get the opportunity to come along and use it soon.

The construction work on the new Scout Hut in Lutley Grove has started again after a delay. We are aware that the presence of construction traffic has made parking very difficult some days. Hopefully the project will be completed soon and there will be a beautiful modern Scout hut for the local community to use. I hope that some of our pupils join the local group once it is open.

Woodgate Early Help Offer

Remember that we have the **Woodgate Pantry** in school. If you would like some extra support with food, please come and speak to a member of the office team. They will arrange a food parcel for you. This is managed sensitively so please do come forward if you need it. With the financial pressures of Christmas, a food parcel may just alleviate the pressure a little.

Woodgate Wardrobe is also available. We have some uniform, P.E. kits, winter coats and shoes that are free if you need them. Some are new and some are pre-owned.

There is also the Rubery Uniform Swop Shop for free uniform, P.E. kit and school shoes. You can contact them via email at (ruberyswopshop@outlook.com)

All children have access to toast/bagels when they first arrive in the morning. This is part of our Free Breakfast offer.

Please remember that all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal every day. This can be a hot meal or a sandwich meal. Please take up this offer to save on packed lunch costs from home.

Safeguarding:

If you are concerned about the safety or well-being of any child please report it to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads in school. Miss Carroll, Mrs Colley, Mr Jones and Mr Bradley are always on hand to offer advice.

In the Event of an Unavoidable Closure

In the event that school needs to close, such as due to heating failure, hot water failure or heavy snowfall, we will notify you as soon as the decision is made. We will send out a message to your Eduspot Groupcall App, an email and post the message on the Latest News page of the Website. If we close due to snowfall, it is because we cannot get enough staff in to school to maintain safe staffing ratios, or because we cannot gain access to the car park, or clear enough pathways to maintain a safe environment for the children and parents coming on site. It is crucial that you have the App on your phone with the email that is registered at school so that you receive all messages from school. If you change your phone number or email, please make sure you let the school office know so that records can be updated.

Parking

Safe parking outside school at both entrances continues to be a safety priority for many of you and for us. There is never an excuse or acceptable time to park on the yellow zig-zags outside the gates, even if you are running late. We want all of our children and parents to be safe whether walking to school or coming in a car.

If you can, please walk to school. It will reduce the amount of traffic around the school and is much healthier. We also encourage children to cycle or ride their scooter to school. There are bike and scooter racks in all playgrounds. Once you are on the school site, the bike or scooter MUST be pushed to avoid accidents.

Cultural Celebration Days

We had a really enjoyable 2 days in school, wearing traditional dress or clothes that reflect our identity. Preme Productions also came into school to work with the children and Friday ended with a Cultural Carnival where children shared their work with each other.

Winter Clothing

The weather has turned cold and wet now. We know that lots of children come to school in a car, however, they still need a thick, waterproof winter coat and ideally a hat and gloves too. Unless it is very wet, we do still try to go outside for breaks and lunchtimes to give the children a chance to run around and play. Many children tell us they have not brought a coat to school because they travel in a car. Please make sure they still bring a coat. If you do not have a coat, we have some in the Woodgate Wardrobe that may fit your child – please come and ask.

Christmas Jumper Day

Children and staff will be invited to wear their Christmas Jumpers to school on Wednesday 10th December. We ask for a donation of £1 so that we can support the charity that the children of our School Council have chosen this year, which is Birmingham Children's Hospital.

If you have more than one child in school, a donation of 50p each would be appreciated, rather than £1.

Children can also wear their Christmas jumper on the last day of term, Friday 19th December - just for fun. No donation required.

Parties and Pantomime

The children's end of term party afternoon is on Thursday 18th December. Due to the increasing number of children who have food allergies or intolerances, each child will need to bring in their own party food in a plastic container, named clearly. Unfortunately, we cannot allow children to share food with each other.

The pantomime this year is Jack and the Beanstalk. It is on the morning of Friday 19th December. School funds this event for the children.

Key Dates:

Wednesday 26th November – Yr 5 visit to the Rep Theatre
Wednesday 10th December – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper day
Monday 15th December – Reception Christmas Production 2:30pm
Tuesday 16th December – Yr 2 Christmas Production. 2:30pm
Thursday 18th December – Party Afternoon
Friday 19th December – Christmas Jumper Day and Pantomime.
Friday 19th December – End of Autumn Term
Monday 5th January 2026 – Return to School for all children and staff

Advance notice: School Closed for staff training on Wednesday 28th January 2026 and on Wednesday 18th March 2026 for Parent Consultation Day

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