

# HURRAY!

## School is back

Woodlands  
Academy of Learning

Friday 7th September



Welcome back to our existing families and welcome to Woodlands for our new families! Your children arrived with big smiles and an air of excitement ready for the new challenges which is a fantastic way to begin the year.

Term started for the staff on Tuesday with two very busy training days. Tuesday involved setting our high expectations and getting ready for our children, Wednesday's focus was the development of maths led by Karen Sedgewick from Lindens. The new National Curriculum has brought many changes, particularly in Maths. Therefore Maths will be a key focus for us during the next academic year as we develop our teaching strategies to enable your children to make even more progress. A few of the other key focus areas will also be the adoption of the new computing curriculum, increasing the effectiveness of our marking, introducing Marvellous Me and of course establishing our very own breakfast and after school club - Woodies!

We hope your children have enjoyed their first two days back at school as they have been very busy. Appointing school council members, arranging class responsibilities, taking ownership of their learning rooms and agreeing on class rules that will enable all children to learn in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust. Plus, many BIG BANGS have kick started Learning Units in different year groups. Y6 children arrived at school in 2015, to be whizzed back to the Blitz of 1940. Learning rooms were transformed into bombed London, with blacked out windows, up-ended furniture, 1940s artefacts, staff in period dress and the deafening drone of the air raid siren and aeroplanes. What an exciting way to begin their learning about World War Two.



We have timetabled our family workshops for every year group during week beginning September 14th, letters will come home with more details next week. We hope you can join us, as staff will share more about Marvellous Me, new approaches to Home Learning and your child's curriculum for the forth coming year.

**It is sure to be an exciting  
and productive year!**

### Marvellous Me is coming to Woodlands...

Please attend our parent  
workshop at 2:30 to find out more...

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September – Y1, Y2 and Y4

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September – R, Y3 and Y5

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September – YN and Y6



### Welcome to new members of the team

We welcome new members of staff who are joining the team - Mrs Clarke (Assistant Headteacher, English Lead and Y5 Teacher), Miss Thompson (Y5 Teacher) and Miss Arnstein (Y2 Teacher). Plus, Mrs Thompson (Joining the pastoral team and will be on the door in the mornings from mid September ) and Mrs Mason (Lead Cook).



## Newly married!



Thursday 6th August was a very special day as Miss Morrison became the new Mrs Newton at Holy Trinity Church. Unbeknown to them, Mr and Mrs Newton were greeted by a guard of honour as they left the church. Y4 children! Thank you to the Mums and Dads who brought their children to help Mrs Newton celebrate her special day.

Miss Young (lunch supervisor and Mum) also tied the knot during the Summer to become Mrs Brown.

We wish both couples much happiness in their new life together.



## New Lesson: Target Time

The first part of every morning for every class is now Target Time (TT). During TT, children will refer to the teachers' marking from the previous day and undertake a linked personalised task to help your child move forward in their Maths or English learning. This is also a time when a child will receive extra support if they found the previous learning challenging. We are excited about the impact this new lesson will have on



our children's achievement and therefore stress the importance of every child arriving on time every day.

The government have raised the attendance targets for schools again. The minimum expected level of attendance for each child is now 96% during twelve months. Plus, if your child has less than 90% attendance they are classed as a persistent absentee. We have a saying at Woodlands:

**'Every Lesson Counts'**

**To miss a day is to miss a great deal of learning!**

## Children running the school...

The staff and I were extremely proud that over 50% of our Y6 children wrote letters of application for the positions of Head Boy and Head Girl. Every letter was written to a high standard and they were all extremely persuasive. It was a very difficult decision but I would like to introduce:



Master Liam Woodbine, Miss Taliah Alves, (Head Boy and Girl) Master Spencer Salt and Miss Lucy Bradley. (Deputy Head Boy and Girl).



We have also assigned responsibility, to a number of Y6 children, for various roles throughout the school to help our Academy run smoothly.



**Congratulations to all these children, we know you will do a fantastic job.** I'm looking forward to putting my feet up...

## New before and after School Club

Woodland's now has it's very own breakfast and after school club that officially opened it's doors on Thursday 3rd September. Our children work hard during the day so it is important that the club offers our children a time to relax in a structured and fun environment. Mrs Alves is the lead person for booking the sessions, Mrs Chapman is our session lead and is supported by Mr Butler

Breakfast Club runs from 7:45 until 8:40 and After School Club runs from school end until 6:00

We already have a number of resources for our children to use, but if you have any old toys in good condition then they would have a very happy new home at Woodies. Please send any items into the school office.

If you would like your child to attend the club or require further information then please contact Mrs Alves by phone or text: 07525 119121 or email: woodies@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk

