

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everyone and into Autumn 2

You know this half term... it is the crazy run up to..... Christmas! There is no escaping that word this half term. So the first thing I will mention is Christmas Dinners.

The deadline for paying on Scopay and ordering a Christmas Dinner for your child or for yourself (adults in Y3 and Y4) is Friday 15th November, which is next week. This means Mrs Mason will then get shopping for all the delicious ingredients.

Before we start to panic about what needs doing for Christmas; I'll share the very busy plans for next week which have nothing to do with Christmas:

Monday is Remembrance Day which we shall learn about in school over the next week. We are still selling the items in school so please do send an envelope into school with the order, money, child's name and class for the Poppy Appeal.

Tuesday is the beginning of Anti-Bullying Week and is launched with Odd Socks Day up and down the country. Therefore we welcome crazy odd socks on this day so we can all celebrate how special and unique every person is. We shall then be learning about anti-bullying during the course of the week.

Friday is Children In Need. Children are welcome to wear appropriate non-uniform in return for a £1.00 on scopay for this special charity.



The theme for this week has been safety! The A Star Sheriffs have led an assembly reminding children to be careful around the roads at this time of year. Due to darker nights and mornings, combined with more extreme weather (which I am sure is coming) our children need to be aware that they are not as visible to cars. The Sheriffs have set a poster competition for all our children to promote the slogan 'Be Bright Be Seen' The closing date is next Friday, 15th November. (A leaflet should have arrived home with more details about the competition)

Thinking about safety and parked cars, we received numerous complaints in school about a white BMW that was parked on the bend of Hunts Lane and Bloxwich Road North on Monday morning. A reminder about what the road signs and markings mean outside school has been sent home today in your child's bag. We also have the police referral form available in the school office for members of the community and parents for inappropriate or dangerous parking. You will need a photograph, details of the car and the registration number in order to refer to police.

Our Reception parents have also been learning about how to cross the road safely with their children. Thank you to our parents who came in to work with their child in these sessions, we hope you enjoyed it and your child gained from the sessions.

I am sure many of our families will be involved in Remembrance Day services this weekend, especially if your child is in the Scouting or Girlguiding association.

Together, we will remember them. Mrs Newton





School Attendance Update

As parents are aware the national and local process for school attendance has changed since September 2024.

This affects children with low attendance, children who have absences without valid reasons (unauthorised absence) either in a block or over sporadic days, this also includes absence due to term time holidays.

As can be seen in more detail on the poster on the next page, the national changes are:

- The first 5 days (10 sessions) of unauthorised absence over a 10 week period will incur an £80 fine (per parent, per child) if paid straight away.
- The second time children have 5 days unauthorised absence over a period of 10 weeks, within 3 years of the first offence, could incur a fine of £160.
- The third time children have 5 days unauthorised absence over a period of 10 weeks, within 3 years of the first offence, could result in legal action that could mean a criminal conviction for the adult.

Holidays in Term Time

We are unable to authorise holidays during term time, the process listed above is followed for term time holidays. Some families take holidays without informing the school hoping to avoid a fine. School policy is that if children are absent for longer than three days then Mr Fisher will undertake a home visit in order to carry out a safe and well check. Also, if children are absent for 5 days or longer then we urge families to gain medical evidence eg evidence of a GP visit. If a holiday is suspected and this includes children or friends talking about their holiday in school, then the absence will be referred to the Local Authority.

Children below 90% Attendance

One of the things we do to help parents keep track of their child's attendance is every half term we send home an attendance letter for children who have attendance below 90% and for the children between 91-93% who are at risk of slipping into the Persistent Absentee group.

If your child has had 4 days absence or more since September then your child will be below 90% and be classed as a Persistent Absentee

Many of our parents work closely with us and we often know the reasons why a child has been absent, many of these absences cannot be helped and are authorised. Please do not worry if you receive a letter but you have kept in touch with the school and the absences are authorised.

If your child is below 90% then we shall require evidence for future absences and it is likely that Mr Fisher will undertake a Home Visit if your child is absent in order to help us authorise.

Please note that Woodlands do not receive any money from the fines and also please be aware that if the fines aren't paid then the fine increases and Walsall do take families to court for unpaid fines.

From September 2024, the new National Framework for issuing penalty notices will apply.

Penalty Notice Fines will continue to be issued per parent per child.

For example: 3 Siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

1

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term Time Holiday or Irregular School Attendance the Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a Penalty Notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.

The 10-school week period can span over different terms and school years.

2

Second Offence

(within 3 years of the First Offence)

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second Penalty Notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first notice, the second Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

(Unpaid Penalty Notices after 28 days may result in a prosecution)

3

Third Offence and any further Offences

(within 3 years of the First Offence)

The third time that an offence is committed for either a term time holiday and/or Irregular attendance, a Penalty Notice will not be issued, the case may be proceeded straight to prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure.

If found guilty of the offence of 'failure to secure their child's regular attendance at a school' the Magistrates can impose a fine up to £1,000.



Walsall Council

PROUD OF OUR PAST OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE

Christmas Dinners

On Wednesday 27th November, a parent for each child in Y4 is invited to join their child for Christmas dinner at 11:00. This is then repeated for each child in Year 3 on Wednesday 11th December at 11:00. The parent will need to pay for their dinner and their child's (if they usually do) and let us know about any dietary requirements by **Friday 15th November** so we can order the essentials.

The rest of the school will have their Christmas dinner on Wednesday 11th December which also needs to be ordered (and paid for - if needed) by **Friday 15th November** if your child is in Y5 or Y6.

Winter School Uniform

This half term brings a change in the weather and a change in school uniform. We now move into our winter uniform. This means that children from Reception to Y6 should now be in proper school shirts and wearing Woodlands tie with a green jumper or green cardigan. The polo shirt is for the summer months and for Nursery. Families can purchase a school jumper, school cardigan or a school tie from the school office. Don't forget to ensure your child is in school shoes to complete the smart uniform.

Thank you to our families for keeping the standards at our school smart!

Donations for the Christmas Fair

As you are aware we will be holding our annual Christmas Fair here at Woodlands on Wednesday 4th December. In order for us to make this as big a success as we can we are kindly asking for donations of teddies, chocolates / chocolate bar (wrapped in Christmas paper) and any other toys or gifts that would make suitable prizes or can be sold on a stall. Also, previously used gift bags for the lucky dip would be appreciated too. Thank you.

Could all donations please be brought into school by Friday 29th November.

We would like to thank you in advance for any donations that you are able to make, and once again for all your support.



IMPORTANT: CALLING ALL NURSERY PARENTS

Nursery parents please remember to complete the application form for your families choice for Reception Year and onwards into all Primary years for your child. Your child **ISN'T** automatically given a place at Woodlands, you have to apply for a school place and this process is managed by Walsall Admissions.

This is really important because if you do not complete the form then the Local Authority will select a school for your child and it could be anywhere in Walsall or at a school that you may not want your child to go to.

The closing date is 15th January 2025. In order to apply, families must submit an on-line application through the Admissions web page of Walsall Council website:

[Apply for a primary school place | Walsall Council](#)





PLEASE SUPPORT US BY DONATING ITEMS FROM OUR SHOPPING LIST

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| ★ TINNED MEAT (CHICKEN/HAM) | ★ TINNED CUSTARD |
| ★ TINNED VEGETABLES | ★ MINCE PIES |
| ★ TINNED POTATOES/MASH | ★ CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS |
| ★ GRAVY / PACKETS OF STUFFING | ★ SELECTION BOXES |
| • CARTONS OF LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE | • TINNED READY MEALS (MEATBALLS/MACARONI CHEESE) |
| • CARTONS OF UHT MILK | • TINNED FRUIT |
| • CORDIAL/SQUASH | • SAVOURY RICE |
| • SMALL JARS OF COFFEE | • INSTANT NOODLES |
| • TEA BAGS BOX OF 40'S | • ROLL ON DEODORANT |
| • TINNED FISH | • SHAMPOO |
| • PASTA SAUCE | • SHOWER GEL |
| • TINNED CHOPPED TOMATOES | • TOILET ROLL |
| • BREAKFAST CEREAL | • BARS OF SOAP |



PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO RECEIVE A WEEKLY REMINDER OF OUR SHORTAGES LIST ON YOUR SHOPPING DAY

BLACK COUNTRY
FOODBANK
LOVE . CONNECT . INVEST



LOVE . CONNECT . INVEST

T. 0121
E. info@bcfb.org.uk
W. www.bcfb.org.uk
R. 0121 254 1234

Do you have any extra Advent Calendars?

Staff are collecting Advent Calendars in School for the Food Bank.

The Food Bank will collect them from Woodlands by 22nd November, so if you have any spare ones please drop them into the food bank box in the foyer and they can join our staff donations too.



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

BLACK COUNTRY FOODBANK
LOVE . CONNECT . INVEST

The idea is a simple one – for every day of Advent collect an item of food and, at the end of Advent, donate what you have collected to Black Country Foodbank. If you wanted to do this throughout the month of November instead, you could substitute some of the suggestions with specific Christmas items e.g., puddings, mince pies, selection boxes but nothing containing alcohol please.

TINNED MEAT (chicken/ham/spam/ hot dogs)	SPECIALITY BISCUITS/ CHOCOLATE	TINNED VEGETABLES	TEA BAGS BOX OF 40'S
PASTA COOKING SAUCE JARS	RICE/ PASTA	INSTANT FLAVOURED NOODLES/ POT NOODLES	PACKET MASH/ TINNED POTATOES
TINNED DESSERTS (fruit/rice pudding/ custard/sponge pudding)	SMALL JARS OF COFFEE	BREAKFAST CEREAL (small/medium packets)	LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE
HOT CHOCOLATE (made with water)	TINNED TOMATOES	SHAMPOO	TINNED READY MEALS (chilli/meatballs/curry/ ratatouille/mac and cheese)
TINNED FISH	JAM/ MARMALADE	BARS OF SOAP	TOILET ROLL
LONG LIFE MILK (1L carton)	ROLL ON DEODORANT	MICROWAVE FLAVOURED RICE	SUGAR (small bags)

ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN MAKE A FINANCIAL DONATION VIA JUSTGIVING BY SCANNING THE QR CODE

THANK YOU.

REGISTERED CHARITY
NO 1136676

WALSALL WINTER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME



**Holiday
free ac-**

**tivities and fun
for children who are entitled to Free School Meals or have an EHCP**

Parents need to ensure they have registered prior to booking the activities. You should receive a letter in the post with your child's unique HAF code.

If you haven't received a letter but believe your child is entitled then please contact Mrs Graham or Mrs Pedley or email WR4C@walsall.gov.uk for your code. You will then need to register your child using this code on the website: www.walsall.gov.uk/children_and_young_people/haf_signup

The portal opens for booking activities opens on 20th November 2024. The best activities get booked first so we would advise parents to be ready to book on this date.

Winter Offer: Each child and parent can pick up to 4 activities over the period : 23rd December 2024 – 3rd January 2025. Activity dates are below:

23.12.24
24.12.24
30.12.24
02.01.25
03.01.25

We have a range of activities including pantomime, bowling, Santa's grottos, Horse riding, Swimming, Roller-skating Send activities and many more



Bag A Breakfast

PhunkyFoods Top Tip 1: Always have Breakfast!



- To promote healthy eating our Phunky Food Ambassadors are reminding everyone to 'Bag A Breakfast' this half term.
- There will be 'Top Tips' every week to help us all to get the day off to a positive start!
- Skipping breakfast could make us less active during the day as we aren't taking in any energy in the morning, having breakfast every day helps to maintain a healthy bodyweight.
- Even if your child doesn't want breakfast early in the morning or there isn't enough time, pack some on the go bits to have on the way to school or at break time. It's really important to eat within a few hours of waking up.
- Good choices could be a banana or a piece of malt loaf/fruit bread.

FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK!

RJ achieved 99% and 4R achieved 98%

Very well done to these children and their families.

These children deserve an extra playtime.

Please remember the first lesson begins at 9:00 which is a core lesson, including RWI. If your child is late they will miss the teacher input - the direct teaching and modelling.



We are still selling these Remembrance Day items in school. Please send the money in an envelope listing what your child would like, their name and class.

Thank you.

So many children achieving out of school:

Carter W has achieved two swimming awards. Nixon achieved a medal for his football camp. Haiden and Riley went head to head in a football game as two goalies for their separate teams and both achieved Player of The Match. I won't mention which team won! Jude also achieved Player of The Match for his football skills too. Brilliant work children!

A very special mention for Leighton who has received a personal letter of commendation from Children's Services for continuing to welcome and support children in his family home. Over the years, Leighton has made a positive difference to eleven different children. This is incredible and we are so proud of Leighton for his warmth and kindness towards others. What a superstar!



Who are the SUPERSTARS this week?



Class	Name	Reason
NAM	Sehbaaj	For fully immersing yourself in our explore and discovery week, and using your creative skills to create a chair out of the junk modelling and making a box all around your self.
NPM	Reya	Engaging yourself in explore and discovery week using your imagination to create some lovely ideas to extend our story and what could be at the end of the rainbow, then putting these ideas onto paper for your learning journey.
RG	Sreeya	For an excellent predication in our 'Where's My Teddy?' story. Sreeya explained that she thought that Eddy and the big bear had mixed up their teddies. What a super prediction
RJ	Patrick	For amazing Maths work! You counted the objects to up to 9 and wrote each number independently. You stayed on task really well to complete your work – well done!
1W	Hannah	For creating an excellent patchwork collage of Elmer the elephant. Hannah took her time to make a wonderful colour coordinated design. Well done Hannah!
1S	Whole Class	A huge well done to the entire class for the amazing effort you put into creating our Leaf Elmer and for collaborating so well during Explore nad Discovery Week!
2CP	Karman	Sharing his knowledge of the Sikh faith with the rest of the class. He was able to talk about the 5Ks and bought in his own kara bangle to share. Brilliant Karman, well done.
2D	Arshveer	For using his colour mixing skills to complete a colour wheel. Well done Arshveer.
3A	Class 3A	For being wonderful on our school trip to the Think Tank. All children showed excellent listening skills and manners. They were inquisitive and asked lots of questions to deepen their knowledge. Year 3 did a fantastic job of representing Woodlands. Well done 3A!
3G	Aeron	Fully immersing herself during Explore and Discovery Week. Aeron worked well independently to design and create a planet and worked well with others to present group learning about a planet.
4R	Brody	For his enthusiasm during our Explore and Discovery week, well done.
4N	Myah	Fully embracing our Pure Imagination Week. You showed real enthusiasm for all of the tasks.
5HO	Amiya	For excellent effort in translation and coordinates. I am so proud
5HA	William	Very impressive drawings produced throughout our Explore and Discovery Week including an information page about pirates, recreating the painting through sketching and a map on his board game. I am so proud.
6P	Georgiee	A fabulous week at Bryntysilio! Not only did Georgiee participate wholeheartedly in every activity, she was also a fantastic support to those around her.
6E	William E	For working hard to improve his concentration in all lessons and meticulously checking his work for any errors. You have come such a long way in such a short space of time. William truly embodies the phrase seize every moment. I am so proud of you.

Dates on the horizon

Monday 11th November	Remembrance Day
Tuesday 12th November	Anti Bullying week starts and Odd Socks Day for everyone
Friday 15th November	Children In Need. Non uniform for a donation of £1.00 through Scopay
Friday 15th November	Last day for Christmas Dinner Orders and Payment
Tuesday 19th November	2:45, 2CP Class Assembly, parents invited
Tuesday 19th November	4:00 Y5 Parents, Queen Mary Grammar Schools Information Meeting
Wednesday 20th November	Y1 visit to the Toy Museum
Friday 22nd November	Non-Uniform Day for Christmas Fayre Items
Tuesday 26th November	2:45, 1S Class Assembly, parents invited
Wednesday 27th November	11:00 Christmas Dinner for Y4 and a parent / carer
Wednesday 27th November	Y2 visit to Black Country Living Museum
Wednesday 27th November	Evening Walsall Arena Performance by the choir
Friday 29th November	Y2 workshops in school by the BCLM
Friday 29th November	1:45 Y3 Parents invited to a Bag a Breakfast Workshop (Booked places only)
Wednesday 4th December	Christmas Fayre after school
Friday 6th December	Y6 Flu nasal vaccination (and for children that missed the first vaccination)
Friday 6th December	9:00 Assembly 'The Wonderful World of Water' for Y4 and Y5
Wednesday 11th December	11:00 Christmas Dinner for Y3 and a parent / carer. Christmas dinner for all the school. Parents need to book their child's dinner through Scopay by Friday 15th November.
Thursday 12th December	Y4 visit to The Black Country Museum (change in date)
Tuesday 17th December	Y6 visit to the Theatre
Tuesday 17th December	Christmas Performances: 9:15 Nursery & Reception. 2:00 Y1 & Y2
Wednesday 18th December	Christmas Performances: 9:15 Y1 & Y2. 2:00 Nursery & Reception
Thursday 19th December	Christmas Jumper and uniform day.
	School closes at the end of the day for children

What's happening in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

11th - 17th November 2024

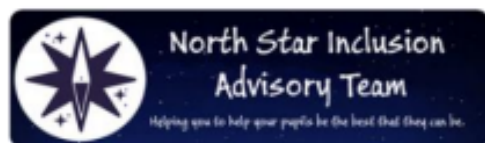
**Question of the week that we will be
discussing in school and you can discuss
at home too:**

**What impact can
bullying have on a
community?**

**Our linking Wood-
land values are
'Respect' and
'Tolerance'**



Information from parents or external local groups that have asked Woodlands to share with the school community



AET North Star Federation-Walsall LA Hub 2024-2025

FREE Family Support Sessions

Please note, Families can attend who might be awaiting/suspect a diagnosis, seeking the 'right support at the right time'.

Family Sessions Early Years (0-5 +/-2years)

Making Sense of Autism

16th September 2024 09:30 – 11:00
11th November 2024 13:00 – 14:30
14th January 2025 09:30 – 11:00
06th March 2025 09:30 – 11:00
01st May 2025 13:00 – 14:30
02nd July 2025 13:00 – 14:30



**Developed by
leading autism
specialists**

Family Sessions Schools (5-16+-4 years)

Making Sense of Autism

16th September 2024 13:00 – 14:30
12th November 2024 09:30 – 11:00
13th January 2025 13:00 – 14:30
07th March 2025 09:30 – 11:00
02nd May 2025 13:00 – 14:30
02nd July 2025 09:30 – 11:00



**Up to date
with the latest
research**

Family Sessions Post 16(14 and beyond +/- 2 years)

Making Sense of Autism

17th September 2024 09:30 – 11:00
14th November 2024 13:00 – 14:30
15th January 2025 09:30 – 11:00
06th March 2025 13:00 – 14:30
20th May 2025 13:00 – 14:30
03rd July 2025 09:30 – 11:00

Venue: Rushall Primary School, Pelsall Lane, Walsall, WS4 1NG

Booking: Please book via www.bookwhen.com/niat

Enquiries: Contact Samantha Harrison at North Star Inclusion Advisory Team on 01922 682300 Opt 3 or email Samantha.harrison@northstarfederation.org.uk

Parking: Please be aware if your session starts at 09:15 do not arrive on site before 09:00am. The carparks will not be available to you before 09:00am.

Due to construction work please use the first carpark on THE left of the drive (opposite the fields)

FREE sessions suitable for all to attend.

Training suitable for Families, settings and professionals to attend.

Autism and Anxiety

13th November 2024 09:15 – 12:15
07th March 2025 13:00 – 16:00
20th May 2025 09:15 – 12:15

Autism and Inclusion

13th November 2024 13:00 – 16:00



SHOE BOX APPEAL

**SUPPORT SOMEONE IN
NEED TODAY**

MLSS is requesting you to prepare a shoebox of gifts for someone who is facing homelessness or hardships. Items such as:

Please do not wrap the shoe boxes as they will be gifted with other things and may need to be opened.

Toiletries

Shampoo
Conditioner
Shower gel
Wet wipes
Toothbrush
Comb
Hair brush
Toilet paper
Disposable gloves
Gloves
Deodorant
Roll on
Moisturiser
Hand cream

Treats

Chocolates
Sweets
Crisps
Biscuits
Soup
Drinks
Biscuits
Crisps
Vegetarian tinned food
Tea
Coffee

Other

Small towels
Hats
Gloves
Underwear
Socks
Thermals
Torches

Contact Sharon - 07828663681
Hub Landline - 01922961865
MIDLANDLANGARSEVA.ORG
UK charity number: 1156995

