

# NEWSLETTER

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

This week, the children in Year One were treated to a visit from the Cat Protection League in preparation for their forthcoming topic Paws and Claws. The children thoroughly enjoyed engaging with their visitor and learning all about our feline friends.

In today's newsletter we continue the story of our school through time. Reading through the archives, I have enjoyed learning about how the pupils' educational visits included visiting the local farms for sheep shearing!

Next week we are looking forward to our first parent workshop of this academic year. If you are a year six parent please do try to attend as this workshop will explain how you can support your child to prepare for their end of key stage assessments (SATs).

With very best wishes

Mr Higgins

## A Page from History: The Woodcock Hill Archives

Unfortunately it was a time of shortages of materials of all kinds...

The head teacher, Mr Davis, recalls *"One class began its life in the new school with chairs but no desks. They knelt on the floor and used the chairs to work on."* He goes on to say *"My secretary Mrs Mac (Mrs MacLaughlan) had a stool to sit on and had to use a wooden crate for a desk. The building was not without its faults. There were no doors to the hall, only curtains and the stramit ceiling – made of compressed straw, leaked from the beginning."*

The still rural nature of the Woodcock Hill Estate is further emphasised by Mr Davis' recounts of how the children were invited to see the sheep shearing at the nearby farm.

Woodcock Hill is very lucky in having grassed areas. As first impressions are important, Mr Davis had an avenue of flowering cherry trees planted at the school entrance. Many of these are still growing and flowering today.

*...to be continued*



# DIARY

**2<sup>nd</sup> October – 9.10am**  
Year Six Parent Workshop

**9<sup>th</sup> October – 9.10am**  
Year One Parent Workshop

**10<sup>th</sup> October – 9am**  
Coffee Morning:  
Meet our SENCo – Mrs Nash

**16<sup>th</sup> October**  
Parents' Evening

**21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> October**  
Harvest Food Collection

**25<sup>th</sup> October**  
Non Uniform Fundraiser

**25<sup>th</sup> October**  
MacMillan Coffee Morning

**28th October – 1st November**  
Half Term Week

**31<sup>st</sup> October**  
Deadline for Secondary  
School Applications

**4th November**  
Teacher Training Day

**5th November**  
Autumn Term<sup>2</sup> starts for children

**11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November**  
Anti-Bullying Week

**12<sup>th</sup> November**  
PTA: Toy and Book Sale



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## Celebration Assembly

Today in our assembly we celebrated the achievements of:



**Year One**  
Alice and Skanda

**Year Two**  
Coby and Ellie

**Year Three**  
Aubree and Sophie

**Year Four**  
Jenson and Rofayda

**Year Five**  
Inci and Ellie

**Year Six**  
Hugo and Skye

## Children in Need

Each year the children challenge Mr Higgins to do something silly. In turn, they sponsor him and all the monies raised goes to support the BBC Children in Need Charity.

Last year, Mr Higgins sat in a bath of cold porridge and the year before a bath of cold beans. On each occasion the children paid a small fee to douse him in the cold porridge or beans.

What would you like Mr Higgins to do this year? Place your suggestions on a piece of paper and place it in the Children in Need suggestion box in the school foyer. Mrs Clarson and the school council will review all of your suggestions and choose a suitable challenge for this year.

So, get you thinking caps on and suggest something challenging!



## Important Information for Year Six Parents

Applications open on 1 September 2024 for secondary school places for entry in September 2025. **The closing date is 31 October 2024 at 11:59pm.**

It is really important that you apply on time. If you apply late you are less likely to get offered a place at any of your preferred schools. **Applications received after the 31 October 2024 will be classed as late applications and will not be processed until after the offer of places on 3 March 2025.**

Remember to list six different secondary schools. To make your online application go to:

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

## Books for Playtime



Do you have any good quality books that your children no longer read? If so we'd love them for our school. We'd like to put together some book boxes for children to use at playtimes. Some children prefer to sit and read rather than run around and we'd love to be able to provide that for them. Please hand any books to your child's class teacher.

## Cash Pot for Schools from ASDA

If you have the ASDA rewards app, please nominate our school to receive additional donations whenever you shop. It does not take any money away from your own 'pot' but rather donates to our school in addition to the rewards you receive. It is a great way of supporting our school.

**Thank you!**

**Our School Values: *We are respectful, ambitious, creative, inclusive, independent and we persevere.***