

# NEWSLETTER

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

I am delighted to be able to write my first letter of the new academic year in this our 70<sup>th</sup> year of providing education to our community. It was such a joy to see the children again after the summer break and it was lovely to see so many of you smiling as you brought them through the school gates.

This week, we have had the pleasure of welcoming a number of new children to our school, across all classes. Yesterday, we welcomed our Reception children who astounded me with how well they came into school on their first day and immediately began engaging in their learning.

In assembly on Wednesday, the children learnt how their school was born – back in 1954! *“On September 7<sup>th</sup> 1954 Woodcock Hill County Primary Junior and Infant school opened its doors to the first intake of 113 children.”* Throughout this year I will put some historical information and memories in our weekly newsletter.

Here at Woodcock Hill, the needs of the children are always paramount in the life and decision making within the school. We strongly believe in providing children with exciting, creative, and meaningful learning experiences which build their enthusiasm for learning and help them to grow and develop positively in a variety of ways. With this in mind, staff have been busy improving the school environment both inside and out and I am extremely appreciative of the amazing staff team I have here at Woodcock Hill. On behalf of the governors and myself, I would like to thank them for giving up so much of their own time to benefit the children.

Finally, this newsletter contains all the key dates for the year ahead so please keep it safe.

With very best wishes

Mr Higgins



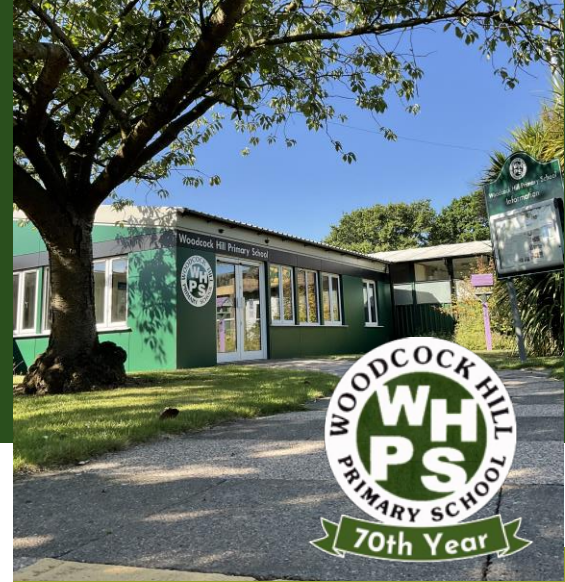
**Woodcock Hill Primary School**

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# DIARY

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024**

Teacher Training Days

**4<sup>th</sup> September**

Autumn Term<sup>1</sup> starts for children

**2<sup>nd</sup> October**

Year Six Parent Workshop

**9<sup>th</sup> October**

Year One Parent Workshop

**16<sup>th</sup> October**

Parents' Evening

**21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> October**

Harvest Food Collection

**25<sup>th</sup> October**

MacMillan Coffee Morning

**28<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November**

Half Term Week

**4<sup>th</sup> November**

Teacher Training Day

**5<sup>th</sup> November**

Autumn Term<sup>2</sup> starts for children

**11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November**

Anti-Bullying Week

**13<sup>th</sup> November**

Reception Parents' Workshop

**15<sup>th</sup> November**

Children in Need

What will Mr Higgins have to do this year?

**22<sup>nd</sup> November**

Bottle Donation Day for the  
Christmas Fair

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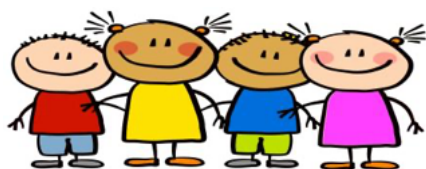
## Friends of Woodcock Hill Primary School

Our PTA organise a huge number of events throughout the school year as well as supporting families with a uniform swap shop. This invaluable work is undertaken by a small number of our parents. If you would like to get involved, please contact our PTA via the school office.

### OUR SCHOOL VALUES

In 2022, we worked with the whole school community to select our school values. Our values underpin our relationships with one another, our curriculum and everything that we do.

This year we will continue to develop them. Each term we will focus more deeply on one of our values through our assembly themes.



Autumn Term<sup>1</sup> **Inclusivity**  
Autumn Term<sup>2</sup> **Creativity**

Spring Term<sup>1</sup> **Ambition**  
Spring Term<sup>2</sup> **Perseverance**

Summer Term<sup>1</sup> **Respectfulness**  
Summer Term<sup>2</sup> **Independence**

### GIFT VOUCHER

One of our priorities for 2024/25 is to improve attendance and punctuality. Remember, if your child attends school every day on time, **your family** will be entered into a prize draw. One lucky family will receive a £100 gift voucher. The voucher might be for a local supermarket, shop or entry tickets to a theme park! The prize draw will take place at the end of each half-term - that's six chances to win!

**Don't miss out on this opportunity  
for your family!**



### 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)

## TERM DATES 2025 - 2026

#### Autumn Term 2025

**Term Starts:**

Monday 1 September 2025

**Half-term:** Monday 27 October 2025  
to Friday 31 October 2025

**Term ends:**

Friday 19 December 2025

#### Spring Term 2026

**Term Starts:**

Monday 5 January 2026

**Half-term:** Monday 16 February 2026  
to Friday 20 February 2026

**Term ends:**

Friday 27 March 2026

#### Summer Term 2026

**Term Starts:**

Monday 13 April 2026

**Half-term:** Monday 25 May 2026 to  
Friday 29 May 2026

**Term ends:**

Monday 20 July 2026

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

# DIARY 2024-2025

## AUTUMN TERM 2024

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

**25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November**

Arts' Week

**27<sup>th</sup> November**

Year Two Parent Workshop

**29<sup>th</sup> November**

Chocolate Donation Day for  
the Christmas Fair

**3<sup>rd</sup> December**

KS1 Christmas Movie Night

**4<sup>th</sup> December**

KS2 Christmas Movie Night

**6<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas Fair  
Craft Fair (PTA)

**11<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas Lunch

**18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December (am)**

KS1 Christmas Nativity

**19<sup>th</sup> December**

KS1 & KS2 Christmas Parties  
& Christmas Disco

**20<sup>th</sup> December**

KS2 Christingle Service (am)  
Last Day of Autumn Term

## SPRING TERM 2025

**6<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Spring Term<sup>1</sup> starts for  
children

**15<sup>th</sup> January**

Year Four Parent Workshop

**30<sup>th</sup> January**

Year Five's Class Assembly

**3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> February**

Children's Mental Health Week

**5<sup>th</sup> February**

Year Three Parent Workshop

**5<sup>th</sup> February**

Parents' Evening

**14<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

Teacher Training Day

**17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February**

Half Term Week

**6<sup>th</sup> March**

World Book Day

**10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March**

Design Technology Week

**20<sup>th</sup> March**

Year One's Class Assembly

**26<sup>th</sup> March**

Year Five Parent Workshop

**3<sup>rd</sup> April**

Year Four's Class Assembly

**10<sup>th</sup> April**

KS1 Easter Bonnet Assembly  
Cake Sale (PTA)

**11<sup>th</sup> April**

Last Day of Spring Term

## SUMMER TERM 2025

**28<sup>th</sup> April**

Children return to school  
for Summer Term

**5<sup>th</sup> May**

Bank Holiday Monday

**8<sup>th</sup> May**

Year Three's Class Assembly

**12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May**

KS2 SATs Week  
KS1 SATs Week (1)

**19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

KS1 SATs Week (2)

**26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May**

Half Term Week

**9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> June**

Year One Phonics Check  
Final week of Year Four  
Times Tables Checks

**16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> June**

School Ground's Week

**3<sup>rd</sup> July**

Sports' Day and Family Picnic

**10<sup>th</sup> July**

Year Two's Class Assembly

**16<sup>th</sup> July**

Parents' Evening

**17<sup>th</sup> July**

Reception Class  
Graduation Assembly

**18<sup>th</sup> July**

Year Six Leavers' Assembly

**18<sup>th</sup> July**

Last Day of Summer Term  
for children

**19<sup>th</sup> July**

Teacher  
Training Day



**Our School Vision:** *Woodcock Hill Primary school will create a happy and nurturing environment where ambitions are unlimited.*

## Class Teachers 2024-25

This year, your child's class teachers are as follows.

### Reception Class

Mrs Harris and Mrs Winkett with  
Mrs Rees and Miss Mills

### Year One

Mrs Summerfield with  
Miss Boswell, Mrs Evans and  
Mrs Meddings

### Year Two

Mrs Shannon with  
Mrs Davies and Mrs Meddings

### Year Three

Mrs Beranová with  
Ms Croft and Mrs Meddings

### Year Four

Mrs Clarkson with  
Mrs Cullen and Mrs Winkett

### Year Five

Mrs Keating with  
Ms Falaschi and Mrs Meddings

### Year Six

Miss Saunders and Mrs Nash with  
Ms Silvester and Mrs Winkett

## Senior Leadership Team

Woodcock Hill Primary School's senior leadership team is:

### Head Teacher

Mr D Higgins

### Assistant Head Teachers

Miss H Saunders

Mrs S Nash

## OUR GOVERNORS

The Governing Body of Woodcock Hill Primary School is made up of people from a variety of backgrounds. The school governors are a group of individuals who are elected by parents and staff or co-opted by Birmingham local authority.

The role of a governor is to contribute to the work of the whole governing board in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children and young people in the school by setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction. Our Chair of Governors and our Clerk to Governors can be contacted via the school office.

### OUR GOVERNORS ARE:

Mr P. Court  
Mr J. Dakin (Chair)  
Mr D. Higgins  
Mrs J. Jones  
Mr A. Kirkman  
Mrs S. Nash  
Mrs G. Simm

### OUR CLERK TO GOVERNORS IS:

Mrs S. Nolan



## A Page from History: Woodcock Hill

Woodcock Hill, part of the parish and manor of Northfield, was in the county of Worcestershire. Since the time of William the Conqueror the church of St Laurence had been the yield's (area's) 'mother church'. In 1851 the population was 575. This was less than the nearby Bartley yield but the land was very fertile and had twenty-three farms.

The largest farm was that of Charles Cooper who employed seven labourers and farmed the 248 acre Weoley Castle Farm which included the fields known as Long Noke (Long Nuke). Other farms in the near vicinity were Bangham Pitt (where widow Hannah Andrews employed a labourer to help her with her 40 acres), the smaller 30 acre Scotland Village Farm (farmed by John Cooper), Gin-House (Genners Lane) Farm, Senelieas Farm, Shenley and Upper and Lower Shenley Farms.

Although most of the population were agricultural workers other occupations in the area included nail making, brick and tile making and those associated with the nearby canal.

Nail making was a cottage industry and continued into the early 20th century. A recognised nail-trade route ran between Halesowen and Northfield and included Cromwell Lane and Woodcock Hill. Nailers walked to Halesowen to collect iron rods, which they took back to their workshops, made into small nails and then returned to Halesowen for payment. The 1881 Census shows how whole families in the Woodcock Hill yield were involved in nail making.

**Our School Mission: Together we EDUCATE, and MOTIVATE each other to ACHIEVE, regardless of background, in a modern, diverse United Kingdom.**