



# Great Wood News January 2022

This month's value is Respect;

## Covid News

Though we are all tired of Covid, the reality is that within school we are at our highest rate of absence due to Covid at the moment. Restrictions may be being lifted in the wider community, however, in primary schools case numbers continue to rise. On Monday we had 25 children absent due to being positive for Covid. Please continue to be vigilant, and as many children have weak or no symptoms, use lateral flow tests. At school, children are kept separate indoors (use of the divider in reception seems to have prevented spread across reception), however, out of school please continue the good hygiene measures and think carefully about inter-group mixing. Thanks to a very hard-working team at our supply-staff agency we have been able to cover most staff absences minimising the impact of the higher number of cases in staff. Thanks are given to staff for testing themselves so frequently to minimise spread.



We also have a sickness bug doing its rounds and had more children absent with this than Covid, yesterday. The effects can come on quite suddenly and it is important your emergency contact details are up to date at the school office.

Data Forms will be coming home shortly for you to check/amend. Please note that children should not return to school until 48 hours have passed after their last bout of sickness.

We have taken advice on both Covid and the sickness bug from Public Health to ensure that we are doing everything appropriate to support infection control.

## Parents Evening

is Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. It is essential that there is a conversation between teacher and parents about the progress of every child in school. All parents are asked to sign up for the virtual meeting and to add a 'note' including the telephone number that the teacher can ring to speak with you if there are technical difficulties. We are lucky enough to have external line phones in all classrooms and can ring. Please show the teachers respect by signing up so they don't have to chase up missing parents. If you need help with signing up please speak to Mrs Harvey or Mrs Logue in the school office, including how to add a second parent in a different location. Bookings for Parent's Evening will go Live at 7pm Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.



## Site Supervisor Advert

[https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt\\_vacancyDetails.asp?id=57824](https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt_vacancyDetails.asp?id=57824)

Great Wood has advertised for a site supervisor. Managing a small team to ensure our buildings and grounds are safe and clean is an important job and we look forward to welcoming someone who takes pride in this and enjoys being around children. We are sorry that Mr Harvey is moving on to pursue Harvey's Pies and wish him every success. Although full time, the job is split shifts so would suit someone local – please share the details with anyone you think suitable.

Reminder - After school children can play on the timber trail and play equipment, however, they are not allowed in the football area, twigloo or on the field. Children being supervised by parents on the playground and children in the Sunset Club need to keep separate. Thank you.

## PTA

Thanks to the seven attendees at the virtual parents meeting this month, please put the following dates in your diaries.....  
March 2<sup>nd</sup> - Spring Disco and Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup> – Summer Festival. If the risk assessment allows we

have pencilled in a Jubilee Festival similar to our Christmas Fair for May 26<sup>th</sup> after school.

At the Summer Festival, we have a stage, bands, festival inspired activities for the children. Families bring or buy food and drink and we use our fabulous grounds to play and relax safely whilst raising funds.

### Adjustment to 22/23 School Calendar



After announcing the school calendar for 22/23, we have reviewed it against local high schools and made a small adjustment over Christmas. We will now finish for Christmas on Wednesday December 21<sup>st</sup> and return on Thursday January 5<sup>th</sup>. The January 6<sup>th</sup> teacher in-service day has been moved to October 31<sup>st</sup> 2022. It has been adjusted on our website, too. Thank you for your understanding.

### Semi-Finalists



Inter-school football has started up again. Although there have been a few postponements, the football team did really well last week making it through to the semi-finals of the EFL Kids Cup for Lancaster and Morecambe schools. Their competitor in the semi scored a goal in the final minute of the game and went on to win the tournament. Thank you to Owen's dad for his support coaching and on the day.

### Celebration Of Writing

On the last school day of December, we held an assembly to celebrate writing through school. Those recognised for incredible effort and achievement are listed below. Their writing was shared with the school by Miss Smith and it was amazing to see the development and progress children make through the school.

|      |                   |                        |
|------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Acor | Athena            | Max                    |
| Ches | Anna              | Theo P                 |
| 1V   | Lara Ingleby      | Christian Archer       |
| 1L   | Athena Haslam     | Lenny Oldrieve         |
| 2S   | Amber Forbes      | Joshua Shelling        |
| 2H   | Angelina Atkinson | Ivan Speed             |
| 3HuR | Jessica           | Riley Harrison         |
| 3HoR | Matilda Hardwick  | Brock Mathews-Strachan |
| 4H   | Annabel Opie      | Freddie Sheard         |
| 4F   | Alice Allen       | Oscar Cartmell         |
| 5F   | Annie Graham      | George Hrachowina      |
| 5C   | Jessica Sharples  | Archie Sheard          |
| 6P   | Anya Skelcher     | Max Dillon             |
| 6L   | Neve O'Neil       | Alfie Hook             |

### Great Wood

Storm Arwen brought down a dozen trees in our small wood – They sit in fairly wet ground. Thank you to the conservation volunteers who have helped make the woods safe again – and planted 30 new saplings and a small orchard. We have tried to create a wild flower area for some years but the changing grounds workers keep cutting things down at the wrong time so an area has been fenced off. The area now needs de-turfing so if any parent through their work has access to de-turfing equipment, we'd love to hear from you. Mr Lockett has made a connection with the WildLife Trust who will be providing advice on the management of the school wood to enable access to the children whilst maintaining it as an area for wildlife.





Dropping off on the zig zags is against the law, even if it is for a before school activity; these photographs are from this morning. Please don't use the staff car park for drop off. A parent let me know how difficult it was for the bin lorry to get through with 3 cars parked on double yellows one morning. Please be considerate drivers, with thought for other road users and the safety of our children.

The school calendar and lots of other school related useful information is on our website – use the search facility and explore.

### Healthy Young Minds

<https://www.healthyyoungmindspsc.co.uk/home>

Healthy Young Minds is a website where you can find a variety of advice, guidance and support related to children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing. It includes lots of self-help ideas that for children and young people and advice for parents too.

The overarching aim is to improve the resilience, emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people, making it easier for them, their families and the professionals who work with them to access advice, help and support when they need it.

### Diary Dates

|   |   |
|---|---|
| w/c 7 <sup>th</sup> February                            | Online Safety Week                                    |
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> February                         | H M The Queen`s Platinum Jubilee<br>Lieutenancy Visit |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> February                        | Y6L Fire Service Visit<br>(Road Safety)               |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> February                      | Parents Evening<br>3.30pm-6.30pm                      |
| Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February | Half Term Break                                       |
| Tue 1 <sup>st</sup> March                               | Y1 Walk   |
| Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> March                               | Spring Disco  |
| Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> March                           | Scholastic Book Fair in School                        |