



Great Wood News February 2022

This month's value is **Equality**

For the first time in almost two years, we held a whole school assembly on February 21st and it was fantastic to have everyone together again. In our last whole school assembly, concerned about the impact of anxiety on children, children were told Covid was something that probably everyone would catch eventually and not something to be frightened about. In the previous wave we've had almost 100 children and 15 staff staying at home due to Covid. We are continuing to encourage good hygiene but are pretty much back to normal now with all lunches back in the hall. We ask that you continue to be vigilant for Covid symptoms at home and encourage the use of LFT's and keeping children off school if they are positive.



Information is anecdotal; however there have been children who had recovered from Covid with other symptoms later that have affected their attendance. You may want to take this into consideration when reading the following information from the Department for Education:

Vaccinations help to increase protection against COVID-19, which is particularly important for those with underlying health conditions. Being vaccinated minimises the need for children and young people to have time off from school or college, and helps them to continue to carry out their hobbies, attend social events and live their lives to the full.

We have published some [frequently asked questions](#) (FAQs) on the vaccination programme including information on eligibility, accessibility and advice for parents of children at high risk from COVID-19.

Guidance on how to [book appointments](#) for children aged 12 years and over is available on the NHS website. Further information on the vaccination of high risk children aged 5 to 11 years old is available in the [guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 years](#) published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

Help the environment through re-using –Used good quality uniform is available for a donation to a charity (buckets will be placed out) - Monday 28th February 2022 from 3pm in the mini-hall. Please come along and grab a bargain. Most sizes and year groups available.

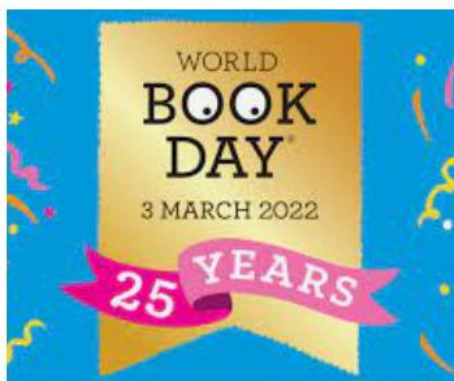
Teachers are so pleased with the progress children are making overall and we have had a lot of positive comments from supply staff this past half term. Thank you to everyone for your support at home and your virtual attendance at Parents Evening. Daily reading at home and listening to bed time stories makes such a difference. It has been mentioned before but if the children watch television, why not turn on the subtitles option. Karaoke or singing along following the words on prepared video clips is another idea to boost reading fluency.

Next week we have visitors, funded through the PTA Wow activities sponsored walk. The Active Outdoor Discovery Company are leading sessions to enhance the children's learning of the outdoors. All classes will experience an indoor session on the Awesome Artic and Mighty Mountains and EYFS to Year 4 will be involved in an outdoor mapping activity.



Wednesday March 2nd is the PTA Spring Disco. See Diary Dates for times. Drop off will be via the main school entrance. Parents are asked to help by taking their child's coat and ensuring their child has the £2 entry fee in their hand. Pick up worked best from the junior playground. Parents wait on the junior playground for both discos, the children will be released onto the junior playground and the two gates onto Beaufort Road are monitored to ensure no child exits without an adult. Note, the gate to the front of school and car park will be locked so enter from Beaufort Road. Written permission must be given for any older child to walk home alone. Thanks for your cooperation.

Change to Diary Date for the Summer Festival to ensure we have the stage. It is now on Saturday, June 25th. Please adjust your own diaries.



World Book Day is rapidly approaching, and we are looking forward to a fun-filled day, celebrating books and our love for reading. Children are welcome to come to school dressed as their favourite book character and are encouraged to bring a named copy of the book with them to share with their peers.

Teachers will be handing out World Book Day Vouchers which entitles the children to one of the following fabulous books.

There is a new policy for Separated Parents on our website. There is no change to our practice, it just formalises rights and responsibilities. Here is a key part: The definition of a "parent" for school purposes is much wider than for any other situation. Section 576 of The Education Act 1996 defines a parent as:

- all biological parents, whether they are married or not
- includes any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person - this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or other relative
- any person who, although not a biological parent and does not have parental responsibility, has care of a child or young person.

A person typically has care of a child or young person if they are the person with whom the child lives, either full or part time and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their biological or legal relationship is with the child. For example, this may be a foster carer or family and friends carer who do not have parental responsibility but have been delegated the responsibility for taking day-to-day decisions about the child. Parents, as defined above, are entitled to share in the decisions about the child's education and to be treated equally by schools. In particular, these entitlements include, but are not limited to, the following:

- receiving copies of School reports
- having access to School records
- attending parent meetings
- receiving newsletters
- invitations to School events
- information about School trips
- School photographs relating to their child
- participation in any exclusion procedure and
- dealing with any medical issues that arise and/or vaccinations that may be offered.



Thank you to Mr Guilfoyle of Ace Computers in town, (parent of Holly, Luke and Abbie) for gifting a computing item to school. Much appreciated.

Two homes have been visited by traffic officers in the past couple of months following information sent to school about their cars being parked on the zig zags – please be considerate of others and follow the rules when dropping off and picking up. Thanks.



Year 4 are learning about play scripts and starting to prepare to perform Rock Bottom for parents. Currently, our plan is to have two performances with no limits for seating. See dates below.

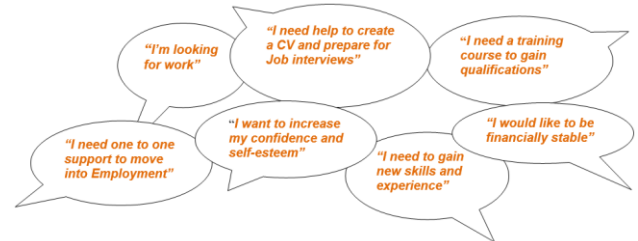
Diary Dates

Mon 28th Feb 3pm	Used Uniforms available in mini hall.
Tue 1 st March	Y1 Walk to Eric Morecambe Statue
Wed 2 nd March	Spring Disco KS1 4:30 – 5:15 KS2 5:30 – 6:30
Thur 3 rd March	World Book Day
w/c March 14 th	Science Week
15 th 16 th March	Scholastic Book Fair
Friday 18 th March	Red nose Day – non uniform day
w/c/ March 21 st	Life Education Visitors
Wed 30 th March 2pm	Y4's Rock Bottom performance for parents

Thur 31 st March 6pm	Y4's Rock Bottom performance for parents
4 th - 18 th April	Easter Break
Sat June 25 th	Summer Festival

Community News

SUPPORTING FAMILIES EMPLOYMENT ADVISERS:



Our local supporting families employment adviser is: zoe.quinn@Lancashire.gov.uk

JB School of Dance

- Offers classes to children age 3 and up
- At St Christopher's Morecambe
- Over 20 years of experience in ballet, acro, dance fusion, modern, Tip Toe Academy, musical theatre and much more.
- Opportunities to take part in IDTA professional exams, exciting workshops and large theatre productions.
- £3 per class but first session free!!
- More details visit www.jbschoolofdance.co.uk or call 07708085659
- DBS/fully insured/IDTA accredited
- GW Parent and Governor



FYI and not an endorsement.

