



NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 1, 2021

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**New Logo
Coming soon!**

Welcome to another year at Woodlea! We are excited to be back! This new school year sees a brand new FOWS, complete with a shiny new logo which we will be launching at our AGM! The pandemic has had an impact on everyone in many ways, including FOWS activities at school. We're super keen to make up for lost time and fill this year with as many events and activities as we can!

We will be keeping you up to date with our news and events via a half-termly newsletter, but the easiest way to keep in the loop is to follow our Facebook page - @FOWSWoodlea

Please join us!



Some Goodbyes...

As FOWS moves on to pastures new, we must say farewell & a big THANK YOU to some long-standing committee members who have given so much to supporting the school. Mo, Kathrine Kerry & Jade have all been FOWS for 4+ years. They have decided that it's time for them to step down from the committee.

Thank you to for all that done for FOWS and Woodlea! 🐻



And some Hello's!

With several people stepping down we are even more keen for new parents to join us.

There are always questions whenever we speak to parents about becoming a regular FOWS member... What do you do? What would it involve? How much time would it take? But the truth is there are so many ways you can help, so we've attached some information to this newsletter for you browse if you're interested in joining in, or if you just want a nosey at what it is we get up to!

All the work we do in FOWS directly benefits the school and the pupils. If you're interested, please send us a message, or come for a chat at our Coffee & Cake AGM next month. (Details below.)

Long-term FOWS Initiatives:

- **EasyFundraising.co.uk**: If you sign up with Easy Fundraising, FOWS can receive donations every time you shop online, at no extra cost to you. They have a reminder app which pings every time you visit a page that takes part so you never miss a chance to raise money.
- **Empties Please**: Please keep hold of your old ink and toner cartridges and bring them in on our collection days. The school earns green points to go towards outdoor learning resources & equipment to support the wildlife in the Woodlea woods.

Bags2School - Monday 27th September

Thank you for the mountain of donations that were dropped off this morning.

We'll let you know how much you raised in the next newsletter.

Our next collection will be after Christmas.





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Coffee, Cake & AGM!

It's been so long since we've all got together that we are combining our AGM with an after-school cuppa and chin-wag. This is the perfect opportunity to meet some of the committee and ask any questions you may have about what's involved... or you can just come for the cake! (No judgement!)

At the AGM (which will last approximately 10 minutes) we do a review of accounts and vote on the roles of Chair-person(s), Treasurer, and Secretary. If anybody would like to nominate themselves for one of these positions, please let us know.

Meeting details: Tuesday 12th October, 3:30pm in the school hall.



Fundraising Success!

Last term we were able to buy a fabulous bookcase for the year 2 classroom, enabling the pupils to see and select their books quickly and easily. Happy reading, Dormice!










We were blown away by the number of school uniform donations last term. Thank you so much! It has all been washed and sorted into sizes. If you require any uniform and are unable to buy, please let the school office know.

Thank You!



Autumn Term Events

Covid guidelines for schools are ever-changing! We're being optimistic and hope to be able to run some of the following activities this term...

-  Bags2School collection (27/9/21)
-  Coffee & Cake AGM (see above)
-  End of half term bake sales.
-  Sponsored litter pick
-  Art competition
-  Christmas Jumper Sale
-  Christmas Fayre/Market

To stay updated with these events please follow our Facebook page.

If you'd like to help plan FOWS events, please join us at our first planning meeting on Wednesday 29th September at 7:30pm. (Location tbc, remote option available). Please DM to let us know you'd like to come. We would love to have you there! 😊

What are FOWS? What would I have to do?! How much time would it take? These are the most common questions when we speak to other parents about FOWS. To simplify things, we've come up with 3 tiers, each with different levels of FOWS involvement. Without plenty of volunteers at all levels, having a PTA for the school is not possible so please DM the FOWS Facebook page if you can help us and/or would like to get involved with one of our committees. 😊

1

Planning Committee Member

This group get stuck in to the planning of our fundraising events, and are actively involved behind the scenes. This is a great way to get involved in the school community and make loads of new friends too. If you are enthusiastic about making a difference in our school we'd love you to join us in tier 1.

2

General Committee Member

The general committee has one meeting at the start of each term (just 3 per year) to bring forward ideas for events, initiatives and projects for the coming term, as well as voting on and receiving feedback about how FOWS funds are spent by the school. This group is perfect for those who have loads of ideas, but not always have the time to implement them!

3

Event Helpers

This is the perfect role for those who want to help without having to make a regular commitment. In order for our events to take place we need as many people to help as we can get! Setting up, packing away, manning games and stalls, serving food/drinks etc... Event helpers are invaluable as we literally cannot do it without the man power on the day.



First Aiders

All our events need a qualified first aider present, just in case! If you are first aid trained we would love to add you to our pool of names. You may only be needed for one event each year and you wouldn't necessarily need to be an event helper (unless you want to!) - You just need to be present and contactable should first aid be required.



PTA+
The home of school fundraising

10 REASONS TO JOIN THE PTA

- SUPPORT THE SCHOOL**
The PTA is vital to the success of the school. Funds raised enrich your child's learning and make every student's experience better. Be part of the group that pays for the playground your child loves or funds the library that's their favourite place to be.
- IT'S TOTALLY FLEXIBLE**
Whether you're a full-time parent or working the nine to five, anyone can get involved. It's less commitment than you think, and you don't always have to attend meetings. Small jobs such as designing a poster, distributing letters or running a stall keep everything running smoothly.
- MAKE LASTING FRIENDSHIPS**
Meet and chat to a wider circle of families from different classes and year groups. Get to know other parents, and bond over exciting events, socials and get-togethers. Find a place to belong and spend time with others who share your values.
- BE BETTER CONNECTED**
Create closer links with the head, teachers and staff. If you're new to the school, the PTA is an excellent way to find out how things work and become part of the community. If not, you'll still gain greater insight by seeing how things work from both sides.
- BECAUSE IT'S FUN!**
Be part of the team which organises the best events and get-togethers. Debrief over a glass of wine (or two). Suggest your most hare-brained idea and watch as it catches on and everyone wants a piece of the action. Laugh. Cry. Be there for each other.
- CHANGE SCHOOL FOR THE BETTER**
Have your say on important decisions. Work with the school and other parents to see where improvements can be made, and implement them. Directly influence the experience of your child and hundreds of others.
- LEARN NEW SKILLS**
Everyone has something they can bring to the PTA, but you can also learn new skills by trading with others. Always wanted to perfect that cookie recipe? Not sure how to design a poster? Want to hone your public speaking skills? You can do it with the support of the committee.
- IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING**
Studies show that children whose parents are involved in their education do better in school. Engaging with the PTA shows your children's education is important to you. Play your part in improving the school and watch them
- IT'S NOT JUST FOR MUMS**
Everyone is welcome, and it's especially important to have dads and male carers represented, as male role models are crucial in children's upbringing. Dads can bring different skills; they can bring a different perspective, and they can bring along other dads.
- CREATE LASTING MEMORIES**
Our children are only at school for a few years, but they will remember the difference we make for a lifetime. They will cherish the activities and games we fund, learn using resources we buy, and remember the events we hold. Help keep the PTA going so future pupils can benefit too.