



Dear Families,

We have reached the mid-way marker for the school year. It will be over in a flash!

If you are looking ahead to your summer holidays please check the school calendar BEFORE booking.

Those extra few days not only affect your child's attendance but also the school as a whole. Attendance for the year is currently below target at 94.8%. I really want it to be above 95% this year!

We will have the playground open again from today but I ask that you please keep to our few rules for the health and safety of all and make sure your children/ child minders/ family members all understand:

Children **MUST NOT** climb on top of the structures in the woods

Please respect the space and do not allow your children to help themselves to school equipment- some older pupils have been taking footballs from the hall. (Miss Brown at Godwin has been made aware)

Scooters and bikes **MUST** not be ridden when the gates are open and when the space is crowded.

There has been a lot of news about the impact of air pollution on children's health this week.

If you must drive please park away from school and never pull up outside school with your engine running as your car pumps bad air into the children's lungs.

I believe it has been shown that air pollution is really bad inside cars too.



We like bikes and scooters but ask that you please are aware of where you park them and how you move around school with them- this also applies to push chairs and buggies.

We are now in the habit of ringing the 9.05 bell and I think it is helping to get the children in to class on time.

## Boys and girls

Today (Thursday) I came to school wearing a red jumper and grey trousers. In assembly this afternoon the Year 1 children all agreed that it was perfectly ok for me to dress like this and that trousers were warm, comfortable and great for running around and learning outside. We talked about how it is brilliant to be able to dress in what we feel comfortable in and not be made to feel bad because we do so.

I would be really grateful if you could continue this conversation at home. We have had some children say they didn't want to wear something because of what some other children have said.

We are going to actively challenge where we see or hear that children are feeling limited by each other. We want all children to feel they can run, dance, sing, play football, dress up and express themselves without fear of comments from each other. Please help us to give all children equal access to an enjoyable experience in school and a positive image of themselves.

## How are we doing?

At the end of January we had some Headteacher colleagues spend the day reviewing our school. We asked them to look at how the adults helped children to develop as learners. Their feedback was very positive. They said:

*"Woodgrange has developed a positive learning environment in which to learn and the schools' values and culture shines throughout the school! On entry there is a very welcoming, comfortable, calm atmosphere which reflects the very high expectations throughout. Relationships observed were very respectful and positive across the school. The school is passionately led by Senior Leaders with strategic clarity and a moral sense of purpose. The learning environment was stimulating, child friendly in all classrooms and corridors, and there were some stunning displays across the school.*

*Very good learning behaviours were observed across the school, children were engaged, happy, purposeful and they listened well, they were actively involved, they were confident and they were encouraged to be independent learners. High quality interactions were observed with adults and children. In all classrooms the atmosphere was calm, buzzy and exciting."*

The recommendations echoed our areas for development and included further developing outdoor learning and more consistently using questioning to extend children's thinking skills.

Enjoy the holiday. See you on 25<sup>th</sup> February... in the line for 5 to 9!

Sarah & Staff