

Great [Wood] News



Autumn Term 1

School Contact Details



Telephone: 01538 702355 option 4 Email: office@greatwood.staffs.sch.uk Arbor: School Messaging

Website: www.tmpf.staffs.sch.uk



We would like to welcome our Great Wood family back to/into school and the start of our exciting Autumn Term. We are hoping for a more 'normal' atmosphere this term, with some of our restrictions being lifted and others being left in place, in the short term, for a safer return to school life. Obviously, if we have to make changes we will let you know. This term is traditionally a very busy one and we are hoping to welcome back some of our regular events, very soon.

Diary Dates

13th September Academy Photography - Individuals/Siblings

Virtual Prospective Parents Evening Painsley Catholic College 15th September

28th September The Cheadle Academy Prospective Parents Evening

22nd October School Closes for Half term

1st November School Re-Opens

BBC Children In Need 12th November





We would like to send a very warm welcome to the children and families, who are joining us for the first time - welcome, Ivy, Nina, Isabelle, Edward, George, Seth and Georgia in Reception. Also, to Roman and Sorayah who are joining our school family. We look forward to getting to know you all during our exciting Autumn Term.

Mr Day, from TMPF will teach our children Modern Foreign Languages, on a Tuesday, across the school. Our children will be enjoying Spanish and learning to speak to each other in a foreign language.

Mrs Whiteley will be joining us to deliver our music lessons, each Friday, where our children will experience a variety of musical lessons and singing.

We would also like to welcome Katie, our new school cook to the Great Wood family, we can't wait to sample her delicious school lunches.

Please be reminded children are required to wear PE kit on PE days.

R/1 Tuesday & Wednesday

1/2 Tuesday & Wednesday

Tuesday & Thursday 3

4/5 Monday & Thursday

Tuesday & Friday



Academy Photographs

Academy will once again be in school on Monday 13th September, to take individual/family group photos of our wonderful children. If you have any younger children, not yet in school and you would like Academy to take their photo too, please bring them into school at 8.30am on 13th September. Please ensure all children are wearing the correct uniform. Please do not hesitate to contact any member of our school team if you have any gueries.

Please ensure that your child's name is on their uniform, ties, PE kit, bags, water bottles etc.





Thank you to everyone using our Arbor Parent Portal.

The portal can be used to access your child/children's profiles and to top up your child's break, dinner and Wrap Around accounts.

We have found that the desktop version of Arbor works best on a laptop, or tablet, where there is an add to basket feature for topping up different accounts. There is an app version available for smart phones, however this does not have the add to basket feature at present.

We would kindly ask that you "top up" your child's account in advance.

As children order their break snacks with their teacher each morning, please ensure that your child knows what they are allowed to order for their snacks, as the cost of their snack will be added to their account.

If you are having trouble accessing or navigating the site, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to help.

Sickness

May we remind you that as advised by the Health Protection Agency, all children must be kept away from school for 48 hours, after their last episode of sickness, or diarrhoea.

Earrings

We would like to make you aware that our P.E. policy guidance states that no earrings, (or any other jewellery), can be worn during P.E. lessons. Also, plasters, or tape put over earrings are not permitted. On P.E. days please can you ensure that your child does not wear earrings to school, or is capable of removing them themselves, (staff are not able to do this for them), to enable your child to do P.E. Any children that are wearing earrings, on P.E. days and that are not able to remove them independently, will not be allowed to participate in that P.E. lesson.

IT'S GOOD TO TALK

Don't wait until you can't cope before you seek help. For good days, bad days and all the in-between days, there are lots of places you can turn to for support.



IT'S ALWAYS OK TO ASK FOR HELP

TMPF - Term Dates 2021/2022

Autumn Term 2021

Inset Day for staff (schools closed): Wednesday 1st September

Term starts for pupils: Thursday 2nd September

Half Term: Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October

Term ends: Friday 17th December

Christmas Holiday: Monday 20th December – Monday 3rd January

Spring Term 2022

Inset Day for staff (schools closed): Tuesday 4th January

Term starts for pupils: Wednesday 5th January

Half Term: Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February

Term ends: Thursday 7th April

Inset Day for staff (schools closed): Friday 8th April Easter Holiday: Monday 11th April – Friday 22nd April

Summer Term 2022

Term starts for pupils: Monday 25th April

May Day: Monday 2nd May

Half Term: Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June

Term ends: Tuesday 19th July

INSET Days for staff (schools closed): Wednesday 20th July

Thursday 21st July

Summer Holiday: Friday 22nd July – Friday 2nd September



As we commence a new school year we wish to remind you **not** to book holidays in school time. We cannot authorise these absences and you may be fined by Staffordshire Local Authority.

Year 6 Transition to High School

Please be aware that the closing date for Year 6 parents to apply for a high school place, for their child, is **31st October 2021.** Please ensure that you have made your application before this date. Applications can be made using the online application service, which is available at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/admissions and by following the links to 'Apply online'.

If any parent requires help with the application process, please contact the school office, who will be happy to help.

Painsley Open Evening

This years Open Evening for Painsley Catholic College will take place on 15th September at 6.30pm and will be held virtually. If you are interested in attending, please register via their website www.painsley.co.uk

Codes to join the evening will be distributed nearer the date. There will be limited opportunity to book on tours following the evening.

Every Mind Matters

Every Mind Matters is a new resource from the brilliant NHS. It contains practical tips and videos from experts on dealing with stress and anxiety, boosting your mood, dealing with change, coping with money worries, sleeping better and looking after your wellbeing.





School Text Service

Unfortunately, we have had to stop our text message service and we are no longer able to send or receive text messages as a form of communication.

We would ask you to get in touch with us via email, phone or the **new school message** facility within Arbor.

If you have any queries please contact the school office.



A helping Hand With Meals

During these uncertain times, we understand that families may have had a change in circumstances. Whichever year group your child is in, if you think you may now be eligible for incomebased Free School Meals, we would urge you to submit an application. This also applies to children who currently receive a lunch due to being in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2.

Applications are quick and easy with an instant yes, or no answer as to your entitlement. The link can be found on the website at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online

Please contact us at office@greatwood.staffs.sc.uk if **School** you need any help. **School Meals**



Break Sales

Our new Cook Katie, alongside Jan, will continue serving our lovely break time snacks. These will be available each morning at the following prices. Please remember to top up your Arbor account in advance to enable children to purchase snacks.

Toast 20p Milkshake 60p
Oatcake 60p Fruit Juice 50p
Please note: children in Reception are only allowed to order toast.



Year 4/5 Swimming

Years 4 and 5 will start swimming on Monday 6th September 2021. The children will leave for their lesson on Monday afternoons at 1.45pm, so pupils will need to have their swimming kit with them. Swimming caps are available to buy from the school office, at a cost of £2.50. Please note girls will need to wear a one piece costume and boys are not allowed to wear baggy shorts.



School Office

Please may we remind you that the school office is closed every Thursday afternoon from 1pm. Therefore, we kindly request that you please contact us before this time to advise of any changes to the collection of your child/children. Emergency calls will, of course, still be taken on the usual school number and naturally, we will still contact you should any need arise. However, we ask that you please do not contact us for non-emergencies on Thursday afternoons. Many thanks for your help and co-operation with this.



Year 3 Class Dojo's

As you may be aware our year 3 class are earning dojo points. These can be earned for good behaviour, work, attitude and kindness. However, dojo points can also be removed for inappropriate behaviour. There will be a prize each week for the child with the most Dojo's and a prize for the winners at the end of each half term.



Great Wood Wrap Around



Our exciting wrap around care facility has become an amazing success. The children have a great time, playing with their friends, enjoying a variety of activities and using a wide variety of resources. We open at 7.30am, until the start of the school day and from 3.30pm until 6pm in the evenings. The rates are charged at £2 per 30minutes. We still have spaces available, so why not come and join us. For further details, please contact Jean, or Gina on 07398634160. We hope to see you there, enjoying the fun!



Please can all parents/

carers be

reminded

that doas

are **NOT ALLOWED** on school grounds.

Thank you

for your cooperation.

Afterschool Clubs

We are pleased to be able to tell you that we will be phasing in more afterschool clubs during this term. The first of these will be an exciting new club starting on a Monday afternoon, 3:30-4:45pm with Lucy, a local dance and performing arts teacher. During the 10 week term, starting on Monday 20th September and finishing on Monday 29th November with a break on Monday 25th October for half term, students will learn dance routines, songs and drama pieces to perform to parents on Monday 29th November 2021.

Performing arts classes give young people a platform, which enables them to build confidence, self esteem and encourages creativity and imagination. The cost of the club will be £35, for the 10 week course and will only be available to KS2 Children (Y3-6). If your child would like to take part, please visit Arbor to book.

We will also be welcoming back our very popular 'Bug Club', this time for KS2. This club will start after half term on Fridays after school and run for 6 weeks. Please book early, there will be limited places. The cost of the club will be £30 for 6 weeks.



ASM Sports will also be running clubs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights, available to all children. More details will follow shortly.



Please can we take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers to park considerately on Vicarage Road at the beginning and end of the school day. Please, please help us to keep our children safe by parking considerately and **NOT** on the zig zags; when dropping off or collecting children. Also can we remind you that the staff car park is for staff and visitors' vehicles only, unless prior arrangements have been agreed with the school office. Thank you.

Covid-19

The rules around Covid-19 in schools have changed, to ensure pupils have as much time learning in school as possible and to minimise the impact of people having to self-isolate.

Please be aware that under 18s no longer need to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone with Covid-19. They will only need to isolate if they are showing symptoms of Covid-19. They should instead take a PCR test to confirm they are negative.

Stoke City 7's

What does a City 7s Membership Offer?

We will be increasing the number of FREE City 7s memberships from 8,000 to 16,000 for the 2021-22 season! As in previous years, all Year 2 pupils will receive the offer of a Free City 7s membership but we are delighted to announce that we will be offering all Year 3 pupils a FREE City 7s membership having missed the chance to watch a live Stoke City match last season.

All Year 2 and 3 pupils will receive:

- A pair of FREE match tickets to a designated EFL Championship match at the bet365 Stadium during the 2021-22 season;
- An opportunity to attend a match sat with their family and friends in the extended Family Area in the South East corner of the bet365 Stadium;
- A Membership certificate;
- Opportunity to access a FREE junior season card in our Family Area for the 2022-23 season;
- Opportunity to buy additional tickets at the discounted rate of £5 for an Under 18 / Over 65, and £20 for an Adult.



Autumn/Winter Menus -3 Week Rota





