



Woolacombe School – Welcome Back September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

WELCOME BACK!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday. We are all really looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday to start an exciting, engaging and successful year ahead!

Staffing Update

We welcome Miss Jasmine Goodman, our new Reception class teacher, joining our teaching team this term. We welcome back, Miss Rebekah Hester. Miss Hester has been on an amazing year's sabbatical travelling the world! We also welcome Ms Natalie Broome and Mr James Kemp. Ms Broome and Mr Kemp are trainee teachers joining us for the Autumn and Summer term. Ms Broome will be based in Year 2 and Mr Kemp will be based in Year 4. One final welcome is to our new school caretaker – Mr Mike Simpson. Mike is local and lives in the village. I am sure you will all make Mike feel very welcome.

Age Group	Teacher	LSA
Nursery	Mrs Verity Lewin (EY Teacher and Leader) Danielle Adams, Sharon Naphine, Karen Dempsey O-Toole, Julie O'Reilly, Lizzy Pleydell-Pearce and Melanie Broxholme	
R	Miss Jasmine Goodman/Ms Clare Russell	Ms Sally Lee
Y1	Mrs Tessa James	Ms Paula Parsons
Y2	Miss Hannah Strong	Mrs Hannah Hunt/Mrs Katie Towey
Y3	Mrs Natalie Gibson/Ms Kate Madden	
Y4	Mr Ben Hookes (School Improvement Lead)/Ms Clare Russell	
Y5	Miss Rebekah Hester	
Y6	Mrs Sam Simpson	

School Improvement Leader – Mr Ben Hookes will be continuing his work as a school improvement leader to support the leadership across the school.

Specialist Subject Teacher - Mrs Naomi Overney, as a specialist Maths Teacher, will be teaching across KS2. Team teaching with class teachers and taking groups of children for specific interventions. Mrs Overney will be supporting teaching and learning across the school as well as teaching Spanish in KS2.

Subject Specialist Teachers - Ms Clare Russell – Art/Music, Mr Tom Poole - PE Coach, Mrs Natalie Gibson - PE lead and Mrs Naomi Overney – KS2 Spanish, will work across the school on specific days/afternoons teaching their specialist subject to specific year groups.

SENDCO - Miss Annie Challacombe will be the SENDCO across both Combe Martin and Woolacombe School.

KS2 SEND LSA - Mrs Katie Towey will be working as a specialist SEND LSA. She will work flexibly across the school to meet the needs of children with SEND.

Admin – Mrs Vicki Reed

Morning and After School Leader- Sally Anne Shannon

Kitchen Team – Karen Turner – Kitchen Manager. Lauren Witt and Victoria Wright- Kitchen assistants.

SEND 1:1 – Mrs Becki Jenkins

Student Trainee Teachers – Ms Natalie Broome and Mr James Kemp

Expedite School Caretaker - Mr Mike Simpson

Expedite School Cleaners – Allyson Draper, Gemma Dalglish and Leanne Paterson

Headteacher – Mrs Gail Holmes. As you are aware, I have returned as the substantive Headteacher for Woolacombe School. I am really excited to be back full time and to work more closely with parents and the community. I will have a regular teaching commitment to support the teaching and learning across the school, so I am also looking forward to working with all of the staff and children more closely this academic year.

Curriculum C360

This year we will continue to work together to implement our shared vision to enable our children to be inspiring change makers through our C360 curriculum.



Character Education

At the foundation of our provision for our children is our '**Character Education**'. Our character education enables our children to explore the moral, civic, intellectual and performance virtues (qualities) we want them to develop and experience through a caught, taught and sought approach. By embedding the character virtues into all aspects of school life our children can truly live out the school values of **believe, belong and become**. If our children believe in themselves and have a sense of belonging, they will become our vision of inspiring change makers of the future.

We will share the weekly core Character virtues we are focusing on each week so that you can talk with your children about them. We start the term off by exploring the performance virtue of '**Motivation**'.

I will also be sending out a google form to ask for your input into what you believe are the 6 core virtues we want to focus on as a school.

Community

Parent Welcome Meetings

Teachers in Years 1-6 will be holding parent welcome meetings next week. These meetings will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's new class teacher and also for the class teachers to run through the class timetable, curriculum and expectations etc. Please note we are not holding a Reception parent meeting straight away because we met parents in July and we like to settle our new starters into school first so we will meet with Reception parents in a few weeks.

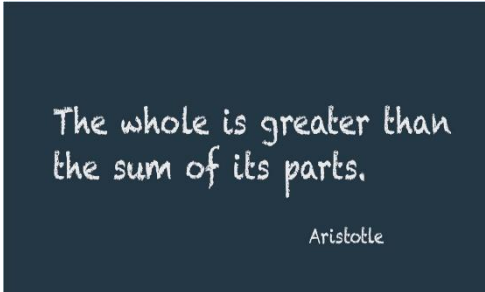
Please see the timetable below for the day and time of the meetings next week. The meetings will be held in your child's classroom so you get to see the classrooms too.

	Wednesday 7 th September	Thursday 8 th September	Friday 9 th September
2.30pm - 2.45pm	Year1	Year 2	Year 6
2.45pm- 3.00pm	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5

Parent Open Mornings and Parent Workshops

We will be holding regular open mornings/parent workshops this year. I would like to welcome parents into school to communicate and share with you the school vision, values and priorities for the year ahead and also an opportunity to hear your views and discuss ways forward together.

It is really important to me that we work together as a community to get the best for our children. This opportunity has been missing the last few years and I would like to ensure we start working more closely again as I know we can achieve so much more by working together collaboratively.



Parent Open Morning/Workshop Dates September 2022

- Parent open/coffee morning - Friday 16th September 9.00am – Teaching School Room
- Social Emotional and Mental Health Workshop for parents - Tuesday 20th September – 2pm-3pm – Teaching School Room
- Reception and Year 1 phonics and Early Reading Workshop – Monday 26th September - 6pm – Reception Class
- Parent open/coffee morning - Friday 7th October 9.00am – Teaching School Room

PTFA – we need your help now more than ever!



We need to re-establish our PTFA and annual fundraising events to support raising much needed funds for the school. Over the years the PTFA have worked tirelessly to raise a huge amount of money to develop and enhance the provision at school and improve the school environment. For example just before the first lockdown the PTFA raised over £30,000 to complete the first phase of the adventure trail.

The last two years of lockdowns have meant we have had limited opportunity to plan and run PTFA events and we have also lost lots of parents from previous year 6 children who have now left the school.

We therefore need to recruit and re-establish a new PTFA committee who are ready and willing to work together to help fundraise for much needed funds.

I would like to hold our first PTFA meeting on **Wednesday 21st September 2022 at 6.30pm in School.**

School Garden

Thank you so much to our fabulous garden club parents who sourced this lovely shed, raised the money to pay for it by selling ice creams , collected it from Ilfracombe AND today, they erected it and painted it!

Brilliant team work, thank you Marie, Jo , Steve, Mark and Simon



Uniform – School Second Hand Uniform Sale – donations welcome



We have gathered together lots of unclaimed, unmarked or donated school uniform and will be offering it to anyone who needs it after school on Monday. Small donations welcome !

Academic

We finished the year on a high with our Year 6 children achieving some great results in their KS2 SATS. I would like to congratulate all the staff, students and parents as despite two years of significantly disrupted learning they still achieved significantly above the national average combined across all subjects in reading, writing and maths. We are so very proud of them and wish them all the very best for their next steps as they move onto Secondary School.

Next week the class teachers will share the curriculum topic focus for this coming term through the arranged parent meetings, class letters and information shared on Dojo. Please look out for the C360 topic webs, like the one below, to find out more about your child's learning through our C360.



Morning and After School Club

We have had to increase our rates for morning and after school club this year due to the increase in costs. We have not increased the rates of morning and after school club for a number of years and unfortunately due to increased running costs, like with everything, it has meant we have been running at a loss and we simply cannot afford to keep running this service without an increase in rates to ensure it is sustainable longer term.

Please click on this government link to find out more information about support for childcare and possible funding available to support childcare costs. <https://www.gov.uk/get-childcare>

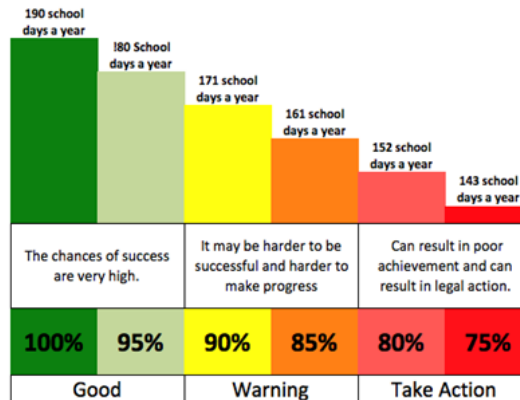
Free School Meals

With the cost of living rising, now may be a good time to check if your child may be entitled to a free school meal. This is different to Universal Reception and KS1 free School meals which all Reception and KS1 are automatically entitled to. Please go to <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals/> and follow the links where you can get an instant decision.

A few important reminders.....

Attendance

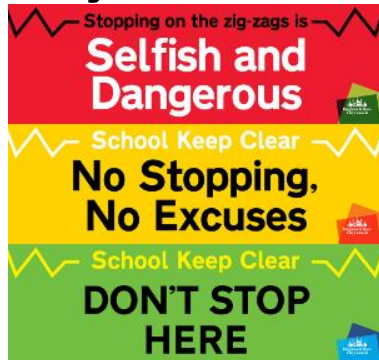
As you are aware, we as a school have the responsibility to regularly monitor the attendance of its pupils and report back to you if your child falls below the national average. To help you keep track of your child's attendance we will be sending you monthly attendance letters. By law it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that their child attends school regularly and it is also important you understand the negative impact of low attendance on your child's education. You will be sent this image, which is taken from information designed by the Educational Welfare Officer and shows the percentage and number of days in education. A warning system of Green, Amber and Red has been used to make the impact clear.



Arrangements/safety at the beginning and end of the school day

It is really important that we ensure all children are safe when they are coming to school and when they are collected from school.

Parking



Please ensure that you **DO NOT** park on the zig zags and bus stop area on Beach Road. These areas are clearly marked on the road and must not be blocked.

When cars park in these areas it means that the island crossing area is blocked from vision and it can force cars to drive on the wrong side of the road to get past the inappropriately parked cars.

Please leave enough time to park appropriately and safely.

Gates

The Nursery side gate at the bottom of the steps of the village hall car park and bottom gate will only be open at morning drop off and after school pick up times. During the day these gates will be locked. All access to the school site during the day, between **9.00-3.00pm**, will need to be via the main school gate.

End of the school day

We also politely ask that all parents leave the school site by **3.30pm** at the latest. All the gates will be locked at **3.30pm** for after school club provision. This is so the children in after school club can utilise the school site safely with all the external gates locked.

I hope the children have a great first week back to school. Please get to know your new teacher this week and I wish everyone a very successful year ahead.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Gail Holmes - Headteacher - Woolacombe School

Term Dates 2022-2023

Autumn Term

Term begins

Monday 5th September

Non-Pupil Day

Friday 21st October

October Half Term

24th 28th October

Start of 2nd Half of Autumn Term

31st October 2022

Last Day of Autumn Term

16th December 2022

Spring Term

Non-Pupil Day

Tuesday 3rd January 2023

First Day of the Spring Term

Wednesday 4th January 2023

Spring Half Term Break

Monday 13th February 2023 - Friday 17th February 2023

Last Day of the Spring Term

Friday 31st March 2023

Summer Term

First Day of the Summer Term

Monday 17th April 2023

May Bank Holiday

Monday 1st May 2023

Summer Half Term Break

Monday 29th May 2023 - Friday 2nd June 2023

Non-Pupil Day

Friday 14th July 2023

Last Day of the Summer Term

Friday 21st July 2023

Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2022

Sept 2022

Term begins

Monday 5th September

Parent welcome meetings

Wednesday 7th Sept

Year 1 2.30pm and Year 3 2.45pm

Thursday 8th Sept

Year 2 2.30pm and Year 4 2.45pm

Friday 9th September

Year 6 2.30pm and Year 5 2.45pm

Friday 16th September

Parent open morning 9.00am Teaching school room

Tuesday 20th September

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Workshop. 2-3pm
Teaching School Room

Wednesday 21st September

PTFA meeting – 6.30pm

Friday 23rd September

Primary Sports Festival West Buckland - Year 6 TBC

Monday 26th –Friday 30th

SEND parent meetings

Monday 26th September

Individual Tempest Photographs am and Class
Photographs pm

Reception and Year 1 Phonics and Early Reading
Workshop. 6pm Reception Class

Tuesday 27th September

World Languages Day

Wednesday 28th September

Nasal Flu Vaccinations

October 2022

Thursday 6th October

National Poetry Day- Theme Environment

Friday 7th October

Parent open morning 9.00am Teaching school room

Monday 10th October – Friday 14th October

Year 5 Dorset Residential

Monday 17th – Thursday 20th October

Parent Consultation Week

Thursday 20th October

Harvest Festival St Sabinus – TBC

Non-Pupil Day

Friday 21st October

October Half Term 24th 28th October

Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2022

Start of 2nd Half of Autumn Term

31st October 2022

November 2022

Friday 11th November

Remembrance service St Sabinus

Friday 18th November

Children in Need

Thursday 24th November

PTFA Christmas Gift Evening TBC

December 2022

Thursday 1st December

KS1 Christmas Production 2022 – Village Hall TBC

Thursday 8th December

Year 5/6 Christmas Production 2022 – Twitchen TBC

Tuesday 13th December 2022

EY Nativity

Wednesday 14th December 2022

Senior Citizens Christmas Carols

Thursday 15th December 2022

Whole School Carol Service St Sabinus

Friday 16th December 2022

Christmas Dinner Day and Christmas Jumper Day

Last Day of Autumn Term

16th December 2022