



FOX WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



December
2021

Important Dates

Friday 17 December

School closes for Christmas

Tuesday 4 January 2022

Inset Day for Staff

Wednesday 5 January 2022

School re-opens for pupils

18 and 19 January

Photographer

Friday 21 January

Autism Awareness Day

Thursday 27 January

Parents Evening

Friday 18 February

School closes for half term

Thank you

Thanks to everyone for supporting our Christmas Raffle, we made a grand total of £496.

Good bye

We say good bye and thank you to Sarah Walls, Teaching Assistant and we wish her well in her new job.

Classroom door competition

Thank you to everyone for taking the time to vote—the winner will be revealed on Friday.

The whole school have had great fun designing and decorating their doors



Our Website address: www.foxwoodschool.org.uk

Message from Lucinda

I cannot lie – this has been the hardest term I have ever known with a difficult (to say the least) visit from Ofsted, extremely high levels of staff absence for a variety of unavoidable reasons, and a myriad of other difficulties and complications. I write that as someone who is – as I hope you know - determined to always search out, and grab on to, positives, solutions and possibilities for our School and Community. I write it also as someone who is totally committed to achieving and celebrating everything that we possibly can for our children, young people, and our whole school community. But I also write it as a human, and someone who takes the responsibility of what I do, and who I do it for, more to heart than you will ever know. We have tried our very best, and that I promise you.

At Fox Wood this term we have – as a staff team – been battered; but we have **not** been broken.

Why? Because our children, young people, families, colleagues, and Governors have reminded us – in so many ways, and so many times, that what we do truly matters. Put simply our children and young people (and their families) inspire us, give us hope, and remind us to smile even when we are utterly exhausted, and on our knees . . .

So, having said all of the above, what's life been like for our children and young people this term? It's my absolute belief that my amazing team have continued to provide a wealth of exciting, engaging and challenging (we love a positive challenge!) opportunities and experiences, within the curriculum and as extra-curricular activities/special events. The school has been awash with pupils' laughter and smiles as they've learned (most of the time, we're all allowed grumpy moments!); and they've made us incredibly proud of all that they've achieved. I know that some of these magical moments have been available for you to view at home via Evidence for Learning and/or Social Media (if you don't follow us already please remember to check out 'Fantastic Fox Wood' on Facebook and/or Twitter – and if you don't have an account on either of those but want to see our Christmas 2021 – Team Fox Wood greeting then you can also access this on YouTube via 'Fantastic Fox Wood.' We've had some wonderful feedback from families regarding the photos and video clips that we share – thank you!

So what can we look forward to in 2022? I am very hopeful that the New Year will bring lots more exciting, ground breaking, and inspiring moments – moments where "Together We Shine." I look forward to sharing that journey with you all.

On behalf of myself, our Governors and Staff, We Wish You ALL a Merry Christmas . . . goodness knows we've all (and be assured I'm including you all in this!) earned a place on Santa's 'Nice' list!!



Staff and class 12 are working hard on our sensational space developments. We have met together and decided on some areas we would like to see out there to support our learning! We are working hard to set these up and make them look as wonderful as ever. Class 12 have cleaned the area up and started painting to give all the wooden equipment a fresh new look. Watch this space...

Friends of Fox Wood / Pastoral Support

Thank you to everyone who donated prizes for the Christmas Raffle. We surpassed the number of prizes for the Summer Raffle and had 61 for Christmas.

We had donations from a number of businesses, including ASDA Birchwood and Westbrook, Starbucks, and The Entertainer in Golden Square, Warrington Play and Sensory Centre, Nosey Parkers Sweet Stall and Cineworld.

Our 'wear what you want' day in exchange for bottles and/or chocolate helped to create lots of lovely hampers, and we can't thank you enough for sending these in.

The 'Your School Lottery' is helping to raise funds for school to date we have raised £2,689.20 which is a fantastic amount and helps to go towards activities and resources in school.

If you would like any help with applying for direct payment through an early help assessment, please contact me through the school office or email rjohnston@foxwoodschool.org.uk

Rachael, Pastoral Support Officer

Fox Wood's School Based OT has had another busy term! Lucinda OT is delighted to now have Lindsey Howell to support School Based OT provision 3 days a week. This will help greatly with the school's manual handling provision, outreach support, training of education staff across Warrington and day to day OT in school. Fox Wood OT will also be welcoming an OT student in the new year for 8 weeks which will be another great addition for our students with her aim of developing some group work within both school and College.

Lucinda and Lindsey would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and remember if you get stuck in the holidays to refer to the OT resources on the Home Learning tab on the website!"



Although our 'Santa Dash' looked a little different this year, we still had plenty of fun! Santa paid a visit to school (complete with his own sleigh and festive tunes) and very kindly gave a gift to each child. He even had some elf helpers from Class 9. Classes enjoyed a festive walk on the Green Mile, completed a 'Christmas Trail' and in the afternoon, were treated to hot chocolate, gingerbread men and rocky road. It was great fun!



Friday 10th December was Class 7's Awareness Day, focusing on Rett Syndrome and Fox G1 Syndrome.

Class 7 worked hard to plan the day for all classes and provided everyone with a range of activities including art, music, well-being and forest school during the day, to help them learn and understand more about both conditions.

Rett Syndrome is a rare genetic disorder, seen mostly in girls, and Fox G1 Syndrome is an extremely rare Neuro-developmental disorder seen in both boys and girls. Both conditions affect brain development and function and impact on many areas of life. We have pupils at Fox Wood School who are diagnosed with both of these conditions, and just within our school, we know each pupil to be affected differently and that life experiences are unique in every case.

Fox Wood pupils were invited to wear something that makes them unique and celebrates them "Being Awesome" for being themselves and just who they are!

Keeping Safe

To support the Safeguarding provision at Fox Wood School, we have designed a child-friendly safeguarding programme for all of our pupils. Keeping Safe is a programme drawing on elements of the NSPCC's 'Keeping Safe Programme' and is a safeguarding programme for children at Fox wood School.

Throughout the Spring Term, pupils will embark on a six week long programme which will bolster their confidence and self-esteem while beginning to equip them with the tools they need in situations that are unsafe. The programme will encourage pupils to make good choices in tricky situations and aid them in recognising different types of abuse. Pupils will begin to develop strategies around how to deal with abuse (both in others and in themselves) and how to recognise if their own or other people's actions are appropriate or inappropriate. The programme is written for Fox Wood School, and as such, is adaptable and suitable for all pupils – being stage appropriate and delivered in a fun, engaging way.

The programme is six weeks long and will cover topics such as computer and internet safety, age ratings on computer games/ films, how it feels to hear arguing, looking after our mental health and our feelings, self confidence, self awareness, saying no, secrets, inappropriate touching, communicating and where to get help sexual harassment, sexual violence and online sexual abuse.

What a week we had!!

Thank you for the orders that were gratefully received. Pupils worked tirelessly to get them out on time. Everyone can have a well-deserved rest over the festive period and look forward to planning a visit out and about with the profits they made.

During this week pupils also developed knowledge and understanding of the equality and diversity across our school by looking at other faiths, how we are all unique and gained understanding about the International Day of Person with Disabilities Day.



DINNER MONEY

The cost is £2.40 per day, (£12.00 per week) This is still payable on the Friday for the following week and must be paid on a weekly basis or termly in advance.

Any monies sent into school must be in a sealed envelope with the pupil's name, the amount, and what the money is for, written clearly. School cannot take responsibility for any loose cash.