

Merry Christmas

Dear Parents,

Christmas arrived on Monday 2nd December for all of us at Wood End with Christmas dinner, Christmas jumpers, cards, calendars and sparkly things... a very busy day indeed.

In the last fortnight; Nursery families have joined us to make decorations, play musical games and pass the parcel next week. Year 4 families have helped with the DT sewing project. Reception families have joined us for Christmas carols and crafts.

Year 6 have been to McDonalds as part of their DT burger making project. The choir were invited to sing carols at Sainsbury's, the sparkly bucket collection received £145 of donations for school fund. Thank you to families who helped with transportation for this event.

Thank you to all families for your support and for getting involved with your children's learning this term.

This will be our last newsletter this term. Please note the return to school date is on Monday 6th January. We wish all families a very merry Christmas. We hope that you will enjoy the company of family and friends over this time. Please send us a picture of your family celebration.

Miss Sharma



Early Collection - Friday 20th December



Pupils may be collected at 1pm on the last day of term. Please complete the form that will be sent out on Friday.

Mon 16.12.24	Nursery parents Pass the Parcel session
Thur. 19.12.24	Christmas Parties - see below
Fri 20.12.24	Break-up for Christmas break - see above
Mon 06.01.25	Return to school
Mon 13.01.25	Y6 Local area canal walk
Thurs 23.01.25	Y1 Family Learning - more information to follow
Wed 29.01.25	Y2 Family Learning - more information to follow
w/b 10.02.25	Parents' Evenings - more information to follow
Fri 14.02.25	Break-up for half-term
Mon 24.02.25	Return to school

Asda Cash pot for Schools - Thank you to everyone that supported this venture. You raised **£196.00** for school fund.

Thank you



Milk for spring Term

Y1 to Y6 pupils - the cost of school milk is £12.00 per term. The payment for milk for the Spring term can now be made on the Schoolcomms app.

If your child is in receipt of free school meals, there will be no charge but milk still needs to be ordered via the schoolcomms app, you will not be charged. All milk should be ordered by 8th January 2025.

Reception pupils - pupils under 5 at 31st December are eligible for free milk. Please order on your schoolcomms app if you wish your child to have milk in the Spring term.

Reception pupils that will be over 5 at 31st December, please see letter sent by email on 2nd December.



Christmas at Wood End Primary School

- Nursery parents Pass the Parcel Session - Monday 16th December
- Choir Singing at New Cross Care Home - Monday 16th December
- Christmas Parties - Thursday 19th December



Children may come to school in their party clothes - no onesies and sensible footwear please



Afterschool Activity Clubs for Spring Term

Listed are the afterschool activity clubs for the Spring Term. These will be released for booking after school on Friday 13th December and will commence week beginning Monday 13th January. Please use your schoolcomms to book.

Please only book **one** club per child; if you wish to book a second club please use the 'reservation booking' for that club. There is no charge for these clubs. Collection for all school activity clubs is 3:45pm. If you select a club for your child and they do not attend for 2 weeks, their place will be offered to children on the waiting list for that club.

These clubs run each week with the final sessions being held week commencing 17th March. There will be no clubs week commencing 10th February.



Spring Activity Clubs

Staff	Club	Years	Day
Mr Pinnock	Basketball	Y3 & Y4	Monday
Miss Johnson	Storybook Club	Y1 & Y2	Monday
Mrs Bellenger	Violin	Y5 Y6	Wednesday
Mrs Geraghty	Board Games	Y3 & Y4	Wednesday
Mrs Stefanyszyn	Music Club	Y5 & Y6	Wednesday
Mr Pinnock	Multiskills	Y1 & Y2	Wednesday
Mr Pinnock	Handball	Y5 & Y6	Thursday
Mr Hunt	Forest Schools	Y3 & Y4	Thursday
Mrs Brookes	Choir	Y5 & Y6	Thursday
Miss Ellis	Art & Craft	Y3 & Y4	Thursday



Bad Weather

Conditions - if, due to adverse weather conditions, the decision is made to close the school, notifications can be found on local radio stations and the Wolverhampton Today page on Facebook. You will also receive a text message from school. Could you please ensure that we have your up to date contact details.



Tax-Free Childcare

If you are a family who currently use WoodE's breakfast/after school club, or would like to use the facility, then you may be interested in the following information. Wood End Primary School is signed up for the Tax-Free Childcare scheme which is open to all parents of children under 12 (or under 17 if disabled) to help with the cost of childcare.

You can get up to £500 every 3 months (up to £2,000 a year) for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare. This goes up to £1,000 every 3 months if a child is disabled (up to £4,000 a year).

If you've already registered, you can [sign in to your childcare account](#).

If you get Tax-Free Childcare, you'll set up an online childcare account for your child. For every £8 you pay into this account, the government will pay in £2 to use to pay your provider.

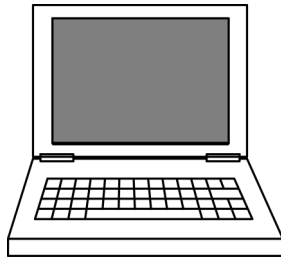
You can get Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as 15 or 30 hours free childcare if you're eligible for both. You can use it to pay for [approved childcare](#), for example:

- childminders, nurseries and nannies
- after school clubs and play schemes

Please see below link for more information: <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

If you would like to apply, you must open a Tax-Free Childcare account online. If you want to find out what help you might be entitled to try the government's childcare calculator.

REMINDER - KS 2 Pupils (Y3,Y4,Y5,Y6) We have recently updated our technology use policy, please ensure that you complete the form sent out via text message on 18th November to give permission for your child to use technology (ipads, laptops) in school.



Change of Details - if you have a new phone over the Christmas period and have a change of number, please let us know in school. This can be done by email or call into the school office to complete a change of details form.



Reception Intake September 2025

If your child is due to start Reception class in September 2025, you should have received information from the Local Authority. The online systems opened on 12th November for the applications to be submitted. All submissions should be made by the deadline of 15th January 2025.

An exciting new concept in helping residents with anything and everything related to food has launched in the city with the first stage of the ground-breaking new Pocket to Plate.

Given the challenging times over the last few years with the pandemic and the cost of living crisis, the council wants to ensure a sustainable approach to good food for everyone in the city for years to come.

The new approach will cover anything and everything to do with food from helping people get food savvy by developing cooking skills in person and online, accessing good quality, but reasonably priced food and even growing their own.

With financial challenges increasing for councils, City of Wolverhampton Council wants to ensure its residents can still eat well and have the knowledge and skills to avoid food insecurity even in the toughest of times.

The council cannot achieve this alone and needs the help and commitment of a wide network of partners across the city who already contribute to supporting people to eat well in a wide variety of ways.

You can follow @pocketoplate where over the coming weeks and months there'll be advice on developing good basic food skills, how to do set pieces like a decent 'fakeaway' and themed recipes to help make the most of seasonal food events. We want you to get involved by challenging the chefs and suggesting what you want them to cover each week. You can use the QR codes to follow the Pocket to Plate pages:



Instagram



TikTok



YouTube



Change of Menu

Thursday 16th January

All Reception and KS1 pupils will be offered a school meal this day. There is no charge for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 meals. You may send in a lunchbox.



Menu

Beefburger

Quorn Hotdog v

Sweet potato Fries

BBQ Beans, Sweetcorn

Chocolate Orange Mousse

Wednesday 29th January

Chinese New Year

We will be celebrating with a special menu. If you would like your child to have this menu please complete the form that will be sent out shortly. Please pay on your school-comms account. This will be the only menu available on this day.



Menu

Sweet and Sour Chicken Balls

Rice

Or

Singapore Noodles

Chinese Style Fruit Salad

Ice Cream



Cooking with Wood End

Mrs Farley has chosen a recipe for you to try for cold winter months, but can be enjoyed anytime. Send us your photos of you cooking together.

Who will we cook with next time?

Classic vegetable soup recipe

A tasty, nourishing soup that's also a great way to use up leftovers and eat more veg. Try experimenting with different ingredients.

Prep: 15 mins
Cook: 25 mins
Serves 4



Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 1 medium onion, peeled and chopped
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 1 leek, sliced
- 2 celery sticks, sliced
- 1 tin chopped tomatoes or 400g passata
- 1L reduced-salt vegetable stock
- 1 tablespoon tomato purée
- 50g sugar snap peas or green beans, sliced
- 50g frozen peas
- 40g dried pasta shapes
- 1.5 teaspoon dried mixed herbs

Method

1. Heat the oil in a large saucepan. Add the onion, carrots, leek and celery, and fry gently for 3 or 4 minutes.
2. Add the tomatoes, tomato purée, beans, frozen peas and stock. Bring to the boil and add the pasta, herbs and pepper.
3. Lower the heat and simmer for 15 minutes or until the pasta is cooked, stirring frequently to make sure the pasta doesn't stick.
4. Turn off the heat and leave to cool for a few minutes. Ladle into bowls and serve with a slice of wholemeal bread.

Information:

Chill any soup that you don't need and keep in the fridge for up to 3 days, or freeze for up to 3 months.

Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell.

There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about [managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK](#). These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.

Other illnesses

Follow this advice for other illnesses:

Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor [cough](#) or [common cold](#). But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes.

Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

High temperature

If your child has a [high temperature](#), keep them off school until it goes away.

Chickenpox

If your child has [chickenpox](#), keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over.

This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Cold sores

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a [cold sore](#).

Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Absence Reporting

Please notify school on the first day of absence by 8:45 or as soon as practically possible. Do this by calling the school office, leaving an answerphone message or email if necessary.

As per our attendance policy for September 2023, we now request that parents contact school on each day of the child's absence.

If school does not receive any notification of a child's absence, Mrs Farley will call parents to ascertain the reason for the absence.