

WOOLMORE NEWS February 2015

This really is the final newsletter
from the old school!



Woolmore
Primary School

Dear Parents,

It's really happening!

On Tuesday we break up from the old school, we pack up all our belongings and we get ready to move into the new school. Seven years as an idea, three years in the planning and design, nearly 2 years in the building and one false start in moving in. But now we are almost there.

Thank you for your support, patience, perseverance and understanding on our journey from old to new. It will all be worth it as we see our wonderful Woolmore pupils benefitting from the opportunities available to them in our brand-new modern school.

Coffee morning

Thank you to the 100+ parents who came to the coffee morning last week to hear all about the arrangements for moving into the new school. Due to the size of the building, different entrances and the classrooms being on 4 floors, the organisation of pupils and parents will have to be different. At the meeting all parents understood and agreed with our priorities of:

1. **Safeguarding** – at all times we must ensure that the pupils are safe and we need to know who is in the building and where they are. We will not be able to have parents wandering around.
2. **Education** – this is what we do; we educate our pupils. This means that we need some time to settle in and re-establish our learning routines and learn how to do things the new way.

In the rest of this letter you will be able to read about:

- The information that was shared at the coffee morning
- The questions that were asked
- Farewells to some members of staff
- The names of our new classes

Dates

Thank you for your understanding regarding our longer half term; and thank you for making sure the children do their extra homework. Here is the calendar for the next 3 weeks:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 February New uniform on sale	10 New uniform on sale Children finish today at 3.30	11 Staff packing up Children at home	12 Staff packing up Children at home	13 Staff packing up Children at home
16 Half-term	17 Half-term	18 Half-term	19 Half-term	20 Half-term
23 Feb Staff unpacking No school	24 Staff unpacking No school	25 Staff unpacking No school	26 Rec-Y6 pupils return to our brand new school at 8.50am	27

Last day of this half term: Tuesday 10 February

First day of next half term: Thursday 26 February; **Monday 2 March for Nursery classes**

School uniform

The new colours for our polo shirts are green, orange and white (no more red shirts please).

We also have sweatshirts and cardigans with the new logo.

The new uniform will be on sale on this Monday and Tuesday at the beginning and end of each day.

Book bags

Every Woolmore pupil will be receiving a brand new navy book bag. The school is paying for these so that every child is proud to own a new school book bag and will enjoy bringing it to and from school every day – and read at home every evening.

Breakfast club

We won't be able to start breakfast club straight away. Our plan is to re-open breakfast club on **Monday 9 March**. There will be some changes and we will let you know about these.

Visiting the new school

The first thing we need to do is settle the children (and staff) into the new school. We need to make sure that all our systems, procedures and rules mean that everyone is safe. This has to be our priority.

Parents will be very keen to look around but this won't be able to happen straight away. There will be opportunities to see the school including: fortnightly open morning (which will include a tour of the school), workshops for parents and invitations to assemblies.

Thank you for being patience and for understanding that our priorities have to be safety and the education of our pupils.

The following questions were asked at the meeting:

Will there be extra rooms in the new school?

We will have extra space and whilst the school expands over several years we are delighted that we will have: an art room, a library and a museum.

Nursery Outreach – when will they start back?

Apple Tree Nursery Class and Pear Tree Nursery Class will be starting back on Monday 2 March. Parents of nursery pupils will be receiving further details.

What will the playground be like?

Until the old school is demolished we won't have a very big playground so we will continue to have staggered playtimes. We can also use space inside the school for activities. Nursery and Reception classes will have their own outdoor area.

What do we do on the first day back?

Please arrive at school between 8.45 and 8.55. We will meet everyone in the playground and direct and take the children to their new classrooms. There is no breakfast club for the first week so please ensure that your child has eaten breakfast before they come to school. Parents of pupils from Y1-Y6 will say goodbye to their children in the playground. Please be on time to collect your children from the playground at 3.30.

There are a lot of stairs!

Yes, there are! One of our school values is to become more fit and healthy, so walking up and down stairs will definitely help with this. We will ensure that pupils are very clear about our safety rules for moving around the school, including walking up and down stairs **keeping to the left**.

What are the fire evacuation procedures?

Over half term premises staff and senior leaders will be trained on the new fire evacuation procedures. When the staff are unpacking and preparing the school we will have a practice fire drill. When the children return we will have a school fire drill so that every child knows the procedure.

Crossing the road near Woolmore

This was a very important question about crossing the road near Woolmore. Tony, our school keeper, does a fantastic job outside the old school gates, but it was felt we need a proper crossing near the school. The area is full of parked and moving cars and it is difficult to know how to cross the roads safely. This issue will be taken up with Tower Hamlets and we will get the governors involved.

OTHER NEWS

Farewells

This week we say farewell to the following members of staff:

Miss Kilgariff, our Deputy Headteacher, is taking up a new role as a leadership trainer with an Academy chain of schools. We thank Miss Kilgariff for all her hard work in supporting pupils and colleagues at Woolmore. Her organisation, her skills and her dedication leave an important legacy that we will continue.

Good luck to Shamimah Miah who has been a Teaching Assistant for several years. Shamima now has a very exciting opportunity to move forward in her new career.

Thank you also to Angie Koufou who has worked tirelessly as our new-school project manager and (like the rest of us) is very pleased that we are now ready to move in.

Welcomes

We have recently welcomed two new senior members of staff: Monica Steinharter as Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion and Pastoral and Gillian Drinkwater as Senior Teacher for the Curriculum.

Classes

Continuing the tree logo theme, all our classes will now be called by the name of a tree. Here they are:

Year group	Class teacher	Class name	Which floor	Colour
Nursery	Tasnim	Apple tree nursery	Ground floor	Green
Nursery	Janet & Megan	Pear tree nursery	Ground floor	Green
RJ	Jen	Lime tree class	Ground floor	Green
RM	Milu	Orange tree class	Ground floor	Green
Year 1	Emily	Banyan tree class	First floor	Yellow
Year 2	Joanie	Maple tree class	First floor	Yellow
Year 3L	Laura	Mulberry tree class	Second floor	Orange
Year 3N	Nancy	Oak tree class	Second floor	Orange
Y4	Richard	Poplar tree class	Second floor	Orange
Y5	Matthew	Sequoia tree class	Third floor	Turquoise
Y6	Teän	Sycamore tree class	Third floor	Turquoise

Idea: see what you can find out about your class tree over the holiday.

School website

www.woolmore.towerhamlets.sch.uk

Our school website is full of useful and interesting information. It is regularly updated with news, photos, class news and calendar dates. Please remember to check it regularly to find out the latest news.

And finally,

A NEW SCHOOL - A NEW FUTURE

See you there!

With very best wishes,

Ms Argent