

# THE WOODLANDS FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

Headteacher:

Mr Richard Kitching

September/October 2022



Welcome to the first newsletter of the academic year! It has been an incredibly busy month with so much going on at both schools. The children have all settled in brilliantly this term and it has been a pleasure to spend time in the classrooms watching them learn and to see them playing happily together at both schools during break and lunchtimes. There is a very special 'family' atmosphere at both Talbot and St Peter's and I look forward to ensuring this nurturing, caring ethos continues. The last few weeks have flown by and the Celebration Assembly Day on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October has really crept up on us. We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to the assemblies so they can share the pupils' school and out of school achievements from recent weeks. I have included a 'dates for the diary' section at the bottom of the newsletter as a record of key dates coming up over the next few months. It will be updated each newsletter. Please keep checking Class Dojo and the school website regularly for additional information about forthcoming events. Thank you for your continued support.

*Mr Kitching*

## Harvest Festivals at St Peter's Church, Marchington and the Church of St John, Kingstone

Each school celebrated the Harvest Festival at their respective village churches recently. The children in both schools celebrated by singing a variety of songs, sharing art work, poems and information about how Harvest is celebrated around the world. The children thoroughly enjoyed proudly presenting their work to a large congregation and they all did absolutely brilliantly.

Thank you to all of the Parents and Carers that came and attended the services and thank you for all of the kind donations of food for the Uttoxeter Food Bank.



## Talbot Outdoor Area Developments

Lots of work was carried out in the Early Years area at Talbot over the summer and the main centre piece of this project was the fantastic new Kompan climbing frame that is now in full use. The children absolutely love it and make full use of it during periods of outdoor provision.

There are plans underway to further enhance the outdoor area at St Peter's too. Watch this space!



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## **Parent Consultation Meetings – Week beginning 31<sup>st</sup> October**

We are looking forward to welcoming Parents and Carers to Parent Consultation meetings with the class teachers in the week after half term. This will be a great chance to see your child's work and discuss how your child has settled in to the new academic year with their teacher. It is always vital that both school and parents work in close partnership in order to support our children the best we can and we hope you will find the meetings useful, informative and reassuring. Many parents and carers have already signed up for an appointment but, if you have not yet had the chance to do so, please can you contact the school office.

## **School Councils**

After an eagerly fought democratic election process, both schools now have new school councils in place for the new academic year. The school council at St Peter's have already held a meeting with Mr Kitching and shared with him some ideas about how to make the school better including a new bin for the playground (already bought courtesy of FOMs) and some great ideas for new trips. The Talbot school council will be meeting with Mr Kitching next week to discuss their ideas about how to make the school better.

## **Sports Stars**

After the half term break, we will be welcoming coaches from Sports Stars to both St Peter's and Talbot to further enhance our PE and sports provision at both sites. In addition to working with the children during PE sessions at Talbot (Tuesday) and St Peter's (Wednesday) they will also be supporting lunch time play activities and hosting a weekly extra-curricular sports club at each site until 4.30pm. More information will follow shortly about the extra-curricular clubs. Information about Sports Stars can be found in the following link:

<https://www.sportsstarsuk.com/>

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## **Free School Meals Application – Staffordshire County Council**

Please read the following note from the Staffordshire County Council website in relation to free school meals:

**‘Parents claiming some benefits can claim free school meals for any of their children who are registered at a Staffordshire school and who would normally be at school at lunch time. School meals are a good way to ensure that your child eats well at lunchtime and you can save yourself time and money.**

**Even if you don't want your children to have the meals, claiming them helps their school. The more eligible parents who claim meals, the more funding the school receives.’**

Details about the eligibility criteria are below:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Q001.aspx>

If you think that you may be eligible, please click on the following link and complete the short online form:

<https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/fsmweb/>

Thank you.

## **Reception 2023 Applications – Applications open from 1<sup>st</sup> November**

If you have a child (or know anyone that has a child) ready to start Reception in September 2023, the application process will open on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022.

The easiest way to apply is on line. Please click on the link below for further information about the application process.

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary/Apply/Overview.aspx>

Applications need to be completed by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

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Date	Event
20 <sup>th</sup> October	Celebration Assembly – Talbot 2.45pm and St Peter's 9.15 am
21 <sup>st</sup> October	INSET day – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
24 <sup>th</sup> to 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Half term week – School Closed
2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	St Peter's Parent and Carer Consultation Meetings
1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Talbot Parent and Carer Consultation Meetings
8 <sup>th</sup> November	St Peter's Open morning 9.15 to 10.30am for Prospective Reception 23 starters
10 <sup>th</sup> November	Talbot Open Morning 9.15am to 10.30am for Prospective Reception 23 starters
Wb 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-bullying theme week
18 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need 'Wear Something Spotty Day'
25 <sup>th</sup> November	Talbot TSA Christmas Fayre
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	St Peter's FOMs Christmas Fayre
12 <sup>th</sup> December	St Peter's Christmas Performance am
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Talbot Christmas Performance 9.30 am (Parents and Carers invited)
13 <sup>th</sup> December	St Peter's Christmas Performance 2pm (Parents and Carers invited)
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Talbot Christmas Performance 2pm (Parents and Carers invited)
14 <sup>th</sup> December	St Peter's Christmas Performance 6pm Evening (Parents and Carers invited)
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Talbot – Carols and Mince Pies for elderly residents 9.30 am
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Celebration Assembly am Talbot 9.15am
16 <sup>th</sup> December	St Peter's Service in church pm
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term for pupils and staff
19 <sup>th</sup> December to 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2023	School closed to staff and pupils for Christmas break
3 <sup>rd</sup> January and 4 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET Days – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
5 <sup>th</sup> January	School open to pupils for first day of term
17 <sup>th</sup> February	Celebration Assembly
20 <sup>th</sup> February to 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Half term break – School closed to staff and pupils
27 <sup>th</sup> February	School open to staff and pupils
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Celebration Assembly – Last day of term
3 <sup>rd</sup> April to 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holiday – School closed to staff and pupils
17 <sup>th</sup> April	INSET Day – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
18 <sup>th</sup> April	School open to pupils
1 <sup>st</sup> May	May Day Bank Holiday – School Closed
29 <sup>th</sup> May to 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Half term break – School closed
25 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of the academic year