



Smallwood News—'Excellence Through Enjoyment'

Website address: www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk

Dear Parents,

Autumn seems to have swept in at a rush, the mornings and evenings are getting darker and there is a definite bite in the air. Our younger children are busy collecting acorns and conkers and the children in forest school have been enjoying the delights that the season brings. As a school we believe outdoor learning time is incredibly important and we often plan activities outdoors to enhance learning. It's good for children's fitness levels, mental health, problem solving skills, resilience and helps them with learning across the curriculum. As our weather is often changeable and frequently unpredictable please ensure that children are coming into school with sufficient warm and waterproof clothing so that they can enjoy all of the exciting learning opportunities that staff are planning.

We are asking for a small donation for Forest School to cover the costs of food, resources and a local trip and this is already set up on your ParentPay account.

Our football team played in their first matches of the season on Thursday at Congleton High and played very well against some challenging opponents and securing a 3-0 win! A big thankyou to all the parents who are helping to transport children to events. Some of our Years 5 and 6 children also competed successfully at the cross country event last week as well!

Have a fabulous weekend!
Iestyn Lewis



Last Friday, we hosted our MacMillan Coffee Morning.

An enormous thank you to Mrs Harper for organising a wonderful morning and to all the helpers for making it possible.

We were also overwhelmed and very grateful for all the cake donations. We raised a fantastic £514!

Mrs Aynsley

As you are all aware, Mrs Aynsley will be leaving us at the end of next week. The PTFA are arranging a gift for her and, if you would like to make a donation, please send this into school in an envelope marked for Mr Lewis.

Mrs Pear will collect the donations next Wednesday (12th October).



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Class Dojo has got off to a brilliant start and the children are responding very well. Thank you for all your engagement and support with this and, if you haven't done so already, please join your child's class.

There are some really useful functions on Class Dojo such as the Class Stories and Messaging. We will work towards using

the Class Stories function in the very near future and I know that some of you are already using the messaging function. Parents/carers can message teachers; however, a response will only be given during the hours of 8.30am - 5pm Monday-Friday as the rest of the time teachers are set on 'quiet time'. Please be aware that teachers will not necessarily respond to messages straight away but will endeavour to do so within 48 hours, during working days only. They may also not read the message that you have sent until the end of the day due to their teaching commitments.

Parents/carers should not use this messaging tool to enquire about the progress of their child but can use it to arrange a meeting with class teachers to discuss any questions they may have. The following matters should always go through the main office:

- Absence (such as medical appointments or medical results).
- Sickness.
- School dinner enquiries.
- Complaints.
- Urgent messages (e.g. collection of children).
- Safeguarding concerns.

Ready Steady Phonics

Ready Steady Phonics is now up and running for Willow, Ash and Elm and the staff and children are reporting excellent things about the learning that is happening.

Each Friday, on the Class Story on Class Dojo, the decodable reader will be shared with you so that you can help us to consolidate the week's learning.

This is online and the link is <https://www.readysteadyphonics.co.uk/smallwood-parents-carers-homepage>

and the password is readysteadysmallwood.

Your support with this over the weekend and into the following week is vital for the early reading learning.



September 2023 intake

If you know of anyone thinking of joining our Smallwood family, please point them in our direction and we would be more than delighted to show them around our wonderful school. All they need to do is ring or email to book an appointment.

We also have spaces in some year groups if you know someone thinking of moving or moving into the area.

Parents' Evening

Don't forget to book your child's appointment - there are two evenings coming up; Tuesday 18th October and Wednesday 19th October. Bookings are now live via your parent login on the school website; if you haven't got one or can't remember your login details, please contact Mrs Aynsley or Mrs Blears as soon as possible.

Upcoming Events

Please have a look at the calendar on the school website for any upcoming events including:

Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair will soon be upon us and this year it will be held in school on Friday 25th November with doors opening at 3pm.

Mrs Pear and Mrs Johal are busy organising stall and activities so please do let them know if you are able to help out.