

Wednesday 16th June 2021

Amalgamation, School Uniform and Trust Rebranding

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I hope you all had a restful break over the half term and are enjoying this beautiful weather. Just a little reminder that children need to dress appropriately for the summer weather, wear sunscreen and a hat and bring a bottle of water to drink.

Amalgamation gets the green light from DfE

I am delighted to be able to tell you that we have finally had confirmation from the Department for Education (DfE) that from September 2021 the two schools, Woodpecker and Cuckoo, will legally become one school, under the name Woodpecker Hall Academy.

Since the beginning of this academic year we have been working under a single leadership team for both schools whilst we awaited this formal decision. The delay in the decision from the DfE has been due to issues linked to Coronavirus. There are still some other things that we need to do in time for the new academic year. From September we will all be based in the Cuckoo Hall buildings under the name of Woodpecker Hall School. New Woodpecker Hall signs will go up over the summer holidays.

Preparation for September

Over the coming weeks you will find out who your child's teacher will be for next academic year. To ensure a smooth transition into the Cuckoo Hall buildings, we have planned several days in which Woodpecker children will explore the playgrounds, lunch halls and their new classrooms.

We are also waiting to see if there are any changes to the guidance for schools in terms of the staggered start and end to the school day. Once we have information on this we will inform you of the school timings and organisation for drop off and pick up.

Transferring to Woodpecker

As the schools amalgamate, all Cuckoo Hall pupils will be moved over and registered to the new Woodpecker Hall school. This work will be carried out by the school and the local authority on your behalf. Please let the school office know if you are taking your child out of our schools and placing them in a different school for September.

Uniform

I wrote to everyone in March as parents in both schools were asking about whether we would be changing the uniform once the DfE allowed the schools to formally amalgamate. Now that we have the decision, we will be doing what other schools do when they merge, which is to phase in any uniform changes to create the single school.

There will be a new uniform for all children in YR-Y6 in the combined school (Robin Hall Nursery uniform stays the same). The new uniform will not become compulsory until January 2022 which

means you can still send your child into school, in September, in a Woodpecker or Cuckoo Hall uniform for the first term.

However, to celebrate the launch of the new Woodpecker Hall Academy we will be giving every child from YR-Y6 a new school jumper, ready for starting in September.

These Jumpers will be given to your child in the last week of school. The school will organise and pay for this. A letter will be coming to all parents in Reception to Year 6 asking you to order the correct size of jumper for your child.

If you chose to, children can wear their new uniform from September but this is not compulsory until January 2022. Children can continue to bring Cuckoo Hall book bags and ruck sacks.

School uniform can be bought during the summer holidays, from Uniform 4 Kids on Hertford Road and other local suppliers.

The new school uniform



Girls

White shirt (long or short sleeved)
School tie
V-neck purple jumper or cardigan (school logo)
Grey Skirt
Grey Pinafore
White socks
White, grey or back tights
Grey trousers
Purple gingham dress (Summer)
Black shoes

Boys

White shirt (long or short sleeved)
School tie
PV-neck purple jumper or cardigan (school logo)
Grey trousers
White, grey or back socks
Black shoes

PE Kits

Indoor PE:

Navy shorts

White T-shirt

Black plimsolls

Outdoor PE:

Navy jogging bottoms

Navy zip up jumper

White T-shirt

Trainers

Change of Date

Woodpecker and Cuckoo Hall school will close for the summer break on **Wednesday 21st July 2021** at the normal school time. This allows the school staff and Facilities team to move all of the Woodpecker resources into the Cuckoo Hall building and reorganise the buildings to accommodate the amalgamation.

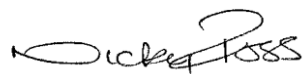
This is a significant task which is why the schools need time to ensure this is done effectively.

North Star Community Trust

Just to remind everyone that the educational Trust which manages our school and four others in the local area has changed its name to North Star Community Trust. It is the same Trust – just with a new name. There is new signage across the schools, changes to web sites and social media to reflect the new name and the schools being a part of North Star. You will notice school staff email signatures and email addresses have been changed to reflect this. You can still email your school using the ‘old’ email addresses as they will automatically be redirected to the new ones. There are no changes to the school itself.

If you have any questions about the rebranding of the Trust or about the amalgamation of Woodpecker and Cuckoo Hall, please get in contact with myself or Gemma Vincent who is the Associate Headteacher for Woodpecker and Cuckoo Hall Academy.

Kind Regards,



Nicky Ross

Headteacher, Woodpecker and Cuckoo Hall Academy

North Star Community Trust, Leader of Primary Education