

WOODLEY

C of E Primary School



Issue: 2

December

2019



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a long “rainy” term, I would like to thank you for all the support you have given the school to help your children.

We have had many highlights this term but the KS1 Nativity and FS2 Tableau must be near the top. Watching our young children perform is such a joy and I see the same pleasure on your faces watching the achievement of your children.

We have had wonderful support from you at all our events this term, starting with Harvest through to Christingle, our music assembly and finally our Nativity and Tableau.

I continue to hear from other Head Teachers about the raising sickness within schools, of which we have had our fair share amongst children and staff. For this reason, I will taking the advice of Wokingham and increasing the quarantine time from **24 hours to 48 hours** following any case of vomiting or diarrhoea. I ask for your support to ensure that children are given this time to fully recover before returning to school. I will be keeping this in place until the end of March when hopefully Spring will be upon us and we will have seen the last of the winter bugs and colds.

The following advice is given to help stop the spread of norovirus:

N No visits to hospitals, care homes and GP surgeries if you are suffering from symptoms of norovirus – send someone else to visit loved ones until you are better

O Once you’ve been symptom-free for at least 48 hours, you’re safe to return to work, school or visit hospitals and care homes

R Regularly wash your hands with soap and warm water, especially after using the toilet, and before eating or preparing food

O Only hand-washing will prevent spread of norovirus – alcohol hand gels **DON’T** kill the virus

All that remains is for me to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas. On behalf of all the staff, thank you for your generous gifts.

I look forward to welcoming you and your children back on 7th January 2020.

Louisa Gurney, Head Teacher



Curriculum News

Foundation Stage:

What another busy half term for the Foundation children and staff!

This half term we have based our Topic work around festivals and celebrations. We started off with Bonfire Night, learning about the story of Guy Fawkes and creating firework pictures using different materials. We then looked at the celebration of Diwali. We learnt about how people prepare for and celebrate Diwali and looked at the similarities and differences between festivals and celebrations. The children loved learning about the story of Rama and Sita and tried hard at using their phonic knowledge to write bits of the story. A firm favourite was creating diya lamps using clay. These were then decorated with bright colours and patterns.

A highlight of this half term was definitely the Nativity Tableau. We spent a couple of weeks learning about the story so that the children had a good understanding of what they were performing. We were so impressed with how the children performed on the day. They demonstrated such confidence and courage to get up on stage and sing their hearts out to a hall full of parents! They also looked fabulous in the costumes that you provided - thank you.

The children have had lots of fun over the last week or so creating lots of Christmas crafts. We hope that you will love them when your children bring them home on Friday.

In Maths we have been learning all about one more and one less. We are really pleased at how quickly the children have understood this concept. After Christmas we will be working on numbers 5-10 and learning the number bonds to 5.

We are amazed at how well the children are doing in Read Write Inc. It has been great to see them all trying their hardest. The children have all made progress and can at the very least read and write simple words. We do really appreciate your support with this at home.

Reminders - please remember to read with your child at least 5 times per week. Please sign the diary each time you have read so that we know to change your child's book.

Name labels - please ensure that your child's belongings are labelled. We find a lot of jumpers etc left around the classroom that are unnamed. These are very hard to then reunite with their owners!

We hope that you have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back for the Spring term in January.



Mrs Emma Luzolo, Foundation Stage Phase Leader



Curriculum News

Key Stage 1:

This half term, KS1's topic is: Let's Celebrate! We have learnt about all sorts of different celebrations this half term including: Diwali, Bonfire Night, Eid, Christingle and Christmas. We have taken part in some fantastic investigations in Science. We have investigated what happens when you try to blow up a balloon using vinegar and bicarbonate of soda (hint: not just a messy classroom and some funny smells!) We have also made indoor firework lamps using oil, water and glitter and have explored the best environment for a flame to stay alight. In RE, the children have been looking at the concept of Saviours and thinking about the significance of Jesus's birth for Christians. In Art, we have designed and created some beautiful diva lamps out of clay and we have put our weaving skills to the test to make an Eid Star.

We have been focusing on our reading skills and learning how to proof read our work in our English lessons and I have been impressed with how the children's reading is developing. In Maths, we have been very busy using all of our new resources and we have been using them to help with fractions and measuring.

The children have worked so hard on their Christmas play and we are amazed at how quickly they all learnt their lines and singing parts (Y2) and singing the songs (Y1 and Y2). They have been fantastic and we are very proud of them!

Thank you and we hope you all have a lovely Christmas break!

Miss Lauren Adkins, KS1 Phase Leader



Curriculum News

Lower Key Stage 2:

In LKS2 we have travelled back in time to look at the lives of people living in the 'Stone Age.' The children have been looking at suitable evidence – what this would be and what it tells us about life so long ago. The children have really taken on the role of historians, asking interesting and impressive questions.

In English, we have been studying the book 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura, using it to gain ideas of how people lived over 4000 years ago as well as using it as inspiration for imaginative description.

Maths has involved learning about fact families and the links between multiplication and division. We have been practising using the written method for multiplication and how long-multiplication is much less of a challenge if we know our times tables. We are encouraging the children to learn and retain their times tables using a range of strategies – chanting, singing, writing out and using memory techniques. We hope they are eager to go onto Mymaths, Sumdog and TT Rockstars, all of which are set up to help with this LKS2 challenge. The term has finished with learning about angles and properties of shapes. Lots of angle hunts and fun activities to be had within this subject.

Science has been all about rocks, fossils and soil. We learnt about the various types of rocks; looking more closely at fossils, their discovery and the life of Mary Anning. We have recently had the excitement of making our own wormeries to learn how they mix and make good soil. It was a very hands-on lesson involving handling worms. All adults were impressed by the minimal squealing and the mature, scientific behaviour of the children. After our 2 weeks of observation, we will be releasing our worms onto the outdoor compost heap in the days prior to breaking up for the Christmas holidays.

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the parent consultation evenings. It is lovely for us to discuss how the children have settled into their class groups and the routines of LKS2. It is a valuable time to update you on your child's learning and discuss how we can all help their education. Reading is so important to a child's education and we are seeing great efforts at home to continue reading 5 times per week and signing the diary – keep it up! Another thank you needs to be issued to you all for the topic home-learning and your continued support. The children love telling us how they worked together with their grown-ups to make the amazing, and rich, models, fact files and pictures. We enjoy seeing them, along with videos and pictures. They are displayed with pride in the classrooms and corridors.

It was a pleasure to see so many of you were able to turn up to the Music assembly to see the Year 4s play their Ukuleles alongside the recorders. All musicians were rightly proud of their hard work, and efforts.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas, a relaxing and joyous holiday. We look forward to seeing the children in 2020!

Mrs Michelle Jay, LKS2 Phase Leader



Curriculum News

Upper Key Stage 2

'Beer, Bulbs and Biscuits' – our local study of Reading - has been the key focus of this term. The Upper Juniors have enjoyed researching and finding out about our fascinating town. We went on an informative walking tour down Broad Street, along the canal, past statues and churches. As we passed the impressive Blade building, we surprised the children by telling them we were going up to the 10th floor to see the magnificent views across Reading for ourselves. It was such a privilege, and an unforgettable experience.



Our tour ended up in the recently restored Abbey ruins, which gave us an insight into how important this building was in the 16th century. Our reports on Reading were very instructive as a result of this first-hand experience. Visiting Reading museum was another opportunity to learn about Huntley and Palmers, looking at the huge collection of biscuit tins was a particular highlight. We also looked around the history of Reading exhibit and had the opportunity to handle some Victorian artefacts. Since returning, we have written an adventure story based on characters working in the biscuit factory foiling a robbery. We have got into role and understood the hardships of factory life.

In Maths, we have been working with fractions, decimals and percentages and are feeling more confident when working with them. We have also been thinking about co-ordinates and translation and have been tackling some festive word problems.

In Science we have been investigating forces including gravity. We have enjoyed all the practical investigations - looking at thrust with balloons was great fun, as was finding out about up thrust as it gave us an opportunity to play with water in the classroom.

Our sewing is going from strength to strength as we have made some festive felt baubles. We are now all looking forward to our Christmas break with our families.

Mrs Alison Sharman, UKS2 Phase Leader



Sporting News

Another busy term with sport. The football team have represented the school twice with matches against St Dominics and Hawkedon. Our cross country race was postponed earlier in the term due to weather but we have another race scheduled for January.

The children have enjoyed dance and tag rugby as part of their PE curriculum. A reminder that children can bring in tracksuit bottoms and warm tops to allow us to brave the outside on dry days! Please make sure any item of clothing that comes into school is named and we ask for no hoods please on sweatshirts.

Mr Michael Clare, PE Co-Ordinator

Reminders from the Office

Office hours: 8.00am - 4.25pm Peak times: 8.45am - 9.15am / 3.00pm - 3.15pm

Airfield Club. We are delighted to inform you that following a regular inspection from Environmental Health, we have maintained our 5 star rating for health and hygiene in our club. Thank you to our excellent club staff for maintaining our high standards and we hope your children continue to enjoy themselves at Airfield Club.

Hot School Dinners The new Spring menu is now on the ScoPay site. Please make sure you order your dinners ready for the start of the new term. A reminder that any packed lunches should not contain nuts, sweets and fizzy drinks. This includes peanut butter and Nutella.

Water Bottles Please send your child to school with a named water bottle.

Reporting absences. If your child is not well enough to come to school, please phone the office before 10.00am to report your child absent from school. Please leave their name, class and a reason for absence. On phoning and reaching the school switchboard, please select option 1 to leave a message. If your child has a medical appointment that can not be made outside of school hours please pop into the office and fill out a medical appointment form. Any absence not explained, will result in an unauthorised absence and will effect your child's attendance record.



PTA News

It's been a very busy half term with some great fundraising thanks to all the support from parents and teachers. The school disco was popular again and raised a fantastic £679.50. The second hand uniform sales raised £44, children's Christmas cards £191 and Bags2School £139.

On top of this, we have just had our Christmas Fair which is our biggest fund raising event of the year. It was a huge success raising a total of **£4,850** for the school, of which £1,250 will come from matched funding by Microsoft which makes a real difference. Thank you to Scott Claydon and James Fry for arranging this with their work. If you would like to understand more about matched funding or think your company can help, please get in touch with the PTA.

We hope you all enjoyed the fair and it got you into the Christmas spirit. Congratulations to Sam McMahon who won first prize of £50 in the raffle and to all other winners. The PTA are always trying to improve the events, so if you have any feedback on the Christmas Fair, please email the PTA at woodleycofe.pta@googlemail.com. We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who helped or donated, including all the small businesses that helped put on a great Christmas Fair. However big or small your contribution was, it all really helps as these events can't happen without you.



In the last academic year, the PTA raised **£12,700** for the school which funded a number of school essentials such as netball posts, boot cleaners, Maths resources and the completion of the audio visual system in the hall. In this academic year, we have funded Read Write Inc. for Foundation and Key Stage 1 which was rolled out in September. This is already getting positive feedback and we have just funded the Accelerated Readers programme for Key Stage 2 (due to go live April 2020). Knowing how important reading is to the school and having the most effective teaching materials available, the PTA prioritised their funds for these phonic and reading programmes. We now need to focus on topping up our funds for the completion of the school hall, including replacing the hall curtains and floor.

We have lots of new ideas for fundraising events in 2020 however we can't do them without extra support so please let us know if you want to get more involved. Our next PTA Meeting is on Thursday 23rd January at 8pm in the Conker room. We would love to see as many people there as possible, including some new faces.

In the meantime, these are the below events that are being planned so please put the dates in your diaries...

Cake Sales – 30th January, 27th February, 26th March, 30th April, 21st May

Egg Trail - 9th April to 13th April (Get your thinking caps on if you want to host an Egg!!!!)

School Disco – 15th May

Summer Fair – 27th June

