

WOODLEY

C of E Primary School

Issue: 4

February

2018



Dear Parent/Carers,

School Closure

What an unexpected end to last week! The adverse weather conditions caused the school to close for 2 days. The decision to close schools is not taken lightly and I would like to thank you for your support, especially as I know it causes many parents problems with work. Many factors are taken into consideration when deciding to close a school, the safety of the site, the safety of staff driving a long way to get to work, the safety of parents and children driving or walking in the local area etc. With my team, I have to carry out a risk assessment as to whether the site is safe and whether I have enough local staff to ensure the establishment can function fully. This is why schools make different decisions and this will always be the case. Can I assure you, we always look to stay open but also try to give you as much notice as possible. Let's hope we don't have to make this decision again in the near future and I hope you and your children had the opportunity to enjoy some of the snow. World Book Day has been rescheduled for this Thursday, 8th March. We will let you know when we are able to reschedule the Disco and the Foundation Stay and Play afternoon.

The School Website

Just to remind you that it is worth checking the website on a regular basis. We are trying to get new photographs updated on a regular basis and I particularly enjoyed seeing the ones of the dinosaur that visited Key Stage 1. Thank you to all of you who have supported our Rocket Funding bid so far. Thanks to your swift response with donations, we were fortunate enough to receive £500.00 from Rocket Fund themselves. This 'boost' alongside your generous donations has gone a long way to help us achieve our target. I very much enjoyed the video created by the Digital Leaders.

New Offices

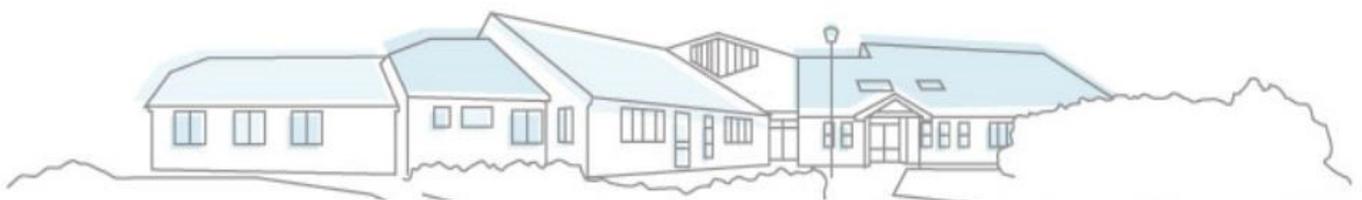
Some of you may be aware that I have moved my office to the centre of the school. Mr Blakely and I now both have offices that are in the centre of the school where the children can come and see us without going through a security door. My view has always been that the Head Teacher should be involved in the day-to-day life of the school, interacting with the children and free to see the Head Teacher about their good work etc. It is lovely just to see them walking by, saying hello and telling me little things that are important to them. I would also like to thank Mr Chescoe for having the talent to turn an old art store and kiln room into a beautiful new office.

Change

Schools, like any other organisations, see staff come and go. We are always sad to say goodbye to people but it also gives us the opportunity to welcome new talent to our staff. Over the last year we have welcomed Mrs Boulton, Mrs Carey, Miss McEvoy, Mrs Brennan, Mrs Vickery, Miss McCabe, Mrs Keag, Mrs Howard and Miss Hurst who have all settled in well and are making positive contributions to the education of our children. We will be welcoming Miss Brett back to school after her maternity leave. Last week, we said goodbye to Miss Curry, who has come to the end of her apprenticeship with us and as you already know, Mrs Webb will be leaving us in the summer term to have her baby. Another member of staff has decided to leave us and take up a new opportunity in a school nearer to her home. Mrs Irving, our SENCo, has been at Woodley C of E for 17 years and has decided that the time is right to move on to pastures new. We would like to thank Mrs Irving for everything she has done for the children of our school, especially those with special educational needs. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Irving good luck for the future. For the summer term, I will be the SENCo, supported by Mrs Hickmott, in an administration role. I have had much experience in this area, having taken on these responsibilities in 3 other schools in the past and work will transfer straight over to myself and Mrs Hickmott. I will be appointing a new SENCo from September 2018.

We are very fortunate to have some very long serving members of staff and we will be celebrating a significant achievement this week. Mrs Sue Bull, one of our cleaners has been with the school for 25 years this week and we will be holding a special assembly to mark this occasion. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Bull for all her hard work and dedication to the school. Nothing is too much trouble and she completes her work to the highest of standards.

Continued ...



Parking

Despite several reminders, some parents are still dropping children off in the school car park in the morning. Can I ask everybody to please consider the safety of the children. Our car park is very full in the mornings. We are extremely lucky to be able to use the Community Centre car park and the roads around the local area. Many schools are not as fortunate. Just to put a rumour to bed, my car parking space is not so big due to my poor parking. Mr Chescoe reliably informs me that it is a space and a half so if a member of staff ever gets a motor bike or moped, the half would be given to them! Having a parking space has made my life so much easier. As you may be aware, as Head Teacher I leave the site on many occasions to attend meetings and I can now park when I return.

I look forward to welcoming many of you to the school this term for the ukulele and recorder performance, parents' evenings, and the Lower Junior performance at the end of term.

Best wishes

Mrs Louisa Gurney

Head Teacher

Curriculum News

Foundation:

What another busy month we have had in foundation! The children have really enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year. We had discussions about how and why it is celebrated and made our own Chinese dragons and other art work. The children were fascinated by the Chinese New Year story and had lots of fun acting it out with their friends. We tried some Chinese food and the children were encouraged to say whether they liked or disliked it and why. When the weather took a turn for the worse we took full advantage of the learning opportunities that this presented. The children were excited by the tuff tray full of ice when they arrived at school one morning. We moved this interest forward by putting some animals and food colouring into the trays one afternoon before the children went home. They all predicted what they thought they were going to find the next morning. The children were amazed to find the animals trapped inside the ice! A big discussion was had about what had happened and how they were going to free the animals from the ice!

For the rest of the half term we will be focussing on the story of Jack and The Bean Stalk. We have started this week reading the story and acting it out for the children to gain a strong understanding of the story structure and key vocabulary. This week during adult led time the children have been given a challenge of making a Giant's castle using any resources they wish to use. They have had to design and make a list of the resources they need then make their castle. During this time we have seen the children demonstrate many of the characteristics of effective learning.

A highlight of last month was when a group of Japanese students came to visit our school. We have had these visits for the last 3 years and the children really gain a lot from them. All of the children in foundation had the opportunity to join in with Japanese songs and had a go at making some origami.

Thank you to all of the parents that continue to upload observations on to Tapestry, we really do enjoy seeing what your children are up to at home.

Rushall farm Trip 3/5/18 – we are very excited to be taking the children to Rushall Farm again this year. A letter will be sent out in due course. Reminder – please ensure that all items of clothing etc are clearly named so that any items found can be returned to the owner.

Thank you for your continued support, Mrs Emma Luzolo – EYFS Phase Leader



Curriculum News

Key Stage 1:

We have had a great start to our new topic 'Dinosaurs'. Last week, the children took part in a dinosaur workshop. First, the children met Chris who was our leader for the morning. He talked to the children about many different types of dinosaurs and explained how fossils are formed. The children got a chance to handle a fossilised dinosaur egg and dinosaur poo! Then he introduced us to a baby dinosaur called Jake. The children were invited up to stroke Jake and they learned some more facts about T-Rex dinosaurs. Last but not least, the children met Millie... a 10 foot tall T-Rex! We were so impressed with how brave everyone was - even Mrs Gurney had a photo with Millie! Chris explained that some T-Rex dinosaurs were the height of our PE hall which was surprising to all. Once Millie had gone, the three classes took part in a fossil workshop. There were all kinds of fossils: bones, horns, skulls, plants and fish. The children were really engaged and happy dusting off the fossils with brushes. Thank you to parents and carers for allowing the children to have this amazing experience. The children have written about their day and we are really pleased with the work they have produced. We believe that Real and Practical experiences are fundamental to good quality learning.



In history, we have been learning about Mary Anning: a famous fossil collector, dealer and palaeontologist. The children were interested to learn facts about Mary Anning's eventful and inspiring life. It has been lovely to see children using the fossil areas in our role play corners to act out Mary Anning's story. In art, we are learning about printing and repeating patterns. We will be learning about Andy Warhol and other types of prints. In ICT, the children are planning out their own dinosaur videos in small groups. They are creating news reports, stories and fact files which they will record using an iPad.

Mrs Emzy Blakely, KS1 Phase Leader

Lower Key Stage 2: (Years 3&4)

Despite only being back from half term for a few weeks, we have been very busy! We have started getting ready for our celebration of work, which will take place at the end of this half term. Look out for information about tickets!

On Friday 23rd February, we were given the amazing opportunity to visit Microsoft in Reading. We were taught how to use block editor to code micro bits. We had lots of fun programming secret messages; some of us even programmed a magic eight ball.

During break time, we went up to the games room, which was like paradise. We were able to play with lots of Gadgets and Gizmos. After this, we returned to work and learnt how to use Paint 3D. A big thank you to Scott Claydon who organised the trip [for free!] and taught our children [and adults] all about the wonders of technology.

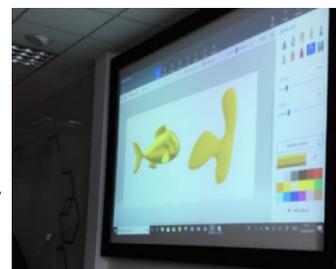
In maths, the children have been working on fractions; from ordering them to converting between improper and mixed number fractions. The children have worked hard and have had to demonstrate their 'Brave' learning when embarking on more challenging concepts.

This week, we have been performing poetry. We looked carefully at poets such as Michael Rosen to try and identify the skills we need to bring poems to life. The children look forward to sharing their poems with you at the end of term.

On Monday the 12th March, we will be having a DT day where the children will be building their own gadget or gizmo. We are grateful to everyone who has donated junk over the past few weeks.

The Lower Junior cake sale was an incredible success. Our fabulous PTA raised over £300 for us to spend on classroom resources, which will be used to benefit your child. Thank you to everyone who baked, bought cakes and to the PTA [especially Mrs Parker and Mrs Murray] who made the sale such a success.

Mrs Lucy Powell, Lower Junior Phase Leader



Curriculum News

Upper Key Stage 2: (Years 5&6)

A short but eventful month for the Upper Juniors, especially year 6s, with mock SATS starting the term. It was a good practice and everyone tried their best.

Our topic 'Extreme Earth' continues to inspire us and we are experts at explaining how earthquakes happen, why volcanoes erupt and how tornadoes develop. We are now looking at mountains and have investigated the different ways in which they are formed.

Creating a volcanic mountain with icing sugar was great fun!



In science we have looked at the effect exercise has on our hearts, in particular, the increase in beats per minute. Some pulses were difficult to find! We especially enjoyed investigating different recovery activities – laying down was popular.

In art we have studied and sketched animals that live in harsh, extreme conditions. We will now be making a clay model of these animals and creating a diorama of their habitat (using a shoe box).

Whilst the Year 6s are focusing on their SATS; developing skills and strategies to help them, year 5s have been looking at journalistic writing, using the devastating earthquake in Nepal as a stimulus. In maths, they have immersed themselves in fractions and are now more confident in equivalent fractions and a converting improper fractions to mixed numbers and vice versa.

Again, the Japanese students were welcomed visitors and we made some intricate origami birds and samurai helmets....with their guidance. Mrs Alison Shaman, UKS2 Phase Leader.



Sporting News

Another fantastic cross country event at Reddam School, at the end of February, where our children entered enthusiastically into all the races. It was good to see children who had not raced before taking part, and in such a lovely setting. Once again our upper junior girls led the field with Poppy Kirkby achieving 6th position and Molly Barnes 11th. It has been a great season for all of our runners and we hope to go on to achieve even more next year.

Four children took part in an Inter Schools Curling competition this week. We are very proud of the children as they had never played before and all improved over the course of the afternoon. They behaved impeccably and worked superbly well as a team. Woodley C of E came in third place, not quite enough to enter the next round but we are still proud of them for trying something new...Brave learning in action!

The Year 6 Girls football team were in action again on Wednesday 28th of February at Goals. The girls did exceptionally well considering we only have one girl who plays football outside of school. The girls played 4 games in total winning 1, drawing 2 and losing 1. Well played girls!!

Mrs Jane Poole, PE Co-ordinator



Reminders from the Office

Peak times 8.45-9.15 / 3.00-3.30

Unless urgent, please avoid phoning the office during peak times. To avoid queues during our busy periods please post any forms or office correspondence in the post box on the front door. This box will be emptied in the morning and at the end of the day.

General enquires:

To help reduce queues in the morning, you are more than welcome to email any questions or notices to admin@woodley-pri.wokingham.sch.uk

Parents Evening:

The online booking system is now open and will close on Friday 16th March. If you have lost your log-in details please email admin@woodley-pri.wokingham.sch.uk and we will reissue log-in details.

School Clubs:

Clubs finish week beginning Monday 12th March. Parents are welcome to come and watch clubs next week.

School Hours:

Please can we remind you that clubs start at 8am. Children are arriving very early in the morning. Also school finishes at 3.10 for KS1 and 3.15 for KS2. We have a large number of children waiting to be picked up each day.

PTA News

PTA News

Februarys Lower Junior cake sale was a big success , we raised a total of £327.99! This money will buy years 3 and 4 books, stationary and much more.

After having to cancel the school disco because of the weather warnings, we are looking to get a new date in asap and will communicate that as soon as we can.

We have Monday 30th April confirmed for the next Bags 2 School Clothing collection, so have a sort out and we will send bags home as soon as we have them.

The next cake sale will be on Wednesday 28th March and all money raised will be for the Upper Juniors this time.

We also donated £250 towards the VR Headsets that the school are currently trying to raise the funds to buy, this enabled the school to receive the £500 boost from Rocket Fund which is brilliant.

The next adult evening will be a Quiz night, date still to be confirmed.

Thank you to everyone for supporting the PTA in all of the events, we need you.

We are currently awaiting approval on future PTA Meeting dates, but will let you know as soon as we can.

You can email ideas to: woodleycofe.pta@googlemail.com.

Liz Sainsbury – PTA Chair, Taryn Parker – PTA Vice Chair, Gail Murray/Lindsey Claydon/Beverley Collett – PTA Secretaries, Rebecca Maddams – PTA Treasurer



Dates

March

Friday 9th - Music performance to parents - coffee from 8.50am

Sunday 11th March - WASMA Concert

Friday 16th March - Football match home to Keephatch - 3.15pm

Monday 19th - Parent Consultations 3.30-6.00pm

Thursday 22nd - Football match away to Radstock

Thursday 22nd - Parent Consultations 5.00-8.00pm

Monday 26th - LJ Performance - 6.00pm

Tuesday 27th - LJ Performance - 2.00pm

Wednesday 28th - UJ Cake Sale - 3.15pm

Wednesday 28th - Football match home to Oaklands Junior School

Wednesday 28th - LJ Performance - 6.00pm

Thursday 29th - term ends 2.30pm

Easter holidays Friday 30th March - Friday 13th April

April

Monday 16th April - INSET day school closed to pupils

School returns Tuesday 17th April 2018 normal time

Dates to be rescheduled due to school closure:

F2 Stay and Play afternoon

Disco - 27th April (tbc)

