

WOODLEY

C of E Primary School



Issue: 2

December

2018

Dear Parents,

OFSTED

We come to the end of another term of hard work for all the children and staff at Woodley C of E. We were all delighted to get the letter from OFSTED to confirm what we all already knew that Woodley C of E is a “good” school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody involved with the school for their hard work and dedication to ensure the best possible education for our children. Everybody plays their part when a school is working well.

Firstly, I would like to thank the staff. They work tirelessly to ensure that our children have the best possible opportunities that we can offer. You only have to read the pages that accompany every newsletter and the photographs that are on the website to see the rich experiences your children receive every day. We are an over-subscribed school, with waiting lists in some year groups and this is a testimony to the great work of all the staff.

Secondly, I would like to thank you, our parents for all the support you give the children. The new homework strategy has seen excellent work coming into school and the amount of reading the children are doing at home is truly astounding. I am sure you are all aware by now of my view that children thrive when home and school are working together. It was also great to see the positive feedback that you the parents gave to OFSTED, thank you.

Thirdly, I would like to thank the governing body of the school. They have been with me on this journey over the last two years and we have highlighted many areas for development to improve the education of the children. Their dedication to the school, as volunteers is really appreciated.

I would also like to thank all the parents who have been part of the PTA, now and over the last two years. We really appreciate all the fund raising events that provide resources for our children and I am delighted that the first phase of the hall development is now complete. Last, but not least, I have to thank our wonderful children. I am currently teaching in Year 6 for two mornings a week and it reminds me why I went into the profession many years ago. To see our children learn is the greatest gift of all. Woodley C of E is truly a special place and I know we will all continue to work hard together to ensure this continues!

Staffing Update

Schools are ever changing environments that have to meet new challenges every day. Staff sickness is a continual challenge and with the recruitment crisis in the area, finding good replacements is really hard. I would like to thank the parents of Maple and Oak classes as I know this has been an unsettled time for the children in these classes with teacher sickness. Can I assure you, we always try to do the best for the children to try to reduce the impact of when a teacher is not well. Sometimes we have to say goodbye to staff and unfortunately this is the case for Mrs Boulton this term. Mrs Boulton is looking for work outside of the profession as she would like to spend more quality time with her family. I would like to thank Mrs Boulton for all that she has done at Woodley C of E as a teacher, Lower Junior Phase Leader and Science Coordinator. Her talents will be greatly missed and I do hope that she returns to the profession one day.

Continued



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As you are aware, Mrs Poole has been unwell this term and she has decided to leave the school at Christmas. I would like to thank Mrs Poole for all that she has done for the many children that she has taught at Woodley C of E over the last 25 years and we wish her well for whatever she decides do in the future.

Staff leaving also creates new opportunities and we have been fortunate to recruit two new teachers to strengthen our team. Mrs Michelle Jay will be Lower Junior Phase Leader and Cedar class teacher. Mrs Jay has much experience of leading classes in the junior team and is looking forward to meeting the children. We also welcome Mr Adam Hall to our school. Mr Hall will also be part of the Lower Junior team and will be Maple class teacher. Mrs Jay and Mr Hall will both be in school all day on Monday 10th December to meet the children and talk to their current teachers. Both of the teachers are very keen to meet parents and will be available one evening after school for you to come in and introduce yourselves to them. I will let you have this date next term. I would also like to thank Mrs Blakely for doing such a great job in Maple this half term. Mrs Blakely will now be able to start her role as Inclusion Manager from January.

Core Values/Brave Learners

Many parents tell me how proud they are of the children when they see the values that we promote in school coming out in their children's everyday life. Our Core Values are very dear to us and this term we have been talking about Peace. Similarly, we want our children to be excellent learners and our focus this term has been about being Brave Learners and always being ready to learn. Talk to your children about these values. I am always keen to receive any feedback about how well we are doing at preparing children for life.

This is one of my favourite times of year. We have the Foundation Stage Tableau, the Key Stage One Nativity, Christmas dinner, the Junior Carol service, the music assembly and finally, our school carols around the Christmas tree to enjoy. I look forward to welcoming many of you into school to join in the festive season with us!

For those of you I do not see, I would like to wish you a happy and restful Christmas and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Thursday 3rd January.

Best wishes

Louisa Gurney
Head Teacher



Curriculum News

Foundation Stage:

This term we have learnt all about fireworks and why we celebrate bonfire night. The children made some fantastic mixed media firework pictures and used their phonic knowledge to write some firework words. The children have been really excited to learn all about Diwali. We have been creating rangoli patterns outside using the chalk and have made some diva lamps using clay. The children can't wait until the clay dries so that they can decorate them!

In phonics we have been learning a new sound each day and have been working really hard on improving our oral blending and segmenting. This skill is vital for when children are blending words for reading and segmenting words for spelling.

In maths we have been working hard on our number recognition and reliable counting strategies.

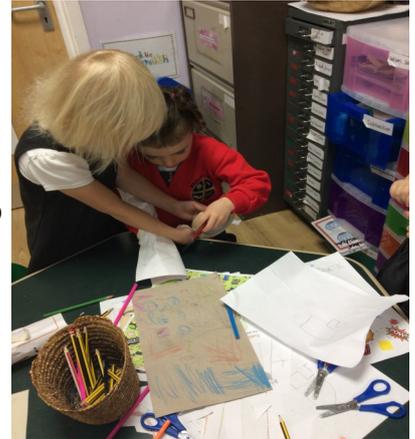
Reading - books are changed 2 times per week with 2 books going home each time. The day that your child's books get changed may be subject to change occasionally so please ensure that books are in book bags daily. Please also ensure that you sign your child's reading diary each time that you have heard your child read.

Parent helpers - we are looking for more parent helpers that can come in and listen to children read on a weekly basis. If this is something that you can commit to then please speak to a member of the foundation team.

Tapestry - thank you to all of the parents that are regularly contributing to their child's online learning journey, we really do love seeing all of the wonderful things that you have been doing at home. Please ensure that you are regularly logging on to your child's tapestry account as we update daily with the sound that your child has learnt in phonics that day. We also document your child's next step work on Tapestry as well as lots of other activities that we have been doing.

If you are experiencing any problems with using Tapestry then please do come and speak to a member of the team who will be more than happy to assist you.

The children have been practising hard for our Nativity Tableau and we look forward to performing to you on Thursday 13th December.



Thank you for your continued support,

Emma Luzolo – EYFS Phase Leader



Curriculum News

Key Stage 1:

This half term, our topic in KS1 has been, 'My Amazing Body'. The children have enjoyed learning the names for different parts of the body. We have been impressed with the vocabulary which some of the children are using including; organs, brain stem and nerves! We will be discussing healthy eating and the importance of maintaining a balanced diet. For Design and Technology this half term, we made fruit kebabs which the children thoroughly enjoyed planning and making.

In RE, we have been discussing the importance of gratitude. The children have enjoyed discussing special gifts which they have received. The children's answers ranged from 'My baby brother' and 'A special bracelet', to 'My XBOX!'. The children enjoyed exploring challenging questions for example, What is more important love or money? These questions required the children to think carefully about their answers and respond in a clear and well-thought out way.

In English, we are learning about non-fiction texts and are working towards writing our own. The children have enjoyed learning about how these types of texts are organised.

We have been blown away by the amazing homework that has been created this half term. The children have put an incredible amount of effort into their projects and are proud of what they have produced. Please remember that spelling/handwriting practise is part of the children's weekly homework which is handed out on Thursdays and returned to school on Tuesdays. Please continue to hear your child read and sign the homework diary, five times per week. If you have any questions or concerns regarding homework, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.



Finally, our Nativity is in full swing. We hope you enjoy watching your children, they have worked so hard bringing it all together.

Mrs Lucy Powell, KS1 Phase Leader



Curriculum News

Lower Key Stage 2: (Years 3&4)

We have had a very busy time since our last newsletter in the Lower Juniors. Firstly, we would like to commend all the children on their behaviour during our Ofsted visit. They should be incredibly proud of how well they showed their enthusiasm for learning. We were also impressed with how confidently and positively some of the children spoke to the Inspector about our school. Thank you and well done!

Our topic this term was 'Water' and our learning culminated in a trip to the River and Rowing Museum in Henley. Again, the children not only did us proud with their behaviour, but also impressed the museum staff with their intelligent questions. The children had the opportunity to discover the natural and man-made features of the River Thames through a workshop and sunny walk down the river to Marsh Lock, as well as time to explore the gallery and Wind in the Willows exhibition. Thanks to our parent helpers Mrs Humphries, Mrs Weeks and Mrs Littlefield for their help on the day.



In English, the children have been busy completing their stories based on Lila and the Secret of Rain, as well as challenging themselves to write engaging recounts of their visit to the museum. We were all very inspired by the amount of information they remembered from the trip.

In Maths, we have been focussing on arithmetic and the 'formal written method' for each of the four operations. We are impressed with how the children are beginning to take more responsibility for their learning, by moving themselves on to the next challenge without waiting for a teacher to instruct them to do so. There are some great 'Growth Mindset Thinkers' developing in the Lower Juniors!

Finally, a huge well done to all the children for their inspirational Home Learning efforts! We cannot believe how detailed the pyramids are, how carefully children have written in hieroglyphics and how much research has gone into our theme of Ancient Egyptians. It has been thoroughly enjoyable starting a topic with such enthusiastic children!

I would like to finish with a gentle reminder to keep signing your child's Home-School Diary to let us know when your child has read to you. We have also begun our spelling scheme so look out for your child's spellings on a Thursday.



Mrs Chrissy Boulton, LKS2 Phase Leader



Curriculum News

Upper Key Stage 2: (Years 5&6)

This term has been very busy, especially for Year 6. Our WW1 topic 'Powers and Poppies' continued to inspire us. We discussed how we can use different sources of evidence to deduce information about the past; looked at propaganda posters and had a go at making our own; learnt more about the features of a trench; considered the events surrounding the battle of the Somme – a poignant reminder of the bravery during the Great War; and we are planning to mark the centenary of the end of the war.

In ICT we researched the role animals played in WW1 and used comic life to show our facts.

In English, we focused on writing informative reports. One was on life in the trenches ...rats, lice and trench foot and a longer report on Animals in WW1- heroic dogs such as Sergeant Stubby proved a popular subject as well as horses, pigeons and even elephants. We will be writing our own moving war poems and reading some of the famous poems from WW1 this term.

In Music, we have learnt some patriotic and moral boosting songs and even had a go at marching to 'It's a long way to Tipperary' and 'Pack up your troubles' – definitely more practice needed.

Our Science investigations continue to focus on the properties of materials. We looked at soluble and insoluble materials and reversible and irreversible chemical changes. Our evaporation investigation proved very interesting and we are taking this further and making our own salt crystals.

Long division and multiplication have been the focus of Maths and many have now mastered these more challenging concepts.

Finally, Year 6 returned exhausted but full of happy, memorable experiences, from Little Canada. They were a credit to the school and literally had a go at everything. We hope you enjoyed looking at the photos and the children are now using power point to create a recount of their residential trip.

Mrs Alison Shaman, UKS2 Phase Leader.



Sporting News

WOW! It has been a very busy term for sport at Woodley C of E. Following our impressive performance at the year 3 & 4 football tournament we had our first cross country event at Cantley Park. The children were excellent and showed great determination to all finish the course. A big shout out to Molly Barnes (Yr 6) with a 2nd place finish and Sam Weeks (Yr4) with a 1st place finish.

This term also saw the return of a Woodley C of E netball team who played their first match at home against Shinfield St Marys. The team found it hard to get a grip of the match at the start but persevered and they are looking forward to the next few games.

The year 4 girls had their first ever football tournament at Crosfields School showing great passion and skill winning 1, drawing 2 and losing 2. The girls were also very lucky to meet Reading Womens centre back Sophie Howard and the Reading Womens mascot Queensly. Our year 5 & 6 football team have two matches so far against Highwood winning 5-0 and Winnersh drawing 1-1.

We are now part of the Bracknell Bees School programme so we receive a number of free and discounted tickets to Bracknell's school zone games. Children are also entitled to free learn to play lessons. For more information please contact headcoach@bihc.org.uk or gemma@plowright@gmail.com

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

Absence:

If you child is unwell please phone the school office and select option 1. Please make sure you phone and give a reason if you child is not in school. The Attendance Officer will make contact with anyone who has not phoned in to find out the reason why a child is not in school.

If your child arrives after the gates have shut please make sure you accompany them into the school office and sign them in. Even our older children need to be signed in by their parents.

Dogs:

A polite reminder that dogs are not allowed on the school site.

School Dinners:

All dinners should be ordered on line. If you are struggling to log-in please speak to a member of the office staff.

Parking:

Please can we remind you to park considerately in our neighbouring streets. Some of our residents are finding it very difficult to access their driveways.

Coats: As mentioned in our Friday Forecast please make sure children have warm coats in school.



Airfield Club

Opening Times: 7.45am - 8.40am / 3.15pm—6.00pm

If you would like to use the Airfield Club to help with childcare support please fill in a registration form and return to the school office. Please allow 48 hours for your confirmation letter. This letter will enable you to go online and book sessions and make payments. Please remember the “48 Hour Rule” - 48 hours to book and 48 hours to cancel. Any queries please email TheAirfieldClub@woodley-pri.wokingham.sch.uk

You will still be charged if you child is sick or unable to attend club unless you have given 48 hours notice.

A reminder to please not park in the car park when dropping or picking up children. It makes it very difficult for staff to park first thing in the morning if spaces are taken up by parents.

Forms and hand book can be found on our website www.woodleyceprimary.co.uk under the parent tab.



AUTUMN TERM 2018 - DATES

DECEMBER

Friday 7th – KS1 Nativity – 2.15pm
Monday 10th – KS1 Nativity – 6.30pm
Wednesday 12th – Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 12th – Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 13th - 8.50am coffee followed by music assembly at 9.00am
Thursday 13th – F2 Tableau performance to parents – 2.15pm
Monday 17th – KS2 Carol Service – St Johns Church – 9.00am
Wednesday 19th – School finishes 2.30pm

SPRING TERM 2019 - DATES

JANUARY

Thursday 3rd - School returns
Monday 14th - Clubs start
Friday 18th - Family Friday starts

FEBRUARY

Thursday 7th - Sign to Sing Charity Dress Down Day £1.00 donation
Friday 8th - PTA School Disco (tbc)
Monday 11th - KS2 SATS Information Evening - 6.30pm
Monday 18th - Friday 22nd - Half Term

MARCH

Friday 1st - F2 Stay and Play - 2.00pm
Thursday 7th - World Book Day - Dress up as your favourite character
Friday 15th - Charity Red Nose Day (details nearer the time)
Tuesday 19th - Lower Junior (Yr 3 & 4) Production - 6.30pm
Wednesday 20th - Lower Junior Production - 2.15pm
Thursday 21st - Lower Junior Production - 6.30pm
Monday 25th - Final weeks for clubs
Monday 25th - Parent Consultations 3.30-6.00pm
Thursday 28th - Parent Consultations 5.00-8.00pm

APRIL

Monday 1st - KS1 SATS Information Evening - 6.30pm
Friday 5th - Term ends school finishes at 2.30pm

