

Woodlands Weekly



Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe

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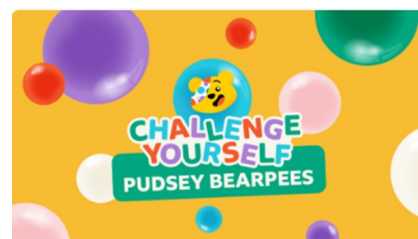
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10th November 2023

Newsletter No. 082

Welcome back! I have a few bits to share with you this week, alongside the usual highlights of pupils' learning.....

Next week is both Anti-bullying Week and Children in Need! The theme for the latter this year is to complete 3000 Bearpees as a school across the week. The children will be taking part as a warm up in one of their PE lessons and we will total up how many each class has completed and we will reveal the total in Celebration Assembly on the day. For a donation, children can wear own clothes and have the option of wearing spots as well.



Anti-Bullying Week 2023 takes place from Monday 13th – Friday 17th November with the theme 'Make A Noise About Bullying'. It is coordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, which is based at leading children's charity the National Children's Bureau. This Anti-Bullying Week, we urge adults and children alike to come together to have discussions about what we mean by bullying behaviour, how we can tell the difference between 'banter' and bullying and how we can make changes to reduce bullying. Together, we can make a difference if we make a noise to stop bullying.

Please find attached a letter from Mr Burns outlining our work with the children on Diversity and Culture. These are two key concepts that we call our 'Big Ideas' and feature in many elements of our curriculum. Please do take a read. Connected to this, Mrs Adams has been working on the overview for how we teach about LGBTQ+ issues at Woodlands. We will be holding a parent information meeting on 7th December at 6pm for any parents who would like to find out more.



You have hopefully signed up for a parent consultation slot in the coming weeks. The purpose of the meetings is to discuss how your child has settled into the new year, how relationships are developing and how they are getting on generally, including attendance. Parents will no longer be provided with written slips beforehand, as this doubles up on teacher time and the purpose of allocating the meeting time is to provide this information verbally. The second meetings will be held in March. These will be for the same purpose but will also be to share attainment information gained from tests/daily performance in key subjects. Again, this will be for discussion and not recorded. Our annual report to parents will then be written and given to parents at the end of the year, when parents have a further opportunity to meet the teacher either formally or informally. Remember, parents can request a meeting with a teacher any time one is required. Consultation slots will be 10 minutes so if there is a larger topic to discuss, please do this separately. We look forward to seeing you there!

I am enjoying seeing the children's learning and progress across the school. One aspect that has arisen as an outcome of the pandemic is that we are noticing that some of our KS2 children are less than confident when using scissors and have shaky pencil/pen control. It would be really helpful if parents could provide children with opportunities to draw, colour, write and cut at home to support this over the coming weeks. Basic skills like cutting along a drawn line and presenting work neatly are key to grasp before moving further in their educational journey. Any help would be much appreciated.



Mr Barker from the Kent, Fire and Rescue Service came to visit the school on Wednesday to talk about fire safety. He spoke about the scenarios they have attended, the equipment they use and what they need to wear to protect themselves from fires. He showed the children a fire alarm and said that a fire alarm should be checked weekly, every Friday before the weekend! He discussed when to phone 999 and to ask for the emergency service required.

Importantly for this time of the year, Mr Barker also talked about bonfire night and if your hair and clothes set on fire, remember to STOP, DROP and ROLL.

The children's comments from year one and two:

'I liked the big scissors' that cut the metal'

'I liked hearing the fire alarm go off'.

'The crane that saved the horse was the best!'

Year 1 had a visit from Pennard Vets and Widget the dog this week. The children asked lots of questions about how to care for a dog and found out lots of information, including that you should never feed a dog grapes or chocolate.



Year 2 have been potting their daffodils this week and are very excited to watch them grow.

Thank you to all those parents who have purchased the new royal blue hoodie for PE days. The children love them and they look so smart. A reminder that dark, plain sweatshirts and hoodies should be changed to these new ones when your child grows out of their current one or sooner. All children will need to be in a school hoodie by September 2024. No PE kit should include logos or printed words – that has not changed. Teachers will be speaking to parents of pupils where this is not quite right. Thanks in advance for addressing this.



Don't forget odd socks day on Monday for Anti-bullying week and I hope to see you on Saturday for our Fireworks display! Remember to buy any glow paraphernalia inside the event from the PTA and not from outside vendors who tend to park up nearby!! Money raised will be going towards more outside equipment for our pupils.

Vicki Lonie

Christmas Trees

Donation to Woodlands Primary School from Stonepitts Christmas Tree Farm, Seal Chart

As in previous years, Martin & Jackie would once again like to offer a £2.00 donation to your PTA for every Christmas tree bought by families and staff. If you would like to participate, it is important that you bring a copy of this News Letter with you. This will count towards the final donation to the school PTA. You may also be interested to know that Stonepitts will again be supporting Demelza Hospice Care for Children as their chosen Charity.

For details and directions to Stonepitts Farm please visit www.stonepitts.com



Thank you

A big Thank you to Sarah Maycock for gifting the library a copy of her new book. 'Love is...'



Sporting news

Yesterday, Woodlands hosted two teams from Southborough Primary School.

Woodlands City played first against a very competitive Southborough A team. The teams were evenly matched and thanks to a moment of brilliance from Noah L, who scored a superb individual goal, Woodlands City won the game 1-0.

The second match saw Southborough B team play Woodlands United. Once again, the match ended in 1-0 win. United played some fantastic football and the score could have been a lot more but the Southborough keeper made some excellent saves. Oli H was the scorer for Woodlands United. Thanks to all staff, parents and children who stayed to watch the matches.

Guitar lessons

Tom Williams is now taking names for pupils who would like to start guitar lessons in January! Acoustic/ Electric Rock/Pop years 1 and up, beginners very welcome! Contact Tom: tomwilliamsmusic@hotmail.com / 07736051082



Superstar Corner

Kenu, from Yr 5, has won the Christmas card competition run by our MP, Tom Tugendhat. Congratulations Kenu. Mr Tugendhat will be visiting the school in December to meet Kenu and his class!

Eco News

Autumn is well and truly here. Here are some autumn challenges to enjoy out in nature or to help nature.

Andy Goldsworthy is a British sculptor and photographer who creates on-site sculptures and land art using natural materials. He then photographs his work creating a permanent record of impermanent work. Be inspired by his work and create your autumnal masterpiece. Go for a walk and collect materials such as leaves, sticks, branches, rocks, sand, dirt, moss, pinecones, feathers and flower petals.

Select an outdoor/natural site to organize/build your sculpture using found, natural materials.

Photograph it and send it to Mrs Brown

tbrown@woodland.kent.sch.uk



OR

Go on a walk through a woodland and have a scavenger hunt e.g.

Autumn Scavenger Hunt

Find:

- something that makes a noise;
- something bigger than your hand;
- evidence of wildlife;
- two different types of leaf;
- something rough;
- a sign of autumn.

OR

Create or enlarge a bird feeding station in your garden. <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/01/how-to-make-a-bird-feeder/>

PTA

Secret Presents

Payment for Secret Presents is now open on ParentMail for Reception, Yr 1 and Yr 2 children. Please don't forget to pay for any gifts your children would like to buy by Friday 17th November, so we can get everything organised before the shopping day on Friday 24th November.



KS2 children can bring in money to buy their gifts on Friday 24th.

For parents who are new to the school, Secret Presents is a PTA event, and is a chance for your children to buy gifts for family members, bringing them home in paper bags to keep them a surprise until the big day!

For KS1, gifts must be paid for in advance on ParentMail at £1.50 each. Please write the recipients of the gifts in your child's planner (eg. Presents for Mum, Dad, Grandad and dog Ralph) so your children can write gift labels in advance of the shopping day.

Reminders

If there is a change in who is going to be collecting your child at the end of the day, please try and give us plenty of notice.

Anti bullying week

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Open Morning

Do you have a child that will be starting school in September 2024?

Please come along to one of our **open morning on 13th November between 9.30 and 11am**. Mrs Lonie will be giving a talk at 9.30am, followed by a tour of the school with our Year 6 children.

Joke of the week

Why do you not give Elsa a balloon?

Because she will let it go!!

Dan M, 3 Birch



School Lettings

Woodlands school are now able to offer lettings of the Oak Hall, Muga and Field.

Letting charges evening (up to 5pm) / weekend users

Hall £20 per hour + £30 unlock and lock

Muga £35 per hour + £30 unlock and lock

Field £50 per hour + £30 unlock and lock

Please contact the school business manager for bookings on SBM@woodlands.kent.sch.uk

Letters Home

- E - Scooters poster
- National Sleep helpline
- PTA Newsletter
- Parents guide to online safety
- Big ideas—Diversity & Culture—Launch

Lost property

The Acorn office have the following items ready to be reunited with their owners:

- Brown tortoiseshell glasses
- Blue and gold marble pencil case
- Red heart key ring
- X 2 keys

Diary Dates



2023/2024

11th Nov	Fireworks, opens at 4.30, Fireworks at 6pm
13th Nov	Odd Socks Day
14th Nov	Flu Vaccinations
17th Nov	BBC Children in Need
21st Nov	Year 5 Flu vaccinations
22nd Nov	Individual school photos
23rd Nov	Sibling Photos
24th Nov	Secret Presents
7th Dec	Reception Christmas performance 9.30am
08 Dec	Reception Christmas performance 2.15
8th Dec	Year 3 Carol Concert (Methodist Church) 9.30am
9th Dec	Christmas Fair
11th Dec	Year 1 Christmas performance 2.15pm
12th Dec	Year 1 Christmas performance 9.30am
13th Dec	Christmas Dinner
14th Dec	Year 2 Christmas performance PM
15th Dec	Year 2 Christmas performance 9.30am
26th Jan	EYFS/KS1 disco's
02nd Feb	KS2 Disco's
08th Mar	Family Bingo
1st Jul—5th Jul	Year 6 Residential

Term Dates

2023/2024

1 Sep	Term 1 Starts
20 Oct	Term 1 Ends
06 Nov	Term 2 Starts
15 Dec	Term 2 Ends
02 Jan	Term 3 Starts
09 Feb	Term 3 Ends
19 Feb	Term 4 Starts
28 Mar	Term 4 Ends
15 Apr	Term 5 Starts
24 May	Term 5 Ends
03 Jun	Term 6 Starts
23 Jul	Term 6 Ends