

Woodlands Weekly



Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe

office@woodlands.kent.sch.uk

www.woodlands.kent.sch.uk

5th January 2024

Newsletter No. 142

Happy new year!! Welcome back, one and all. We hope you had a joyful Christmas and special time as a family.

I always find school holidays a great time to reflect on how we are doing as a school and what the next steps are. We have such a great team here at Woodlands and they have been working incredibly hard since I joined the team on improving teaching and learning and the curriculum. As a headteacher, I have regular contact with headteachers across Kent, and I'm always very proud of what we have achieved and how forward-thinking we are here as a school.

Education is, of course, our driving force. Mr Burns has been overseeing the development of our curriculum for some time now – this can be explored on the website – and we really have come far. Our curriculum spans not only the national curriculum, but also personal and social development and many more aspects of child development. Mrs Tarrant-Blick and Mrs Adams lead on much of this latter aspect, but are supported by an incredibly caring, driven team who want the best for all of our pupils.

Staff training is a real strength and we have a fantastic team of teachers and support staff who are enthusiastic and open to new ideas. Staff engage in research regularly to inform good practice. What Mrs Duffin (English) and Mrs Cameron (maths) don't know about their subjects isn't worth knowing!

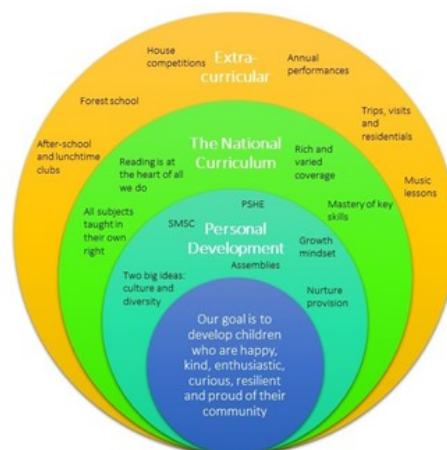
Without the dedication and hard work of teachers and teaching assistants, we would achieve nothing. I'm aware, however, that Senior Leaders often get missed from my public thank yous – so I just wanted to say what a pleasure it is to work with them and what a difference they make to our children's lives.

We are about to embark on training on the Voice 21 programme – how to improve aspects of language for all pupils. Mrs Duffin will let you know how it is going soon but this will help to improve verbal and written communication, writing skills and will also support social skills.

We continue to work on our behaviour curriculum and policy to tweak and adapt to changing research, knowledge and experiences and attendance continues to be a focus across the school. (See information later in the newsletter)

Training in English, maths and pedagogy (teaching methods) continues indefinitely, while leaders of non-core subjects work away to develop staff expertise and apply latest thinking in education.

Plenty to be working on!



We are now in the second year of a two-year programme of working towards gaining the National Nurturing Schools Award. The award is evidence of a school's success in implementing and embedding a nurturing culture that responds to the social, emotional and mental health needs of its pupils, alongside their academic studies.

Within this are 6 principles that we would like to share with you:

- Children's learning is understood developmentally
- The classroom offers a safe base
- Nurture is important in the development of wellbeing
- Language is understood as a vital means of communication
- All behaviour is communication
- Transitions are significant in the lives of children

If you feel you would like to support us with examples of how you feel we are meeting these principles, please get in touch with Mrs Tarrant-Blick or Mrs Stone.

Times are challenging in many ways, so we continue to work with pupils, parents and staff on behaviour and wellbeing. We are developing our use of 'Zones of Regulation' across the school which support all children to identify emotions and find strategies to regulate them. We will be holding a parent information meeting at the following times:

08/02/2024—9am—Acorn Hall

08/02/2024—7pm—Zoom Meeting

The postponed LGBT information meeting will be held next term, once the new DfE guidance has been agreed.

Children have been straight back into learning and I'll give you a snap-shot of this next week.

Have a great (and hopefully dry) weekend.

Vicki Lonie

Job vacancies

[Teaching Assistant \(32.5\)Teaching/Child Support at Woodlands Primary School, TONBRIDGE \(kent-teach.com\)](#)

Letters Home

- Synergy Martial Arts and Fitness
- Discover sailing

Joke of the week

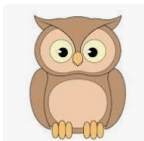
What is a wind turbines favourite music?

Answer: Heavy metal!

Gamya, 4 Walnut

Year 2

This week Year 2 came back to their classrooms to find it in darkness with hooting owl noises. The children went outside to investigate where the noises were coming from. They found Plop, a small baby owl, hiding in the forest. Everyone was very excited to hear Plops story.



Guitar lessons

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



Star of the week

Izabela from 6 Ash participated in Edelweiss international music competition in Vienna at the beginning of December.

She won 3rd place in the piano solo performance category.

She also won 3rd place in the chamber music categories as a clarinet performer.

Well done Izabela, we are very proud of your hard work and achievements.



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

Class Assemblies

30th Jan 5 Rowan (2.45pm)
31st Jan 5 Sycamore (2.45pm)
1st Feb 5 Hornbeam (2.45pm)

19th March 3 Whitebeam (2.45pm)
20th March 3 Elder (2.45pm)
21st March 3 Birch (2.45pm)

11th June 4 Walnut (2.45pm)
12th June 4 Chestnut (2.45pm)
13th June 4 Hazel (2.45pm)

Term Dates

2023/2024

Term 1: 01/09/2023—20/10/2023
Term 2: 06/11/2023—15/12/2023
Term 3: 02/01/2024—09/02/2024
Term 4: 19/02/2024—28/03/2024
Term 5: 15/04/2024—24/05/2024
Term 6: 03/06/2024—23/07/2024

2024/2025

Term 1: 02/09/2024 - 25/10/2024
Term 2: 11/11/2024 - 20/12/2024
Term 3: 06/01/2025 - 14/02/2025
Term 4: 24/02/2025 – 04/04/2025
Term 5: 22/04/2025 – 23/05/2025
Term 6: 02/06/2025 – 22/07/2025

Attendance

Good attendance means...
being in school at least 95% of the time or 180 to 190 days



Diary Dates



2023/2024

15th Jan Year 5 Young Voices
24th Jan Year 5 Greek Day
26th Jan EYFS/KS1 disco's
02nd Feb KS2 Disco's
08th Feb [Zones of regulation meeting, Acorn Hall 9am](#)
08th Feb [Zones of regulation Zoom, 7pm](#)
01st Mar Year 1 Tonbridge Castle Visit
04th Mar Year 1 Tonbridge Castle Visit
08th Mar Family Bingo
27th Mar Year 4 Musical showcase, 2.15 - 2.45pm
1st Jul—5th Jul Year 6 Residential

New dates/times in blue