

# Woodlands Weekly



**Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe**

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[www.woodlands.kent.sch.uk](http://www.woodlands.kent.sch.uk)

**11th October 2024**

**Newsletter No. 06**

This week kicked off with our harvest festival led by Reverend Kirsty at the Methodist Church for KS1. Fantastic singing by our young pupils! Reverend Kirsty and her parishioner then visited the school in the afternoon to share a harvest story with KS2. Thank you to all the families who were able to provide food for the FEAST foodbank. We know it is a crucial resource for many of our local families – now more than ever.



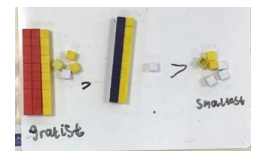
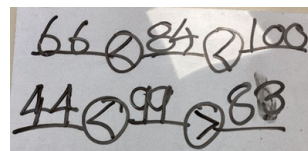
Some great examples of how varied our curriculum is below:

In 'understanding of the world', the children were learning about the postal service. The children walked to the post office to post a parcel with a jam sandwich in it! They are going to investigate the changes over time and discuss our observations. The children also posted a letter home and are waiting for their letters to arrive soon.



In science recently, Year 1 has been identifying leaves. Once the leaves were foraged from the woodland areas, the children had a go at some leaf rubbings. They used an ID sheet to help them identify which trees we have on our school grounds.

Year 2 has been ordering numbers in maths. The children made numbers using dienes cubes and then compared the tens and ones. Then they identified if a number was less than, equal to or greater than another two-digit number. Following this, the children were able to compare three two-digit numbers and use the correct symbols between them.

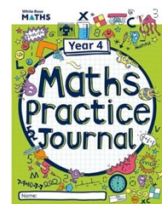


Year 3 has been exploring Haiku poems this week. They've learnt that Haikus follow a 5-7-5 syllable pattern and are based on themes from nature. The children have really enjoyed creating their own poems and are excited to share their work. Here are two lovely examples from Elder Class:

1. *Autumn hits the earth. Squirrels are digging the ground. The breeze gently lifts.* By Matilda
2. *The snow is falling. Kingfisher perched on a branch. The air is misty.* By Freya

We're so proud of their creativity and hard work!

Year 4 has been working on writing a suspense story this week. The children have been focussing on specific skills to build up the anticipation as the story progresses e.g. short, sharp sentences, rhetorical questions and similes. They have been practising all of these techniques to write their own original story next week. In other news, they have been working on their indoor gymnastics through throwing and jumping exercises, as well as experimenting with sound in Science. There will be a new Maths Practice Journal coming home on Friday to help with homework. There is guidance coming out with the homework book as well.



This week, Year 5 has been investigating who built the pyramids of ancient Egypt. By the end of the lesson, evidence suggested they were built mainly by farmers during times of the year when crops were not present.



It's been a busy week in Year 6, with the majority of pupils participating in Bikeability. Some had sunshine, some had rain, but all had a great time learning the rules of the road.

Back in class, the children have been learning about the Battle of Britain and deepening their knowledge of poetry, exploring ottava rimas (a type of poem of Italian origin), written by Kit Weston. If you don't know who Kit Weston is, ask your children!

We were visited by the Local Authority this week for a routine meeting to share how the school and our pupils are getting on. The advisor was very happy with what he saw – happy, well-behaved children engaged with learning. Our youngest pupils in reception were particularly loving life!

Schools are having their challenges in recent years through changes in society, increases in SEND and changes to funding. We are very proud that we have worked through many of these and have clear policies and procedures to support us moving forward with those that are in our control. I will be holding two parent/carer information meetings next term to explain the changing face of SEND and how it affects those with and those without SEND. I will be busting myths around SEND and sharing the recent plans from the local authority in terms of funding and provision. I urge you to come along to find out more. I will send out a parentmail next week with dates and more information.

One of the reasons I am so proud of what we have achieved in the last few years is the hard work and dedication of our staff. We have had a huge focus on teaching and as a result the quality of teaching is much higher than previously. Staff are keen to learn and improve and hold firm a belief that we can always be better. We learn to be so through research, observation, professional dialogue and practice. I know many parents demonstrate their appreciation for this in different ways – through emails, verbal comments, etc. but I am providing a link to the Teacher of the Year competition, in case anyone would like to nominate a member of staff. It is not limited to teachers – it can be members of leadership, teaching assistants, office staff – anyone who is part of our team.



<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/news-and-events/news/primary/Kent-Teacher-of-the-Year-2025>

Vicki Lonie

## Christmas card competition

Our local MP Tom Tugendhat is once again holding his annual Christmas card competition.

- Drawings must be on A4 (portrait or landscape).
- Please ask children to stick to a Christmas theme and sign their name on the front, so it will appear on the card.
- The winning 4 designs will receive 100 blank copies of their own card, a special prize and an invite to meet Tom and have a tour of the Houses of Parliament with their parents.
- The deadline for entries is Friday 25th October.
- Please post entries to: Tom Tugendhat MP, 130 Vale Road, Tonbridge TN9 1SP. DO NOT bring them to school.

## Arbor

Please remember to sign in and register on the app.

All communication will now be sent via Arbor.

Payments (for now) will remain on ParentMail.

## French Club

Would you like your child to start learning French while it's still instinctive and lots of fun?



Pupils are invited to join a lovely, friendly group to learn French through games, songs and other fun activities. Sessions are held from 3:20-4pm on Tuesdays.

For more info and prices please contact [CCK112@hotmail.com](mailto:CCK112@hotmail.com) or 07884 255749.

Please state your child's year group (everyone welcome) and that you are enquiring about French Club at Woodlands.

[www.facebook.com/frenchclubtonbridge](https://www.facebook.com/frenchclubtonbridge)

[www.instagram.com/frenchclubtonbridge](https://www.instagram.com/frenchclubtonbridge)

## Letters Home

- Special half term discount for JAG

## Superstar Corner



A big congratulations to Mr Taylor on winning 3 trophies at his cricket end of season awards dinner:

- Player of the season
- Bowler of the season
- Club person of the season.

## Reminders

- When reporting your child's absence, please ensure you are descriptive with the reason. Stating your child is poorly or ill, is not enough information.
- The school gates are closed promptly at 8.50am every morning by Mr Revell, please make sure you have delivered your child/ren to their classroom/s and vacated the school site by this time.
- Please be mindful when smoking in the school vicinity.

## 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](mailto:SBM@woodlands.kent.sch.uk)

## Piano Lessons

Would you like your child to have piano lessons?

Mrs Jones has space for one or two more pupils from KS2. Lessons (usually 20 minutes) take place on Fridays and are arranged through Kent Music.

Pupils will need a piano or keyboard to practise on at home. Please go to the Kent Music website for all the details.

## Sporting events

Another school year means more sporting events for Woodlands Primary School. With an ever growing number of sports for the children to participate in, the school are looking to continue to build on the success we have had in the past two years.

A few Y3&4 pupils had a lovely Wednesday afternoon with Miss Husband at the Tonbridge Juddians Tag Rugby Festival. All the children threw themselves into the games and activities and were a credit to the school. Tonbridge Juddians are always happy for new children to try out at the club, please contact them on

[RugbyTJs1516@gmail.com](mailto:RugbyTJs1516@gmail.com).



On Friday, Woodlands took part in a foot golf tournament at Tonbridge Golf Centre and were looking to defend their title from last year. Mrs Stanley said that the children worked incredibly well as a team. The highlight was Connor W scoring a 2 on one of the holes. With a score of 304, Woodlands, once again, won the competition. Congratulations to all the children who took part.



## Woodwind Lessons

If your child is interested in learning a woodwind instrument, please contact Nicky Catterwell on [n.catterwell@hotmail.com](mailto:n.catterwell@hotmail.com) or 07713 164930.

For more information, please visit her website [www.nickycatterell-flautist.co.uk](http://www.nickycatterell-flautist.co.uk)

## Job Vacancies

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

## Term Dates

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

## Diary Dates

2024/2025

15th Oct	Author visit and Book Fair
16th Oct	Year 1 Bedgebury Trip
26th Oct	Fireworks Night
12th Nov	5 Rowan Bewl Water
13th Nov	5 Hornbeam Bewl Water
14th Nov	5 Sycamore Bewl Water
14th Nov	Evacuee day at the Church
15th Nov	Christmas Fair donations – info to follow
15th Nov	Children in Need
18th Nov	Reception 2025 Open Morning 9.30—11am
22nd Nov	Christmas Fair donations – info to follow
23rd Nov	Christmas Fair
06th Dec	Secret Presents
10th Dec	Year R Christmas performance, 2.15pm
11th Dec	Year R Christmas performance, 9.30am
13th Dec	Year 6 WWII song for concert to parents - Oak Hall
13th Dec	Yr 3 Carols at the Methodist Church, time TBC
16th Dec	Year 1 Christmas performance, 2pm
17th Dec	Year 1 Christmas performance, 9.30am
19th Dec	Year 2 Christmas performance, 2.15pm
20th Dec	Year 2 Christmas performance, 9.30am

[New dates/times in blue](#)

\* By appointment only. Please book directly with the class teacher.