

Woodlands Weekly



Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe

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www.woodlands.kent.sch.uk

23rd May 2025

Newsletter No. 31

In KS2 assembly, we launched our new playtime shed, with new activities for lunchtimes – giant chess and Connect 4, construction, Top Trumps and much more. We will add to this in the coming months in the form of our construction shed....watch this space. KS1 pupils were already provided with new equipment a few weeks ago. Can the children uphold our core value of CARE, by looking after it and returning it safely? Time will tell!

Last week, Year R children went on their first ever school trip to Chatham Dockyard. This was part of their termly topic 'Life in the Ocean'. They enjoyed exploring a war ship, a pirate ship and various lifeboats as different modes of transport on the water. The staff in Year R would like to thank the parent helpers who accompanied them to make the trip possible.



This week in Year R it has been equally exciting. The children had a visit from marine biologist, David, who taught them about ocean pollution. Children enjoyed hearing about different marine life and how litter in the oceans can affect them. They particularly enjoyed the practical activity of removing the pollution from the ocean. Thank you to David for visiting and making the learning so fun!

The Year 1 team are so impressed with their cohort. Since January, they have had a huge push on independence within the year group. The children are showing improved independence by carrying their own belongings to and from school, taking care of their own belongings, finding their own lost equipment/clothing, having a go themselves first before asking for help and even telling their staff members the chores they've helped out with at home. Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting our Icons of Independence initiative – hopefully you've seen a big difference too! Let's keep it up, Year 1!

Year 2 was super lucky this week to have a visit from a Marine Conservationist. David spends his time between Antarctica in the winter and Greenland in the summer, spotting and counting dolphins and whales. The children were interested to hear about David's job and see photographs and video that he has taken. Some of the images were more upsetting than exciting. One picture of plastic bottles and rubbish, taken at the beach at Hastings, made children feel sad. Next term they will be creating some persuasive writing to explain to people why it's important to keep our beaches clean.



Year 3 children have been learning about pollination in science this week. For our final lesson of the term, we re-enacted how pollination works for flowers. Here, you can see Olivia and Dimitri holding the precious pollen, whereas Lucy, Archie and Lucas B are the petals attracting the very important bee. They have learnt that in the UK we only have a quarter of the bees we need to pollinate all our crops! They would like to ask you to plant some wildflowers in your garden to help attract more bees.

This week, children in Year 5 had the opportunity to use SketchUp to create a virtual sculpture using a variety of materials. The use of a CAD (computer-aided design) helped pupils to build 3D models that could be placed into a virtual art gallery.



Year 6 were a rainbow of colour in the first rehearsal for our end of year production. The children looked fantastic in their hoodies. Auditions took place on Monday and Tuesday and parts were allocated on Wednesday. The children were so supportive of each other during the auditions; we felt very proud of them. This is always such a difficult task for the teachers. This year we discovered a wealth of beautiful singing voices that we had no idea about. This has meant it is back to the drawing boards for the staff as we are now writing new parts into the script and including more opportunities for some soloists.



Our working party, consisting of leaders, parents and a governor, for Smartphone Free Childhood met again this week. You will be hearing from us soon about why we feel that smartphones are extremely damaging to our young children, if provided too early, and what we will do to address this in months and years to come. The more we research into this, the more concerned we become so do look out for our communication on this after half-term.



Look at the Smartphone Free website to find out more.

Have a super spring break. See you on the other side.

Best wishes,

Vicki Lonie

Race for life

Cancer is happening right now, which is why Frankie from 4 Chestnut is taking part in a Race for Life 5k to raise money and save lives.

If you would like to sponsor her, please do so using the following link:

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/frankies-race-for-life-6017>

Office opening hours

After half term the School office opening hours will be 8.30am - 4.15pm.

As always you will still be able to leave messages on the answer phone and can email the office on office@woodlands.kent.sch.uk

Guitar lessons

Spaces available to start guitar with Tom Williams in September! Acoustic/Electric Rock/Pop all abilities welcome. Y2+ 30min lessons. Contact Tom directly [07736051082](tel:07736051082)/tomwilliamsmusic@hotmail.com



Woodlands Summer Fair and Circus - Saturday 7th June 12-4pm



Circus tickets are on sale now!

Performances at 1:00pm and 2:30pm

Tickets are £8 per adult and £6 per child (aged 3 and over)

Children aged 2 and under can sit on laps for free.

Go to the School Shop section of Arbor to buy your tickets.

Tickets will also be on sale from the school office (card payment or exact change please) from Thursday 22 May for anyone without access to Arbor - so let your friends and family know!

We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Woodlands PTA

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

2025/2026

Term 1: 01/09/2025 - 17/10/2025

Term 2: 03/11/2025 - 19/12/2025

Term 3: 05/01/2026—13/02/2026

Term 4: 23/02/2026 - 02/04/2026

Term 5: 20/04/2026 - 22/05/2026

Term 6: 01/06/2026 - 21/07/2026

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

Diary Dates



2024/2025

02nd May	Class Photos
04th Jun	Year 6, Safety in Action
04th Jun	New Year R information evening
07th Jun	Summer Fair and Circus, 12 - 4pm
11th Jun	Father's Day biscuit sale after school
13th Jun	KS2 Disco
16th Jun	Year 2 Hastings Trip
18th Jun	Year 1 Castle Day in School
23rd Jun	Year 6 Residential, Barton Hall
- 27 Jun	
27th Jun	Year R and KS1 disco
30th Jun	Sports Day
01st Jul	Eco Council and School Council I- Houses of parliament visit
03rd Jul	Mid summer read, 5.30—6.30pm
10th Jul	Open Evening, 5-7pm
14th Jul	Sports day back up
18th Jul	KS2 Colour run
21st Jul	Year 6 Leavers' party
07 Sep	Dragon Boat Race
26th Sep	PTA Quiz and AGM
15th Nov	Fireworks

[New dates/times in blue](#)