

Woodlands Weekly



Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe

office@woodlands.kent.sch.uk

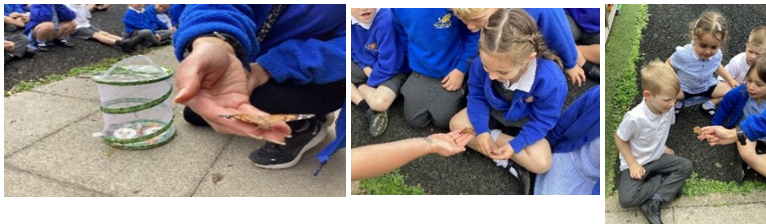
www.woodlands.kent.sch.uk

13th June 2025

Newsletter No. 33

At the end of last week, Woodlands hosted a meeting with our MP, Tom Tugendhat, and a group of parents from a range of Tonbridge primary schools to discuss the Smartphone Free Childhood movement. We will continue working with parents and local schools on this important issue, so please keep an eye out for further announcements. The Smartphone Free Childhood [website](#) has been updated in the past week with more vital information and evidence for parents - it's well worth a visit. We'll also be hosting a Smartphone Free Childhood stand at our Open Evening on Thursday 10th July (5pm-7pm) – please do come along to find out more and have a chat.

This week, our assemblies focused on our core value of Community – particularly the idea of looking for ways to make a positive difference every day. In KS1, we read *The Invisible* by Tom Percival, a beautiful story that encouraged us all to notice and support those around us.



In **Reception**, there was great excitement as the children watched their caterpillars complete their transformation into butterflies. Releasing them into the fresh air was a magical moment and the children loved examining the empty chrysalises.

Year 1 are having a great time in their PE lessons this term as they develop the skills to play tennis. They've been practising bouncing the ball onto the strings of their rackets, learning how to hold the racket properly and are now beginning to learn how to hit the ball. Wimbledon, here we come!



Year 2 enjoyed an exciting djembe drumming workshop this week! The children learned how to hold and play traditional African drums, creating rhythmic patterns and joining in with call-and-response activities. By the end of the session, it wasn't just their hands that were sore – our ears were too!

In **Year 3**, children have been learning about light and discussing whether different objects are light sources or reflectors. A highlight of the week was when they experimented in a dark cupboard to see which objects they could still see with no, little or lots of light. Why not try it at home – can you find objects that reflect light or produce their own?





Year 4 have been getting their teeth into a new writing unit on balanced arguments. They've been debating whether an 11-year-old girl should be allowed to travel to the Arctic with her father. Using their experiences from a 'hook day' and follow-up research, they are now writing arguments that present both sides, leaving it to the reader to decide. This is linked to the wonderful book, 'The Last Bear' by Hannah Gold.

They also wrapped up their 'Mountains' topic with a creative session designing a climber and their essential equipment – drawing on all their learning about mountain environments.



Year 5 have begun their new Art topic – Brazilian Art. Children carefully traced their hands and split them into sections, filling each one with different vibrant patterns inspired by Brazilian street art. The result? A mesmerising, colourful collage full of bold and striking contrasts.



In **Year 6**, the children have been reading 'The Final Year' by Matt Goodfellow – a moving book written in verse that explores change, growing up and the power of words. The children have loved making connections with Skellig (which they read earlier in the year), and some may want to read the sequel The First Year as they prepare to move on to Year 7.



Finally, a reminder that a message about Sports Day went out earlier this week. Please check your inboxes or contact the school office if you missed it – we don't want anyone to miss out on this fantastic event.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend,

Best wishes,
Mr Burns

Jam Jars

Congratulations to 4 Hazel who collected the most jam jars for the summer fair (over 110!!).



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



Staff News

Congratulations to Mr Taylor and Miss Collins on the safe arrival of their baby daughter Otilie.



Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council has today opened a six-week consultation, as part of a Community Governance Review, into whether Tonbridge should have a Town Council. The consultation runs until 5pm on Monday 14 July 2025.

We have an on-line [response form](#) on our website alongside [dedicated pages](#) providing background information and Q&As.

Woodlands DT project

A Woodlands DT project is underway and we are building new Reading Benches to go outside of classrooms. We are looking for donations of unwanted wood, hopefully pallets, tree trunk sections or scrap wood with a minimum of 20cm width. It can be collected if necessary.

Also, if any pupil wants to help build the benches using their DT skills, Mr Cook will need some volunteers to help design, sand, construct and paint the benches. This will take place at Gardening club after school on Thursday and is open to all year groups. Please email him if you would like to help at dcook@woodlands.kent.sch.uk.

PTA

Woodlands PTA would like to thank all the staff and volunteers who helped make Saturday's Summer Fair and Circus such an amazing event - we couldn't have done it without you!

We also give thanks to all of you who came along to enjoy the day, helped make the day such a success and raised much needed funds for our school. We're still counting, but so far we've raised £3,000!

A reminder too that raffle tickets are on sale until Thursday 10 July, use the QR code to get your tickets. Thanks for all your support.



Summer Soccer Schools

Thurs 24th / Friday 25th July
Wednesday 30th / Thursday 31st July
9am - 3pm 4yrs - 13yrs

To book please contact Lee on
07837996183

Hugh Christie School
3G Pitch
Tonbridge
Kent
TN10 4PU

£22 Per day
£40 two days
£75 four days

Summer Reading Challenge

The Kent reading challenge runs from Saturday 5th July to Saturday 6th September. It is free to sign up at the library or online ([Summer Reading Challenge](#)) and is open to children ages 4 to 11. This year's theme is *Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors*. This exciting new theme will inspire children explore the magical connection between storytelling and nature.

Summer Reading Challenge:

- Significantly **improves reading confidence** and independence
- Ensures pupils are **ready for their autumn return**, preventing the summer reading 'dip'
- Aids the **successful transition** between year groups and key stages
- Contributes to all pupils' **achievement** and encourages **extra-curricular activity**
- Develops links between your school, the library and the **wider community**

How it works:

- Children sign up at their local library for free, where they will receive a special sticker booklet
- They work towards a summer reading goal, choosing from thousands of free books, eBooks, audiobooks and more, all free to borrow from Kent libraries
- They receive a special sticker booklet and collect rewards for reading, all for free.
- Children who complete the challenge are presented with a certificate and a medal..



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

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](#)