

Woodlands Weekly



Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe

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19th June 2026

Newsletter No. 34

I'm feeling very proud this week - very much 'in the green zone' in our Zones of Regulation! We had a visit from three external moderators and they were extremely impressed with our Year 6 writing. Our data isn't ready to release yet but we are feeling pretty pleased! We also received our note of visit from our School Improvement Advisor, who reported:

'A targeted focus on writing this year has led to clear and measurable improvements in pupils' acquisition of transcriptional skills, including spelling, handwriting, and sentence construction. This sustained emphasis has strengthened pupils' confidence and accuracy, laying firm foundations for further development, especially in KS1.'

'This rich diet of writing is evident across the school and is contributing to increased pupil confidence in varying genres.'

'Pupils demonstrate a clear understanding of expectations and approached their writing tasks with purpose and assurance. This reflects the consistency, clarity, and effectiveness of teaching across the school.'



There has been a lot of hard work going into improving writing following the national dip after Covid, which is still being felt in the higher year groups, so it's great to see our efforts, and those of our children, are paying off.



I also attended a fabulous music concert yesterday, during which pupils from across the school wowed us with their talents on a variety of instruments. Thanks to our music teachers for supporting the children with this amazing endeavour.

Following my plea for contributions towards Epipens, I am also feeling very proud to be part of such a generous community. A parent who is a pharmacist has enabled us to purchase them at a better price and two parents have very kindly contributed to the total cost. Thank you so much – we are very aware financial times are challenging.

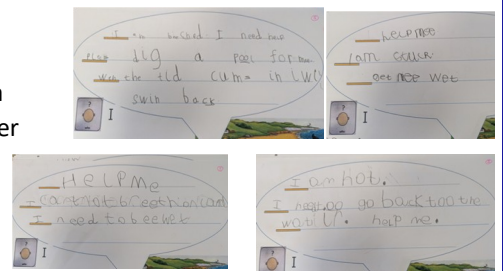
On that note, the PTA have kindly donated £10,000 to improve the KS1 playground offering (KS2 has already had their turn!), as well as ipads and laptops for across the school. This money really does make a difference to what we can provide for our pupils.

Added to this, the talented Mr Holloway has donated £1,456.61 from his marathon run (thanks again to those who contributed) which will be spent on creating an improved KS1 library.

Yes, feeling fit to burst with happiness this week! At the risk of sounding all Hannibal ('A Team' not Lecter) – 'I love it when a plan comes together!' (A little reference for our older parents or is it grandparent now?!)

Elsewhere in school.....

Did you know that a snail has a mouth on the end of its foot? Did you know that a humped back whale can be 18 metres long? **Year R** has discovered these and other fascinating facts after reading 'The Snail and the Whale' by Julia Donaldson. They also thought about what the whale would say when he was stuck on the beach after getting lost at sea. We were so impressed with their amazing writing.





This week in Art, **Year 1** has been exploring the work of Andy Warhol. The children used tissue paper and crayons to recreate his famous pop-art series, Flowers. They enjoyed carefully cutting out flower shapes and experimenting with different colours and designs to create their own vibrant artwork.

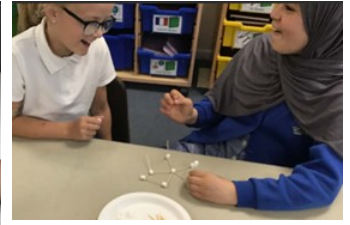
This week, **Year 2** started building their fairground wheel structures in DT using cereal boxes and paper plates. They used the cereal box to create the frame and a straw to make an axle through the middle of the plate. All of the children worked hard to overcome any challenges and worked together to help their friends when some steps of the process were tricky. Their next steps are to make pods and decorate the frames.



In Science this week, **Year 3** pupils have been investigating the question: *Does light travel through all objects?* The children had great fun using torches to explore a range of materials in a darkened classroom. They discovered which objects were

opaque, translucent and transparent, and investigated which materials created the strongest shadows. Seb explained that, *"Different objects made of different materials can make different shadows. I found that the darkest shadow was formed from the green paper bin because it was opaque."*

This week in Design and Technology, the children in **Year 4** began exploring how architects and designers create strong and stable structures. Using mini marshmallows and toothpicks, the children investigated different shapes and frameworks in order to find out which designs were the strongest. They worked collaboratively to test ideas, solve problems and improve their structures. They will apply their learning when creating and designing their own pavilions in the coming weeks.



This week **Year 5** pupils have been completing their writing about Ribaldo, an 11-year-old boy, who lives in a town in the Amazon rainforest. They have been comparing their lives to his. Whilst in geography, they have started their unit on Brazil by identifying the physical features of the country and the rest of South America. Their art has also linked to Brazil where they have started to explore the work of Brazilian artists especially how they use colour and pattern in their work.



Year 6 have had a really busy week rehearsing for the production and squeezing in a couple of extra pieces of writing before we go away for the year 6 trip. We are all incredibly proud with the progress the children have achieved this year with their writing. The teachers are really enjoying reading their latest pieces: one based on the book for the final year by Matt Goodfellow and the other a re-write of something they did earlier in the year, the children were able to identify what they couldn't do then but can do now. Year 6 are now ready for a well earned break from lessons, see you at 5.30am Monday morning, don't forget your sun cream, its going to be a beautiful week!

Quite the exciting curriculum offer, I hope you will agree!

There is still plenty to look forward to in the coming weeks so keep an eye on the diary and emails. Sports day is approaching so a gentle reminder: although I have many powers as a headteacher, controlling the weather is not one, so be prepared for a postponement or time change if the forecast the day before is either too hot or too wet.

Have a super weekend in the sun.

Best wishes,

Vicki Lonie

Headteacher

Sporting update

On Monday, two teams from Woodlands took part in the Year 5 and 6 cricket tournament, which was being held at the Nevil Ground, Tunbridge Wells.

Woodlands Super Giants were in group A and faced Slade Invincibles and Ide Hill, who were last years winners. The Super Giants, who were a very inexperienced team, started off brightly and bowled really well to limit Slade Invincibles to a chaseable total. Unfortunately, some miscommunication on top of their lack of experience saw them fall short of the winning total. Even though the Super Giants bowled well again, Ide Hill were far too strong and taking nine wickets whilst the Super Giants were batting, it was always going to be a challenge to beat them. After the group stages, they played their final game against Sussex Road and this was a more measured performance with the bat without giving away silly wickets and running sensibly between the wickets. Once again, their youth and inexperience seemed to be the difference between the two teams as Sussex Road ran out as winners.

Woodlands Spitfires were in group B with Slade Rockets, Sussex Road and Yalding. Two comfortable wins against Sussex Road and Yalding gave them one foot in the semi-finals. Their final group game against Slade Rockets saw them comprehensively beaten by sixty runs, but with some poor shot selection and erratic bowling, the game could've been a lot closer. In the end, the Spitfires topped their group on count back on the number of runs they scored in the group stage. In their semi-final, they faced Slade Invincibles and the experience of the Spitfires, who had seven out of their eight players playing cricket outside of school, was the difference as the team comfortably progressed to the final, where they would face Slade Rockets, hoping to avoid a similar result in the group stages.

In the final, Spitfires batted first and even though they batted with patience and made the most of the free hits, some poor decisions with running between the wicket and shot selection saw them score only 60, but with Slade Rockets taking seven wickets, they only needed 26 to win. Spitfires knew that to stand any chance of winning, they would need to take early wickets and they did so with Isabelle R taking an incredible hat trick with Ethan G taking two super catches. The Spitfires suddenly had a pep in their step and should've taken a couple more wickets but two dropped catches kept Slade in the game. The game continued to be close and with one over remaining, it was left to Will S to bowl the final five balls with only three runs needed to win. A dot ball and two singles later, Slade needed one run off the last two balls and it seemed the Spitfires would need a miracle, and that's what they got. Will bowled a full toss and the opposition batter hit the ball into the air towards Adam M, who had been one of the fielders to drop a catch earlier. With time standing still, everyone waited with bated breath as Adam steadied himself and took the catch to the delight of all the players and family members watching on by the boundary. With now six to win and one ball left, Will bowled a superb delivery, which only went for one run and ensured that the Spitfires won the tournament and progressed to the County Finals Day at the beginning of July.

A fantastic end to a great day of cricket. A huge thanks to all the parents for bringing the children and for those who could stay to support. Another huge thanks to Martin Snow for helping coach the Spitfires.

Superstar Corner

Well done to Archie from 4 Chestnut for completing his 100th park run, his PB this year is 8:05.



Henry, Rupert and Bertie, along with former pupils Austin and Ethan attended a Future Rugby Stars event at Twickenham Stadium. They met past and current international players including Danny Care, Dan Biggar, Shaunagh Brown, Sarah Bern, Jasmine Joice and the The Rugby Trainer. They spent the afternoon showing off their rugby skills on the famous pitch.



Congratulations to Alex Dean from Chestnut for winning the Tonbridge Football Fiesta on Sunday with his team mates the TJFC Beetles. Well done Alex!

Year 6 Reminder

If your child is currently open to Community Paediatrics and will be moving to secondary school in September, please ensure that the Community Paediatrics team is informed of the name of their new school. This will help ensure that any future correspondence and communication is sent to the correct setting.

Parents/carers can contact the Community Paediatrics administration team directly by email: kcht.CommunityPaediatrics@nhs.net



Do you like tractors and animals?
We have an exciting day for you at Princess Christian's farm.

Come along and see all the wonderful machines we have along with other bonuses such as

- Freshly baked cakes
- Hot & cold food
- Crazy golf
- Virtual rocket ride
- Tractor rides

11am till 2pm



Tractor Day
20th June 2026

Riding lane, Hildenborough, Tonbridge Kent TN11 9LN

Guitar Lessons

Tom Williams has spaces for September.

Acoustic/electric, rock/pop, total beginners very welcome.

Please contact Tom directly on [07736051082/](tel:07736051082)
tomwilliamsmusic@hotmail.com





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| JULY | AUGUST | AUGUST |
| WEDS 29TH THURS 30TH FRI 31ST | WEDS 12TH THURS 13TH FRI 14TH | WEDS 26TH THURS 27TH FRI 28TH |

EARLY BIRD OFFER!

BOOK ALL 9 DAYS FOR £150!!

AGES 4-13

£22 PER DAY

£40 FOR TWO DAYS (PER WEEK)

£56 FOR THREE DAYS (PER WEEK)

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SUMMER

SOCCER

SCHOL



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SIGN UP NOW - SIGN UP NOW - SIGN UP NOW - SIGN UP NOW -

Summer Magazine

The Raringtogo! Summer 26 Magazine has lots of ideas and things for families to do this season.

We hope you enjoy reading it.

[CLICK HERE FOR LINK](#)

Term Dates

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

2026/2027

Term 1: 01/09/2026 - 16/10/2026

Term 2: 02/11/2026 - 18/12/2026

Term 3: 04/01/2027 - 12/02/2027

Term 4: 22/02/2027 - 25/03/2027

Term 5: 12/04/2027 - 28/05/2027

Term 6: 07/06/2027 - 21/07/2027

Diary Dates

2025/26

22nd Jun - 26th Jun

Year 6 Residential

27th Jun

Summer Fair, 11.30am - 5pm

29th Jun

Sports Day, 10am-11.45am
Years R - 6.

Lunchtime: Parents/Carer's to stay
for a whole school picnic.

1pm - 3.15pm: Years 2-6.

30th Jun

Year 5 to LA Tonbridge, 9am -12pm

01st Jul

Year 5 Tonbridge Community Day

09th Jul

Open Evening, 5pm - 7pm

w/c 13th Jul

NO CLUBS

14th Jul

Year 3, No Swimming

15th Jul

Year 6 performance, 1.30pm

16th Jul

Year 6 performance, 7pm

17th Jul

KS2 Colour Run

20th Jul

Year 6 Leavers Assemblies

Ash, 9.15am

Aspen, 10.45am

Hawthorn, 2.30pm

20th Jul

Year 6 Leavers party, 4pm - More
information to follow.

[New dates/times in blue](#)