

Woodlands Weekly



Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe

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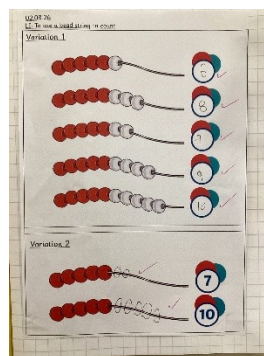
4th September 2026

Newsletter No. 1

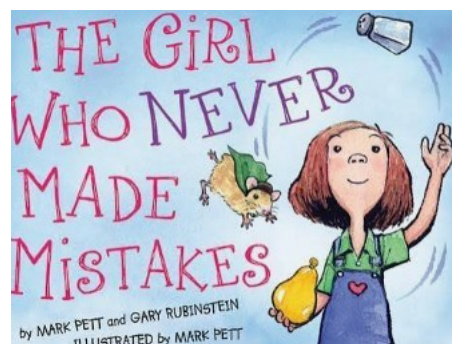
Welcome back everyone! We've had a super week here, with the majority of children settling in quickly to new classes and year groups. Some will take a little longer, but don't worry – they will get there. A special welcome to our youngest pupils – Year R. They have come in incredibly well and looking so smart!

Year R children are having a super time making friends and learning about life at school. Our outside play equipment has already helped many of the children challenge themselves. A number of children have been down a firefighter's pole for the first time or increased their confidence in going down it. The crates and tyres have proved very popular, with exciting obstacle courses being built and clambered on. Children have enjoyed exploring their new classrooms and much of their early learning has focused around developing routines, listening skills and fine motor skills to prepare them for the rest of the school year. They are settling in really well and loved showing their adults around their classrooms during our after-school drop-in sessions.

Year 1 pupils have jumped straight into their learning during their first week and have made a fantastic start to the term. In maths, the children have been learning how to use different manipulatives, including bead strings, to support their understanding of number. They have used their excellent counting skills, carefully counting forwards and backwards and using the bead strings to represent numbers confidently. Well done, Year 1!



Year 2 has also had an excellent start to the year! This week, the children started by discussing what a growth mindset is and how we can learn from our mistakes. After reading the story 'The girl who never made mistakes', they discussed the emotions the girl might have felt and gave her advice on how to overcome them. They came up with brilliant suggestions and we have already heard them sharing their advice with their friends in their lessons this week!



Year 3 have made a fantastic start to the new school year and are settling well into their new routines. In reading, the children have begun our exciting new class book, *The Wild Robot*, by Peter Brown. They have enjoyed meeting Roz, a robot who finds herself alone on a wild island, and have been making predictions about what might happen next. They are looking forward to following Roz's adventures over the coming weeks.

Year 4 has kick-started the year full of energy. It has been lovely to see the children settle into their new classes eagerly and showing their willingness to learn. The children have ended their busy first week as Vikings, who they will be learning more about this term. Please do ask them about their day and what they learnt.

To start the new term, **Year 5** children have been getting stuck into their history topic for the term - Ancient Egyptians. The children looked at various timelines to understand when they existed and compared the duration of their civilisation to other historically significant examples. The children finished by predicting what enabled them to survive and thrive for so long.

Year 6 are taking their position at the top of the school seriously and have so far proved to be excellent role models for the younger years – long may that continue! The teachers want to thank all the parents for supporting our Smartphone-Free School initiative. This is going to make a huge difference to the mental wellbeing of the children and help prepare them for the changes in the law that will affect them next year. A reminder – our message isn't just that we don't want them in school - we urge you to delay the buying of smartphones until your child is older and more able to use them sparingly. There will be no maths homework this week for Year 6, but please remember to read with your children.



Thanks to those parents who have got to grips with our new contact method – via a form on the 'Parents' tab of our website. From now on, calls and emails to the office will be triaged and you may well be asked to use the form to contact the teacher. The office is inundated on a daily basis with communications from parents. Many of these are necessary (ones which require on-the-day action e.g. medication, or queries) and we welcome those. However, some do not need to go via the office (e.g. an incident at playtime) so we will be redirecting you to enable the office staff to do what they need to do each day. Thanks in advance while we get used to this new way of working.

I will be joining parents and staff this Sunday for the Tonbridge Dragon Boat racing – come on Woodlands!! I hope to see you there, cheering us on.

Have a great weekend whatever you are doing and I look forward to a successful second week.

Best wishes,

Vicki Lonie

School Trips

Please remember to log in to Arbor and pay your contributions ahead of time. This prevents the need for us to contact you. If you would like to help out on a trip, please offer to your class teacher but remember, not all volunteers will gain a space.



Superstar Corner

Do send in your child's achievements for us to celebrate.



Years 3 to 6 Stationery Reminder

In September, please ensure all children in Years 3 to 6 have a small pencil case that must fit in their tray. Something with a single zip would be ideal as their trays do get full.

Items to include inside are:

- Rubber
- Pencil
- 0-30cm/mm ruler
- A pair of scissors
- Basic range of colouring pencils: red, blue, green, yellow, purple, brown, black, pink, orange
- Purple biro pen
- Blue handwriting pen
- Headphones to use in our IT suite



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



Term Dates

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

2026/27

7th Sep	3 Birch Rocks Day
8th Sep	3 Elder Rocks Day
9th Sep	3 Whitebeam Rocks Day
29th Sep	Year 1 Bedgebury
6th Oct	Parent Consultations
8th Oct	Parent Consultations
12th Nov	Year 5— Carroty Wood

[New dates/times in blue](#)