

Woodlands Weekly



Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe

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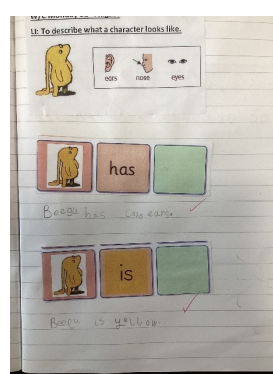
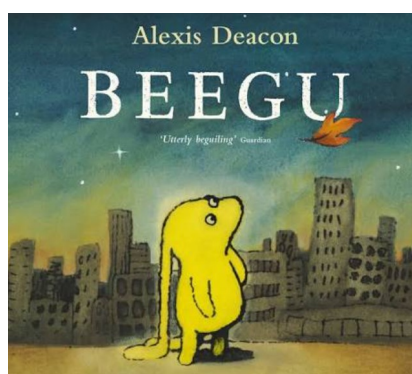
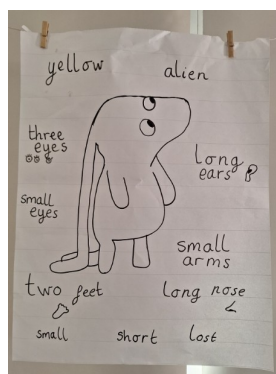
11th September 2026

Newsletter No. 2

The second week back is always a time for a few emotional wobbles – for parents, staff and pupils! We are all adjusting to being back to routines and expectations, without the time to relax we had during the holidays. This is all normal and those who are struggling to settle will get there with reassurance from home and school over the coming weeks. There is much to look forward to and we have already had Viking Day and Rock Day!

What a lot has happened in Year R this week! At the beginning of the week, the children started to stay for school lunches. They are learning how to choose what they would like to eat and how to scrape their plates and stack them when they have finished. By the end of the week, the children were full-time Woodlanders, joining the rest of the school community for complete days in school. The children (and adults) have had a very happy week and are looking forward to a little rest over the weekend.

Year 1 has enjoyed reading *Beegu* this week. They have been exploring different ways to describe Beegu, sharing their ideas and writing their own sentences. They have worked hard to use capital letters correctly at the start of sentences and for names, while also concentrating on their letter formation. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they share and write their ideas. Well done, Year 1!

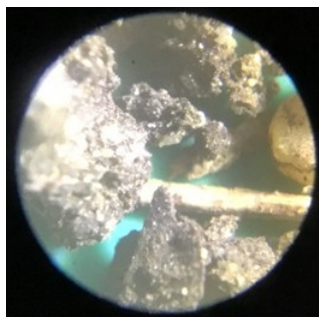


Year 2 had a very exciting start to their new writing topic this week. In their new story 'The Way Back Home' by Oliver Jeffers, the main character discovers a plane in the cupboard which takes him to the moon. After reading the story together, each of the Year 2 children designed and made their own aeroplane which could take them to the moon. Outside on the playground, they tested them to see whose plane could fly the furthest!



Year 3 had an exciting and hands-on Rock Day with scientist Andrew Berry this week. Throughout the day, the children learned about different types of rocks and carried out a variety of scientific investigations to test their properties, including their

hardness. They closely inspected soil samples and discovered how rocks and soil are connected. One of the highlights was creating sedimentary rock by melting layers of wax over a real flame, which helped them understand how rocks form over time. The children were also thrilled to create explosive reactions to mimic volcanic eruptions, bringing their learning about Earth's geology to life in a fun and memorable way. Everyone had a fantastic day and developed a deeper understanding of the fascinating world beneath their feet!



Year 4 enjoyed Viking Day last week. The children were buzzing with excitement as they explored a range of fascinating historical objects. They learned all about Viking longboats and then created their own models, showing great creativity and attention to detail. The children also discovered how the Vikings communicated through runes and enjoyed learning how to write their own names using this ancient alphabet. In the afternoon, the children continued their Viking-themed learning by designing and creating their own Viking shields. They took great pride in their work, producing colourful and impressive shields inspired by those used by Viking warriors. It was a fantastic day of hands-on learning that brought Viking history to life for everyone.



Year 5 have had another busy week including understanding how the universe was studied and how it works. Children also created their own mnemonics to remember the names of the eight planets as well as the order they are in from the distance of the Sun. A couple of our favourites were: Mouldy Vegetables Enjoy Making Jumbo Smells Under Noses and My Vulture Eats Manky Jelly Umbrellas Until Nauseous.

This week in science, Year 6 have been focusing on the human body, learning about the circulatory system and what blood consists of. You may find this surprising, but in class they have made blood! Admittedly, we used Cheerios, marshmallows, raisins, food colouring and salt, but each item represented a different component of the blood. Ask your children what they were.



On a different note, outside of the classroom, we would like to congratulate all those children who have worked hard and completed the Kent Test this week.

As you will see, a busy start to the year as usual!

A gentle reminder: if you want to turn up early to park in the residential area around the school, like Sullivan Road, please be mindful of our neighbours. Do not play loud music which disturbs those working from home and turn of engines to prevent fumes entering their windows. I understand their frustration but then they deal with it directly, the response is not always polite and when they come to us, it is taking our time away from focusing on the education and welfare of your children. Please help us to help your children.

Summer is very much continuing, temperature-wise, so do enjoy your weekend. I hope you get out and about into nature!

Best wishes,

Vicki Lonie

Dragon Boat Racing with the PTA

What an utterly fantastic event this was last weekend! It felt like the whole of Tonbridge was out, enjoying the multicultural array of goodies at the food festival and supporting the many rowers who took part in the Dragon Boat race. It's been a while since I have been able to participate due to my shoulder surgeries, so it was great to be back and part of it. Mr Hill and many members of our parent body joined me with enthusiasm and a little bit of competitiveness! We made a good effort but were no match for the top teams.

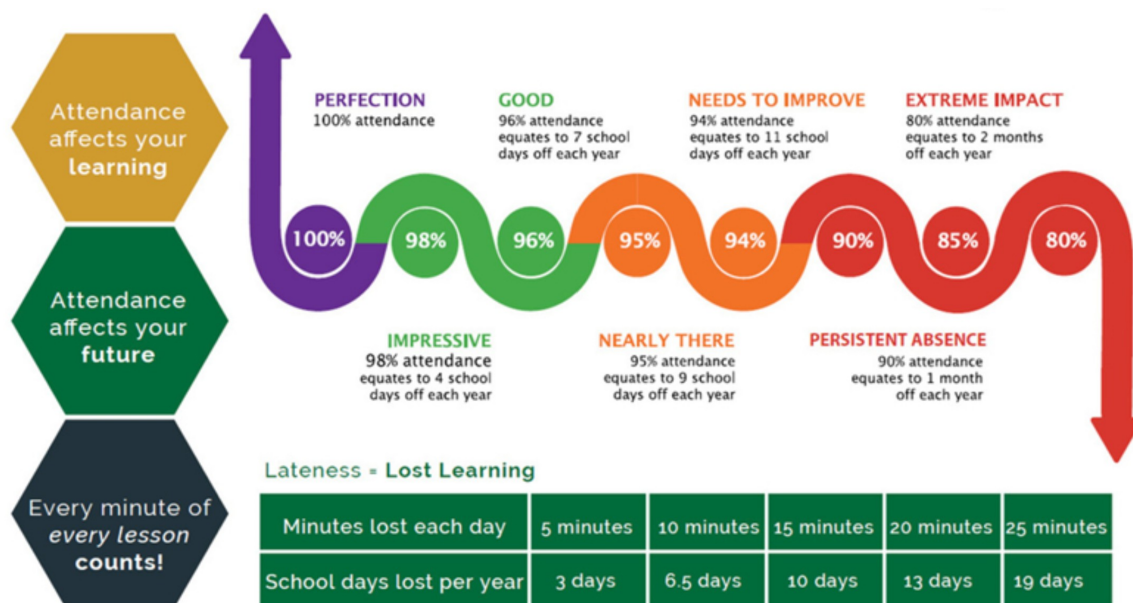
We did however win the best dressed team award. Yay for Woodlands!



Attendance Matters

We will be having a strong focus on pupil attendance this year. Too many pupils are missing out on learning due to factors outside of their control. Parents have a responsibility to ensure their children attend school—this is the law. The impact of regular absence is not only seen in delayed learning, but also affects children's emotional state and sense of belonging and their friendships. What child wants to be friends with someone who isn't in school, leaving them frequently alone and needing to find others?

Term-time holidays are also not permitted. Pupils have 175 days that they are not in school. I have been a teacher for 28 years so I know how crushing holiday prices are in school holidays. All teachers do. However, if you have a child, that is what you have to do.



Folly Wildlife Centre

I received a beautifully written letter from Rosie in Year 5 this week. She explained the wonderful work of Folly Wildlife Centre in Tunbridge Wells. They help animals such as owls, hedgehogs and mice—rescuing and rehabilitating for a better life.

If you would like to donate money, volunteer or visit, please check out their website:

<https://fwrt.org.uk/about-us>

Alternatively, there will be a labelled box in the entrance to Oak building next week, in which you can put the following donations:

- Cat food
- Dog food
- Knitted hats (to make beds)
- Ice cream tubs (empty and clean)



Rosie will be taking these donations to the centre to help the animals on their journey of recovery.

Guitar Lessons

Tom Williams has ONE space left for September.

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

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



Piano Lessons

Would you like your child to learn piano? Mrs Jones has space for new pupils (KS2) on Fridays. For all information please contact Kent Music by using this link: [Kent Music - Your musical journey starts here.](#)

All students need to have a piano or keyboard (preferably touch-sensitive) to practise on at home.



Diary Dates

2026/27

22nd Sep	5pm Great Autumn Read (see flyer)
24th Sep	PTA Committee Meeting 7pm All welcome.
29th Sep	Year 1 Bedgebury Trip
6th Oct	Parent Consultations
5th Oct	Harvest Celebrations, including 9.30am for KS1 at the Methodist church.
7th Oct	Parent Consultations for some of R Beech
8th Oct	Parent Consultations
12th Nov	Year 5— Carrot Wood

[New dates/times in blue](#)

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

Clubs

Sign-ups will be set up soon, with a delayed start due to Mrs Wilson's absence.

Those in Years 3 to 6 have received information about a new Junior Herbalist Club running this year, if numbers allow. Claire, our qualified herbalist, will be on the playground on Monday at pick-up to explain more. Do pop and speak to her if you are interested and want to know more.

