

Woodlands Weekly



Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe

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www.woodlands.kent.sch.uk

02nd October 2026

Newsletter No. 5

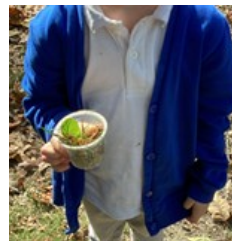
This week, we looked at what RESPECT means in assemblies – KS1 pupils played bingo to see if they could predict the words that would appear in a story about respect. They did a great job!

This year, we have introduced a 'musician of the month' in assemblies to explore a range of musical performers who have shaped music as we know it. Throughout September, we learnt about the Beatles and listened to some of their hits. This month's musician is Nina Simone – the children noticed how deep her voice was.



Year R children have had yet another visitor this week. They were delighted to welcome Farmer Richard from Westwood Farm in Weald, along with his big green tractor. Farmer Richard told the children about the animals on his farm and the children asked lots of questions about how the animals are looked after and what they eat. Farmer Richard was able to reassure the children that his cows have very cosy barns, complete with cow mattresses and music to relax with. The children were amazed! They also enjoyed hearing about the sheep, pigs, chickens, donkeys and goats. If any of the children would like to visit Farmer Richard's farm, there is a pop-up farm shop this Saturday 4th October from 9 am to 3 pm - Westwood Farm, TN14 6NL.

This week, **Year 1** had a wonderful trip to Bedgebury Pinetum. The children explored a variety of trees, created potions using natural materials and examined giant pinecones. A particular highlight was visiting "the Cathedral", a stunning tunnel of trees. With beautiful sunshine throughout the day, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The children enjoyed seeing many of the trees and features they had been learning about in class first-hand.



Year 2 have loved reading their new book this week 'Bob's Best Ever Friend'. After a mysterious creature left footprints in the Year 2 classrooms, the children have been creating their own creatures from the moon to write their own stories. They have blown us away with their imagination! Some children have chosen moon monsters, aliens or space dragons. We can't wait to read their stories next week!



This week, **Year 3** explored the three main types of rock: sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic. They used shavings of milk, dark and white chocolate to model how each type of rock is formed. To create sedimentary rock, the children built up different layers of chocolate and gently pressed them together. For igneous rock, they mixed the chocolate shavings before heating them in a sealed bag and allowing them to cool and harden. They followed a similar process for metamorphic rock but also applied pressure to the warmed chocolate before it cooled. The children then observed and compared their chocolate rocks, thinking carefully about how heat, pressure and layering affected each one. If I had known this was going on, I would have passed by to see what the 'rocks' tasted like!!



This term, **Year 4** have been stepping back in time to learn about the fascinating world of the Vikings. As part of our history topic, the children have been investigating Viking huts, discovering how they were built and what life might have been like inside them. The children examined the features of traditional Viking homes, including their wooden frames, turf-covered roofs and central fireplaces. They discussed how Vikings used the materials available to them and considered how these homes were designed to keep families warm during harsh weather. Using their new knowledge, the children have now begun the exciting process of designing their own Viking huts.

This week, children in **Year 5** had the opportunity to participate in a science workshop hosted by Tonbridge School. On Wednesday afternoon, the three classes departed Woodlands by coach and headed towards the prestigious school. A range of experiments were conducted and explained by current pupils. The focus of the afternoon was the fire triangle (made up of fuel, heat and oxygen). The children enjoyed watching (controlled) explosions, the burning of money and methane bubbles of fire. All in all, Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed the experience and even showcased their existing knowledge to the staff and students of Tonbridge School.



Year 6 have been learning about how their lifestyle choices impact their health. Last week, they researched the importance of eating healthily, specifically looking at the different food groups and the nutrients provided. Using this information, the children wrote non-chronological reports to share this information with others. This week in science, they furthered their knowledge by considering the effect of exercise, carrying out an investigation to discover if some exercises are better for our bodies than others, how their heart rates were affected and what role the heart plays.



As a forward-thinking school, we increasingly use evidence-informed approaches to support our pupils. We have been reading about how studies are showing that fidget spinners and similar fidget toys actually distract most pupils rather than help them to focus. We are aware that some parents are sending in 'fidget toys' to help their children. This is getting out of hand, and some classes are being disrupted by these devices that for the majority of children are doing the opposite to what they are meant for. Please leave it to our professional teachers to make the decision about what learning devices are best for their pupils. Although you know your child best overall, the class teacher knows how your child responds in a classroom environment and is therefore better placed to make that judgement.

I wanted to finish with a big shout out to our fabulous army of TAs. Last Friday was National Teaching Assistants' Day but it doesn't need a special day to acknowledge the hard work, care, PATIENCE and time they give to our pupils every single day. It is not an easy job by any metric and I am incredibly proud of the kindness and support they give our pupils.

I hope you have a good weekend.

Best wishes,

Vicki Lonie

Headteacher

PTA Special

A big thank you to our out-going chair (Alex), secretary (Fiona) and treasurer (Natalie), for all of their hard work over the last few years. They will continue to support the PTA, but it is time for new faces to lead up the committee with Jo taking on the role of chair, Georgina as treasurer and Kirsty as secretary.

The PTA still needs new members so that they can learn the ropes – a number of our active parents will be moving on with their Year 6 children at the end of the year, leaving gaps to fill. If you are interested, please do get in touch. The more members, the less there is to do!

I always share with you what the PTA funds go on, but this happens sporadically, so I thought I would send a reminder of what the hard work and generous parental contributions have bought us over the last few years.....

EYFS climbing equipment:



The KS2 library:



The new KS1 artificial grassed area and construction equipment:



The outside toilet renovation

30 pupil laptops

The outdoor shelter in KS2

There are also yearly purchases which include:

- Year 6 leavers gifts
- Contribution to Young Voices T-shirts
- Ice poles for sports day
- Class wish list items

As school funding diminishes (in real terms), the PTA has become a crucial fund-raising entity to ensure our pupils get the very best. They also support us with refreshments at the many, many school events we hold and organise their own events like the fairs, family bingo, quiz nights, colour run and so much more. Please don't underestimate what a difference they make and please do ask yourself – could I help out?

Sporting Updates

Girls Rugby Tournament

A team of girls from years 3 to 6 had a great time at the Rugby tournament on the 18th September. We took a lower Key Stage 2 team and an upper Key Stage 2 team. They each played three other teams and did an excellent job of attacking and defending. The games were all friendlies and there was no overall winner. It was a great opportunity for the children to receive tips from the coaches of Tonbridge Juddian RFC, make new friends and for some to have a go at a new sport! They all took part with great enthusiasm. Well done girls!



Dodgeball

On Monday, seven children from years 3 and 4 took part in a dodgeball tournament at Stocks Green Primary School. They played five matches, winning three, drawing one and losing the other. They finished an incredible third out of ten teams.



Rugby Festival

Today, Woodlands took part in a rugby festival at Tonbridge Juddians. We had three teams participating today, which is fantastic to see. Each team played four matches and won at least one match. All the children were a credit to the school and performed amazingly.



Touch Rugby

Nine of our Year 3 and 4 pupils were lucky enough to attend a touch rugby event at Tonbridge Juddians last week. They represented Woodlands brilliantly - demonstrating great teamwork, excellent behaviour, resilience and effort. Well done to all who attended.



Tonbridge Tristar Aquathlon - Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May 2027

Tonbridge Lions are hosting a brand new Tonbridge Tristar Aquathlon for 8—14 year olds.

Details can be found here:

<https://www.tonbridgetriathlon.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/tonbridgetriathlon/>

<https://www.instagram.com/tonbridgetriathlon/>

100% of profits go to local causes / charities.

There are also the usual adult Triathlons on same day.



Christmas card competition

Tom Tugendhat (MP) is holding his annual Christmas card competition.

To enter, drawings must be on A4 (portrait or landscape). Their card must be Christmas themed and with their name on the front so it can be printed on the card.

The winning four designs will receive 100 blank copies of their own card, a special prize and an invitation to meet Tom Tugendhat and have a tour of the Houses of Parliament with their parents.

Any designs must be submitted to either Miss Castle or the office by Monday 12th October.



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.



Superstar Corner

Congratulations to Jasmine W from Maple class for winning 1st place in Musical Theatre at Sevenoaks Dance Festival. She sang 3 songs and it was her first time performing on stage.

Clubs

All children must be collected from an after school club by an adult. The exception is Year 6 in the summer term only.

Guitar Lessons

Tom Williams has ONE space left.

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

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



Diary Dates

2026/27

5th Oct	Harvest Celebrations, including 9.30am for KS1 at the Methodist church.
6th Oct	Parent Consultations
7th Oct	Parent Consultations for some of R Beech
8th Oct	Parent Consultations
12th Nov	Year 5– Carroty Wood
14th Nov	Fireworks, gates open at 4.30
28th Nov	Christmas Fair
22nd Jan	Quiz Night
29th Jan	KS2 Disco
5th Feb	KS1 Disco
14th May	KS2 Disco
21st May	KS1 Disco
5th Mar	Bingo
12th Mar	Break the rules day

[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

£22 PER DAY
£40 TWO DAYS
£56 THREE DAYS

LC COACHING

TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER 9AM - 3PM
WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER
THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER

AGES 4-13

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