Newsletter April & May 2024

HEAD TEACHER NEWS

Dear Families,

We are delighted to bring you the latest updates and exciting news from our school community.

Mrs Waterworth

Firstly, it is with mixed emotions that we announce the temporary departure of Mrs. Waterworth, our SENCO teacher, who is embarking on maternity leave. Mrs. Waterworth has been an integral part of our school for the last two years, and her dedication and passion for special needs have been appreciated. While we will miss her presence in school, we extend our warmest wishes to her and her growing family during this special time. In her absence, I will be covering SEN. Please continue to use her email address during this time – senco@woodlands.herts.schuk. We look forward to meeting the new arrival.

Year 6 SATS

Year Six are busy preparing for their exams. These assessment serve as an important milestone, reflecting their primary education journey. Students have been engaging in comprehensive revision sessions, honing their skills across various subjects. We commend their commitment and perseverance as they strive to achieve their best in the assessments.

KS2 Year 6 SATs Dates - May 2024

Date	Test
Monday 13th May 2024	Grammar & Punctuation test - 45 minutes Spelling Test - 20 minutes
Tuesday 14th May 2024	English Reading Test - 60 minutes
Wednesday 15th May 2024	Mathematics Arithmetics (Paper 1) - 30 minutes Mathematics Reasoning (Paper 2) - 40 minutes
Thursday 16th May 2024	Mathematics Reasoning (Paper 3) - 40 minutes

As always, I am extremely proud of the children of Woodlands. They continue to show the school's values, positive attitude and wonderful manners.

Well done!

Miss R Woode

GET TO KNOW THE STAFF

Office and Site

Mrs C Byfield
Office Manager

Miss L Devereux
Office Assistant

Ms L Hunter
Site Manager

Mrs J Maddison
Office Assistant - mornings

KEEP UPDATED

Please make sure you are following us on both our Facebook pages and our Twitter page:

'Friends of Woodlands Primary WD6'

'Woodlands Primary School Borehamwood'

X (formally Twitter) @woodlandspri

As well as the social media platforms, we communicate via Arbor. Please ensure that you have the notifications switched on. Please see below for full details on how to sign up to Arbor.

Please remember that this group is to share information and to stay informed with what is going on at Woodlands Primary School. We ask that the parents on this group stay friendly and any members who do not follow the rules will be removed and blocked. Any issues that relate to the school should be addressed directly to the school and not discussed on this page.

SUMMER TERM CLUBS

Letters are in the process of being written for you to choose a club for your child. We ask again that this be booked via the Arbor app and that, for the time being, you choose **ONE** club. Once we have collated all the information and the lists are made, we can then see if there are any spaces and we will open the bookings up again for you to try to get your child another place.

The clubs will start after the May bank holiday, from 7th May 2024 and will finish the week commencing 8th July 2024 through to Friday 12th July 2024. This amounts to 9 weeks of clubs for the children.

Please note due to SATS taking place in May, Miss Islam will not be running any clubs as she is running revision clubs up to that point.

Please note some clubs do have a fee which will need to be paid up front so please make sure you pay this once you have had confirmation that your child has their

place. If there are any problems with payment, please speak to the club leader as they will be keeping a record of the payments.

Please make sure you are all set up on the Arbor app in order to book a place.

Thank you.

SWEET SALE

A very big thank you as you raised £207.00 from the sweet sale. Miss Islam and the children from KS2 are in the process of looking at the items that they would like for the KS2 playground equipment.

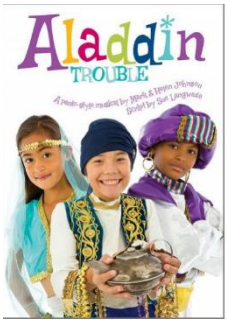
MOTHER'S DAY SECRET ROOM

I know it seems a while ago but thank you to everyone that took part in the Mother's Day Secret Room. You raised over £700.00 for Woodland's pupils.

On that note, we do not want to leave the dads and father figures out and will be holding a **Father's Day Secret Room on Friday 14th June 2024.** We will be having a non-school uniform day on Friday 7th June 2024, where we will ask you to bring in some unused gifts in exchange for the children to wear non- uniform.

More information will follow in due course.

UPPER KS2 PRODUCTION- ALADDIN TROUBLE



Just a note for the year 5 & 6 parents to advise they will be performing their production of 'Aladdin Trouble' in June 2024. The dates are as follows and tickets will be available from the office nearer the time. Just a date for your diaries! We will advise you of any changes should they arise:

Tuesday 25th June 2024 at 5.30pm

Thursday 27th June 2024 at 2.00pm

BOREHAMWOOD FARMERS AND CRAFT MARKET

We have had the following flyer sent to us with information of the new market that will commence on Sunday 26th May 2024. Please support this local event- it would be great to have a local market supporting local businesses.

FRENCH CAFÉ DAY- YEAR 4 PUPILS

Year 4 pupils will be hosting a French Café Day on Thursday 9th May 2024. Please check you DOJO messages for further information. Bon Appetit!

SCHOOL TRIPS/EVENTS

Year 6- SATS Week- Monday 13th May- Thursday 16th May 2024

Years 5 & 6- Residential Trip- 20th May- 22nd May 2024

Year 2- Planetarium- in school- Tuesday 21st May 2024

Year 1- Mountfitchet Castle- Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Year 3 & 4- Residential Trip-3rd June- 5th June 2024

Year 3- Roman Day Visit in school -Tuesday 18th June 2024

Years 5 & 6- Bike ability Course- Monday 1st July 2024

Year 5- Frameless Gallery- Wednesday 10th June 2024

Year 6- Walton on the Naze - Wednesday 17th July 2024

We have tried to give you as much notice as possible and if further dates come up, we will advise you asap. We will of course advise you of any changes. Also please check for other dates at the end of the newsletter.

If you are a new parent you will need to sign up to Arbor so please see the details below. You can send messages via the comminications section and we ask that, if your child is absent, you use this or call the school and speak to a member of staff or leave a message. Please do not send emails to personal accounts as the office staff do not have access to these and the messages may not be picked up.

We will continue to send messages via the email and the in app messages along with our Facebook pages and Twitter as this seems to be working with the majority of parents getting these messages. **Please remember that you need to access the app to receive the comunications – this is your responsibility to do. If you need support with this, just ask.**

You may need to check your settings to receive notifications. If you are not, please advise us so we can look into this so you do not miss anything.

If you have still not registered, please follow the instructions below:

You can access Arbor either:
Through the **Arbor app** (search 'Arbor' on the iOS App Store or Google Play Store), or...
By going to https://woodlands.uk.arbor.sc on any internet enabled device.
In either case, look for **the 'First time logging in?'** or 'Forgot your password?' options, enter the same email address that we have on record for you, and follow the instructions. These will require you to click a link in the email you receive, select a password, and confirm your identity once more using your child's date of birth.

If you have any problems with logging on to ARBOR, please email with a photo shot of the issue to the school on admin@woodlands.herts.sch.uk or devereux@woodlands.herts.sch.uk This will enable us to forward to our ICT team if needed.

IT HAS RECOMMENDED BY OTHER SCHOOLS WHO ARE USING ARBOR, THAT YOU ACCESS ARBOR FOR THE FIRST TIME VIA A PC AND THEN DOWNLOAD THE ARBOR APP FROM THE APP STORE AFTERWARDS.

If you have any question or are having any problems, please speak to one of the office staff who will try to help in anyway.

HERTS CATERING LTD & SCHOOL MENUS

Herts Catering Ltd are still providing our school lunches. We started a new Summer/Autumn menu at the start of the new term and so far, so good. As this is a new menu can we please remind parents to check in with their children from time to time to make sure they are still liking their choice of food. We are unable to change this without your permission. If your child wants to change, please come to the office, and speak to Miss Devereux so she can amend the main copy of the menu and change it on the system. **Please advise your children not to change their choice when the registers are taken.** Also, we ask that your child does not swap from school dinners to packed lunches etc. If your child wants to have a packed lunch, then this also needs to be amended on the main menu and this pattern will then be adopted. The system of choosing the menu in advance was started to ensure the children were getting a choice of food that they like instead of having what was left. Also, it allows Herts Catering to order the right amount of food to reduce waste. Thank you for your cooperation with regards to this.

We will continue to encourage the children to eat their meals/packed lunches at lunch time and will try our best to advise you if your child is not eating their meals so you are aware and perhaps can make some changes.

SPECIAL MENUS

Herts Catering Ltd management have asked that we advise all parents that if your child is allergic to any food or if your child has cultural/religious requirements, you will need to complete a special menu application form.

Therefore, if you could please check and complete the following application via the link and this information will then be passed on to us:

The link is https://specialmenu.hcl.co.uk/

SCHOOL BILLS

Please note that the school meals for Year 3-6 is now £3.45 per day (£17.25 per week). The school dinner bill needs to be paid weekly for Herts Catering to supply further meals to your child.

Miss Devereux will continue to check the balances and will chase any outstanding school dinner bills as before. If you are having problems making a payment via this app, please advise Miss Devereux for her to investigate.

If the debt is over £20.00, we will ask you to supply a home packed lunch until the debt is paid in full. Please contact us if you are having any problems and please check the Herts County Council website to check to see whether you are entitled to Free School Meal. (See below for details).

PACKED LUNCHES

We are still encouraging a healthy home packed lunch. Some children are bringing in chocolate bars and an overabundance of food in their packed lunch boxes, especially the younger children.

We are aware that you may be giving your child a choice but sometimes too much is more overwhelming. We ask you to provide a savoury item such as a sandwich, a yogurt item, a piece of fruit and then a nut-free biscuit i.e., a penguin or a cookie, and a drink. This is normally more than enough.

Please check out the link below for some healthy ideas for home packed lunches:

Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We are aware that the cost of living has gone up and some parent's circumstances may have changed. If you think you may be entitled to free school meals, please check by visiting the Herts County Council webpage www.hertfordshire.gov.uk and complete the application form under FSM. Please do check this page and make an application- you may be entitled to FSM's.

If you receive any of the following, please ensure that you have applied for Free School meals:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (if you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than £16,190 a year)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

- Universal Credit (with annual earned income of no more than £7,400 after tax and not including any benefits you get).

As stated above, this applies to those children in Reception, through to Year 2 as well, who currently receive Universal Free School meals. It is important that you apply under the 'benefit umbrella' for the school to receive funds that can help your child. These include the dinner vouchers that have been issued during the school holidays during the covid period.

If you go on to the following website and follow the directions to Free School Meals to apply, you will get confirmation if you are entitled, and the school will be advised as well:

Free school meals | Hertfordshire County Council

A reminder……

Please remember we are **a nut free school** as we have children with a severe allergy. Therefore, please ensure you do not supply your child with any products that contain nuts. **This relates to chocolate spread in sandwiches and some Kinder Bueno chocolate bars as some of these contain hazel nuts. This also includes pesto sauce as this is also a nut hence, we cannot allow in school. We have also noticed that some children are bringing in oat bars that contain nuts. Please can you check. Thank you.**

PICK UP INFORMATION- COLLECTION FORMS

A reminder. if someone else is picking your child up, please ensure that you make a call to the school in plenty of time. If it is a regular arrangement, please complete the collection form and we will pass this information on to the class teacher and teacher's assistants.

If, for any reason the pickup information has changed, please complete a new form.

We do understand that it cannot always be helped but ask that you contact the school as soon as possible, the earlier the better! Many thanks for your cooperation regarding this.

ATTENDANCE

We would like to take a moment to reflect on the importance of regular attendance and punctuality and its impact on your child's educational experience. Attendance and punctuation matters! **Regular attendance is not just a legal requirement** but a crucial factor in your child's academic success and overall well-being. Also, whilst attendance is crucial for academic success, arriving on time is equally essential.

Attendance:

When students attend school consistently, they are more likely to:

- Excel Academically: Regular attendance ensures that students are actively engaged in the learning process, enabling them to grasp concepts effectively and make meaningful progress in their studies.
- Build Relationships: Attending school regularly allows students to build strong relationships with their teachers and peers, fostering a sense of belonging and support within the school community.
- Develop Responsibility: By attending school on time every day, students learn the value of responsibility and commitment, essential skills that will serve them well in their future endeavours.

Lateness:

Lateness even by a few minutes, can have significant implications for your child. When students arrive late to school:

- Missed Learning Opportunities: Late arrivals disrupt the flow of the start of the day and may cause students to miss important instructions, explanations, or introductory activities for the day.
- Disruption to Classmates: Late arrivals can disrupt the learning environment for classmates and teachers, causing distractions and interruptions that may impact everyone's focus and engagement.
- Impact on Social and Emotional Development: Chronic lateness can affect a child's confidence and sense of belonging within the school community.

We understand that unforeseen circumstance may occasionally cause lateness, and we are here to support families in overcoming any challenges. However, we encourage parents and guardians to prioritise punctuality and attendance as a key component to their child's educational success.

At Woodlands, we are committed to support our students in achieving their full potential. We encourage parents and guardians to prioritise attendance and punctuality by:

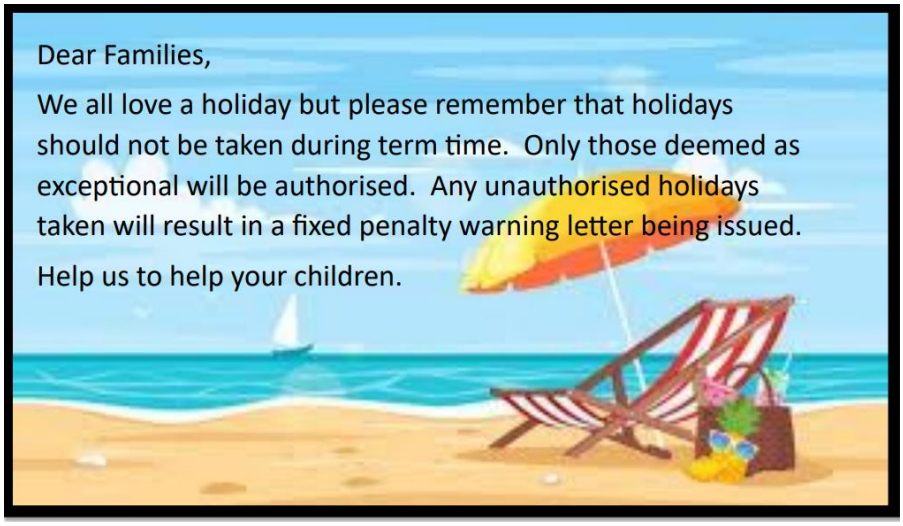
- Establishing a consistent morning routine that allows ample time for preparing for school.
- Communicating with the school regarding any concerns or challenges that may affect your child's attendance.
- Reinforce the importance of education and attendance with your child, emphasizing the long-term benefits of regular school attendance.

Together we can empower our students to thrive and reach their goals.

Your involvement is key to your child's success, and we are here to support you and your child.

ATTENDANCE 4TH SEPTEMBER- 23RD APRIL 2024

Year	%
Reception	**92.5**
Year 1	**93.5**
Year 2	**88.9**
Year 3	**95.9**
Year 4	**94.9**
Year 5	**90.3**
Year 6	**87.2**



WOODLANDS VALUES

At Woodlands we believe every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential.

To help with this Woodlands has six values. We focus on one per half term. They are to be positive, kind, ambitious, passionate, confident, and curious.

We are looking at our values with all the children and in the summer term A, we will focus on being confident. This value will teach pupils to be confident– both in and out of school, helping the children to have the confidence to help them in childhood and into adulthood.

Miss Day will be giving an assembly with regards to being confident, giving some ideas of how they can achieve and work at being confident.

We will update you as to how this went ad perhaps you can speak to your children about how they can work at this very useful value.

DATES FOR THIS TERM

April 2024	Monday 15th April 2024 Monday 29th April 2024 Monday 29th- Thursday 1st May	Return to school 8.55am Isle Of Wight residential trip meeting 2.30pm Year 5 & 6 Club bookings open on Arbor
May 2024	Wednesday 1st May 2024 Friday 3rd May 2024 Monday 6th May 2024 Thursday 9th May 2024 Friday 10th May 2024 Thursday 16th May 2024 Monday 20th – Wednesday 22md May 2024 Tuesday 21st May 2024 Wednesday 22nd May 2024 Thursday 23rd May 2024	Phasels Wood residential trip meeting 2.30pm Year 3 & 4 Year 4 assembly SCHOOL CLOSED- bank holiday Monday Year 4 French Café- details to follow Year 2 assembly Gourmet Burger and Ice Cream Factory Day- please see letter for full details. Isle of Wight Year 5 & 6 residential trip. Year 2- Planetarium Visit (in school) Year 1 trip- Mountfitchet Castle Break up for half term at 3.15pm
June 2024	Monday 3rd June 2024 Monday 3rd -5th June 2024 Friday 7th June 2024 Friday 14th June Friday 14th June 2024 Tuesday 18th June 2024 Friday 21st June 2024	Return to school 8.55am Phasels Wood Year 3 & 4 residential trip Non school uniform day for gifts for Father's Day Year 3 assembly Father's Day Secret Room- details to follow Year 3 Roman Day in school Reception assembly
July 2024	Monday 1st July 2024 Tuesday 2nd July 2024 Monday 8th- Friday 12th July 2024 Wednesday 10th July 2024 Thursday 11th July 2024 Friday 12th July 2024 Wednesday 17th July 2024 Friday 19th July 2024	Bike Ability Course- already booked. Talent Show- TBC Last week of after school clubs Year 5- Frameless Gallery trip I Rock Concert- invites via the I Rock staff Year 1 assembly Year 6 Walton on the Naze trip Year 6 leaver's assembly ;(

Please note this is subject to change but we will try our very best to inform you of any changes or add events as soon as we can.

Woodland Primary Term dates - 2023 - 2024 -

REVISED VERSION JULY 2023

September

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October

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November

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January

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February

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March

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April

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May

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June

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July

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Bank holiday
Inset/Occasional day

Half term holiday
Holiday

Beginning of term
End of term 1.30pm finish.

Hertfordshire School Term and Holiday Dates 2024/2025

September 2024

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October 2024

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November 2024

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December 2024

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Autumn Term

January 2025

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February 2025

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March 2025

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April 2025

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Spring Term

May 2025

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June 2025

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July 2025

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August 2025

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Summer Term

Calender Key

- = Term Time
- = 23/24 Pupil Holidays
- = Bank and Public Holidays
- = 2024/25 Pupil Holidays
- = Secondary Transition Day

Notable Dates

2 September 2024	=	Start of the 2024/2025 academic year
10 July 2025	=	Secondary Transition Day
23 July 2025	=	Last school day of 2024/2025

Autumn Term =	2 September - 25 October 2024	40 days
	4 November - 20 December 2024	35 days
Spring Term =	6 January - 14 February 2025	30 days
	24 February - 04 April 2025	30 days
Summer term =	22 April - 23 May 2025	23 days
	02 June - 23 July 2025	38 days
		196 days

Please Note - Academies and other Own Admitting Authority schools can set their own dates. You should contact these schools direct for term date queries.

INSETS. Occasional DAY CLOSED