Newsletter
February & March 2023

HEAD TEACHER NEWS

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the February / March Newsletter. It has been a great start to the year during which we have seen the children working so hard to reach their goals.

Our 'Be Ambitious' Day was wonderful with the children dressing up as what they want to be in the future – thank you to parents for the efforts made.

Most parents are now using Arbor successfully. We hope to be able to use more features of the App in due course. For any of you struggling to get to grips with the app, the following may be useful for you to watch:

https://youtu.be/kFCuC1NyH5U

As part of sharing our love of reading, we have opened a 'BOOK SWAP' aimed at EYFS pupils. This can be located outside the Nursery door. Please help yourself to books to take home and read with your child. These are free for you to take and enjoy.

If you have books at home that you no longer use, please swap them over.

We request that you collect / select books once the children have entered or left Nursery and the door is closed.

Many thanks

Miss R Woode

GET TO KNOW THE STAFF

Miss Day is our Acting Assistant Head/Deputy DSP. Miss Day has been teaching for around 9 years in several year groups and is currently our reception teacher. A few things about Miss Day are, favourite colour is purple, she loves roast dinners, poppy flowers and her favourite TV programme is Friends. Miss Day also loves to explore different countries and her favourite country to visit is Greece- great choice!

Miss Day

Miss Islam is our acting assistant head and has been teaching for 6 years at Woodlands, teaching in Years 3,5 & 6. She loves teaching maths, her favourite animals are giraffes and favourite sport is football. Fun fact is that she supports Manchester United! When Miss Islam is not teaching you can find her shopping, spending time with family and friends and a new hobby is attending the gym.

Miss Islam

Mrs Haffner has worked at Woodlands for 18 years. She is the proud mum of two boys and a proud mummy of a furry cat called Bugsy. Mrs Haffner's favourite colour is pink and favourite food is sweets! She loves to teach science and the enjoyment in the children's faces when they learn something new or the wonder of a science investigation.

Mrs Haffner

We will get to know some more teachers and staff in the next newsletter!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic book fair is running from Monday 20h February- Friday 24th February 2023. Children will be able to have a look at the books during the day with their teacher and then you will be able to come into the school to buy a book if you would like to at the end of the school day. We will not be selling them at any other time so please make sure you come at the end of the day.

The World Book Day tokens were handed to the children on Monday 20th February and these can be used against any books that are £2.99 or over.

World Book Day- 2nd March 2023 (dress up on Friday 3rd March 2023- all children in school)

As part of World Book Day, we will be asking the children to dress up as their favourite book character to help celebrate on **Friday 3rd March 2023**. This is due to Reception being on a school trip on the Thursday, so we did not want them to miss out! We understand that not all children will want to dress up and that is fine and aware it can be a lot of pressure on parents and carers!

However, we do look forward to seeing the children dress up and to try guess the character so if you are able to join in, that would be lovely.

For further information please check out the following link:

World Book Day 2023 announcements - World Book Day

Be Ambitious Day- Friday 10th February 2023

As you are aware as part of our value this term 'To be ambitious', we encouraged the children to dress up as what the want to be when they are older. We had some great costumes and ideas. Lots of pictures are on our Twitter page @WoodlandsPri. Why not give it a follow!

We hope this has given a little introduction to the children to have ambitions to work towards, step by step, to hopefully achieve their end goal!

Nursery Applications for September

Woodlands are currently accepting Nursery Application forms for September 2023 intake. If your child's birthday falls between 1/9/19 - 31/8/20 please complete an application form and return to the school office by Friday 3rd March 2023. Further information can be found on our Admissions page under "Nursery".

SCHOOL TRIPS

Year 3- Stonehenge- Tuesday 28th February 2023

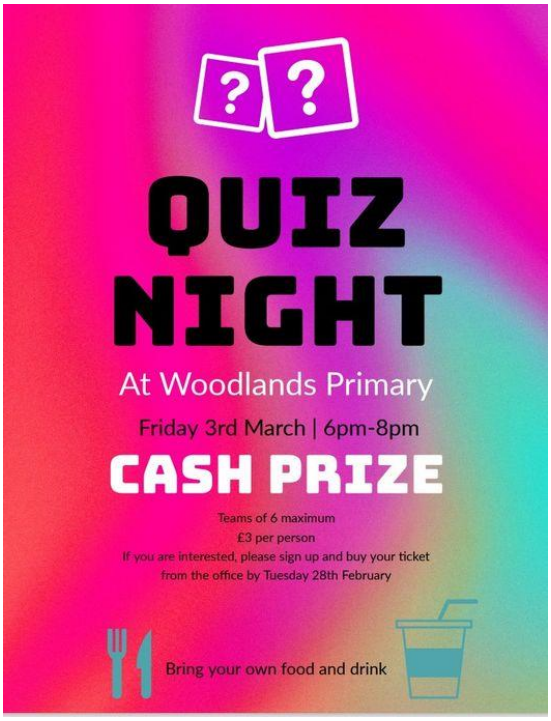
Year 4- History off the Page- 1st March 2023- in school

Reception- Tring National History Museum- Thursday 2nd March 2023

Year 6- Hampton Court Palace- Thursday 9th March 2023

PAYMENTS

As you are aware, we are now asking you to pay for the trip via the Arbor app. When doing so can you please ensure you insert the trip you are paying for in the narrative box. This is to help reconcile the account where the money is deposited. This will be a great help. Many thanks



QUIZ NIGHT

Hopefully you have read our posts on our Facebook and Twitter accounts, we will be holding a Quiz night at Woodlands School on Friday 3rd March 2023. However, we can only do this if we have enough people to attend!

So please come and purchase your tickets at the school office.

£3.00 per ticket, maximum of 6 in a team and you can bring your own snacks and drinks.

The winning team will win a cash prize!

As you are aware, we are continuing with Abor and we are now sending message out via the email and in-app messaging. Therefore can you please make sure you are connected and are receiving these messages. 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. We are no longer using the Parent mail app or platform so this does mean payments etc will be done on this Arbor app.

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.

School dinner are being paid via this app and you can make a direct payment to your child's account by going to 'My Payments' and following the instructions to top up the account.

Please note that the school dinner charge is now £2.78.

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. As before, any bills over £20.00 need to be paid for Herts Catering to supply further meals to your child. If the

debt is over £20.00 we will ask you to supply a home packed lunch until the debt is paid in full.

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

We started the new Winter menu after the half term which the children seem to be enjoying. However, we are aware that your child may not like some of the meals that are on the menu. If this is the case, can you please ensure you advise Miss Devereux so she can amend the main copy of the menu and change it on the system. We are having a lot of children changing their choice when the register is being taken, which we do not encourage. This is because you are then not aware of what they have eaten and there may be dietary reasons for your first choice. 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 and so that Herts Catering could order the right amount of food to reduce waste. Thank you for your cooperation with regards to this.

The menus are on the Herts Catering Ltd website where you can download the full colour menu: https://menus.hcl.co.uk

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/

PACKED LUNCHES

We are still encouraging a healthy home packed lunch. Some children are still 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 biscuit i.e. a penguin or a cookie, but nothing that contains nuts, and a drink. This is normally more than enough.

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.** Thank you.

Free school meals

If your circumstances have changed and 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. We do see older siblings that are on the FSM list but younger siblings from Reception- Year 2 are not. Please make sure you are applying for all your child/ren if you receive benefits.

Please note that the applications cannot be back dated so it is better to check this sooner rather than later.

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: https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/Schools-and-education/At-school/Free-school-meals/Free-school-meals.as

PICK UP INFORMATION- COLLECTION FORMS

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

Attendance is important and as a school we want to improve and promote attendance across the whole school. The department of Education tracks attendance carefully, tracking to see how well the school is doing and we need your help to improve this by bringing your child in **every day and on time.**

Our target as a school is 97% but unfortunately, we are a long way off this target and our attendance as a whole school is 90.7%.

If your child is ill and is not attending, please contact the school by either a call, leaving a message if your call has not been answered or a message via the Arbor app. This way the message will be picked by a member of staff.

If your child is off for longer than 3 days, we would advise that you call the doctor to get an appointment if possible and proof to the school for our records. Also, just a reminder that if your child is sick, they should be off school for 48 hours from the last episode of the sickness/diarrhoea to ensure that they do not have a sickness bug. This is the guideline from the HSC Public Health Agency, which the school adheres to.

Please note for those children whose attendance is very low and is being monitored, we will need proof that your child has attended the doctors to authorise the absence. Failure to do so may result in the attendance being mark as unauthorised and, if your child has more than 15 unauthorised sessions (1 session = half a day) in the current or previous term, could result in a fixed penalty notice being sent to both parents.

LATENESS

We are still having a lot of children are coming into school late. This is also monitored, and parents will be spoken to regarding this.

It is a very important part of the day to allow the children to come into school and settle into the day. It can be a little daunting for children to come in late either during class or assembly. However, we understand it cannot always be helped due to certain circumstances, traffic etc but we ask that, if you are late, the late book is signed. This is for several reasons but mainly for us to account for your child in case of an emergency. Also, now that we are using Arbor, the registers are now input by the class teacher and if your child is late, they will not be put down for a lunch. Miss Devereux then checks the late book to amend the register, so it is very important that the book is completed.

Children need to be on the playground ready to go in to class at 8.55am. The doors will then be closed, and you will need to bring your child to the office to get signed in. Your child will then be marked as late 'L'. However, if you arrive after 9.15am your child will be marked as 'U' which is late after registration, and this is an unauthorised mark.

Holidays during term time are strongly discouraged. If you are intending to go on holiday during the school term, you will need to complete an exceptional leave of absence form. This is then passed to the head to look in to. Generally, holidays will not be authorised unless it is exceptional circumstances.

We continue to ask you to follow the government guidelines with regards to COVID.

Attendance for 2nd September 2022 – 10th February 2023

Year	%
Reception	**91.3**
Year 1	**89.5**
Year 2	**92.7**
Year 3	**93.7**
Year 4	**89.5**
Year 5	**91.2**
Year 6	**92**
Total	**91.44**

Challenge- we would love to improve on the attendance and with everyone's best efforts, we can do it!

EVENTS IN THE PIPELINE!

3rd March Quiz Night £3 per team member. Maximum of 6 per team BYOB / snacks	**16th March** Talent Show £3.00 per ticket	**17th May** Family Bingo £5 per family	**16th June** In-school Fathers' Day Event **Funded by WSSPA**
	17th March In-school Mothers' Day Event **Funded by WSSPA**		**7th July** Summer Fair £2.00 admission fee
2nd March World Book Day Dress Up 3.3.23			**5th July** Sport's Day
7th March Parents Open Morning + Forum			**8th June** Parents Open Morning + Forum

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.

In order to help with this Woodlands has 6 values which we look at each half term. They are to be positive, kind, ambitious, passionate, confident, and curious.

We are looking at our values with all of the children and in the autumn term and we will be looking and practising being positive. These values are teaching pupils to encourage to be confident and to be more curious– both in and out of school.

facebook

A reminder to please join WSSPA's Facebook page 'Friends of Woodlands Primary WD6' which is run by parents of the school where information is shared and the school Facebook page **'Woodlands Primary School Borehamwood'**. We ask that you follow us to keep updated with information. A letter with a QR code was sent out to you along with the Twitter QR Code. It would be helpful if you could follow us to avoid missing out on information.

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.

twitter

Please follow us on twitter @woodlandspri

We regularly post information that will be of use to you. We also share photographs of some of the great work going on.

DATES FOR THIS TERM

February 2023	28th February 2023	Year 3- Stonehenge Trip
March 2023	1st March 2023	Year 4 Saxon and Vikings Workshop
	2nd March 20023	Reception – Tring National History Museum
	2nd March 2023	World Book Day
	3rd March 2023	World Book Day- dress as favourite character
	3rd March 2023	Quiz Night- TBC- tickets on sale!
	7th March 2023	Parents open morning/forum- Arbor
	9th March 2023	Year 6 Hampton Court Palace
	10th March 2023	Year 2 assembly from 9.00am
	16th March 2023	The Talent Show TBC
	17th March 2023	Mother's Day event TBC
	17th March 2023	Red Nose Day- details to follow
	17th March 2023	Year 6 assembly from 9.00am
	21st March 2023	Parents evening times TBC
	22nd March 2023	Parents evening times TBC
	24th March 2023	Year 5 assembly from 9.00am
	27th March 2023	Rock assembly
	29th March 2023	LKS2 production TBC
	30th March 2023	LKS2 production TBC
	31st March 2023	Easter assembly

Please note this is subject to change but we will try our very best to inform you of any changes, as soon as we can!