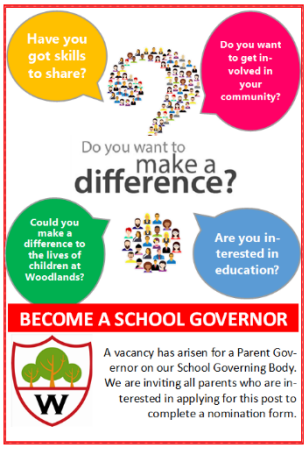
Newsletter
March 2022

HEAD TEACHER NEWS



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the March edition of our Newsletter.

Parent governors

We are still looking for parent governors for the school. If you are interested in finding out more about the role, please do come and talk with me. It is your opportunity to have a say in what happens in the school and we would warmly welcome new members.

Fund raising

There are a number of different fund-raising events coming up at the moment. We like to support a range of charities and encourage our pupils to be aware of these. We are aware that there are lots of requests for payments at the moment. Please only pay what you can and feel free to contact me if you need any support with this.

Walking home alone

From the summer term, we will be changing our policy on children walking home alone. Children will only be allowed to walk home alone if the school has received **written confirmation / permission** from the parent / carer. There is a new policy that can be found on the website. No children from R – Year 4 will be authorised to walk home alone and we do not encourage Year 5 pupils to but will allow this for valid reasons.

Another change is that pupils will not be permitted to walk home alone in the dark. This won't apply to this academic year now – unless it is after an evening event.

Many thanks

Miss Woode

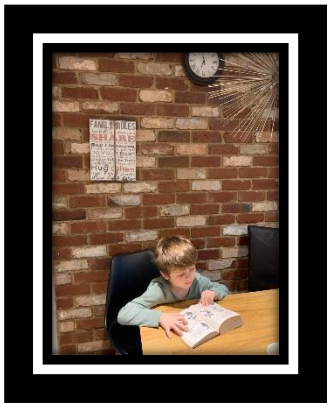
WHAT'S GOING ON?

World Book Day Thursday 3rd March 2022

We celebrated 'World Book Day' by asking the children to dress up as their favourite book character and had some great costumes!

We also asked parents to take a snap of their child reading and send it to the school so we can display these pictures in our classrooms to show how passionate the children are about reading!

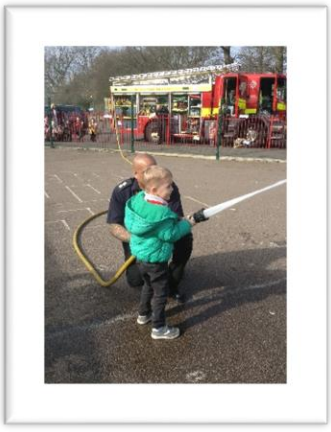
Here are a few of the pictures:

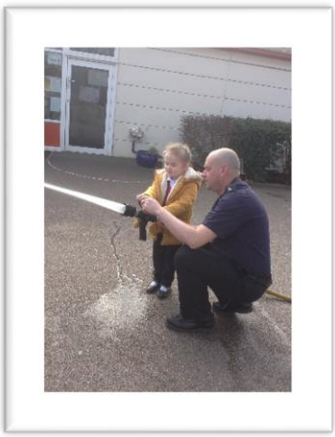


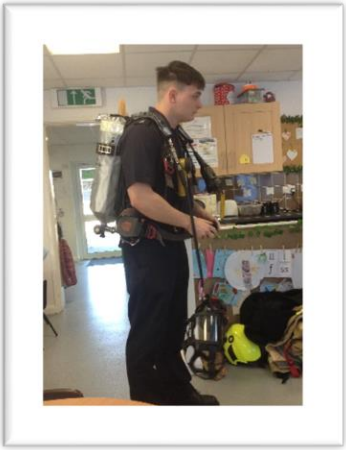
Nursery- Visit from the Fire Brigade

Nursery were very lucky to have the local fire brigade visit them on Thursday 10th March 2022. The firemen spoke to the children in their classroom, explaining the part they play in the community and what their job is. The children had a chance to try on the heavy, protective jackets and then, as you can see from the photos, play firemen.

Thank you to the firemen for taking time out of their day!







Lion King Trip

As you are aware, the children from years 1-6 had their long awaited trip to the theatre to see The Lion King on Wednesday 9th March 2022. Although it was a very long day and we returned back to school a little later than expected, a fantastic time was had by all. The children really enjoyed the show and we hope it was a lovely opportunity for the children to experience the lights, sounds and the atmosphere of the theatre! Thank you to all the staff that organised this trip. As you can imagine, it takes a lot of work! Also, thank you to the teachers, teacher's assistants and the parents that were supervising the children on this trip.

Red Nose Day- Comic Relief Friday 18th March 2022

We are helping to raise money for this year's Red Nose Day, which will take place on Friday 18th March 2022. We are asking the children to dress in non-uniform in exchange to donate to the just giving page; www.justgiving.com/fundraising-edit/woodlands-primary-school-borehamwood6

The school council will also be selling ice lollies during the afternoon so we ask that the children bring in £1.00 in an envelope with your child's name and this money will go towards buying resources and equipment for the school.

Year 3 & 4 Cultural Day

On Wednesday 16th March 2022, Year 4 celebrated all things European (their Geography unit).They had an amazing day taking part in their first ever European cultural day. The children dressed up to represent a country of their choice and told us facts about their country.

They got to sample different breads from different countries, a firm favourite being Pogacha (delicious Bosnian bread, baked fresh for us by Belmin's mum!) They also learnt how to Irish jig in our dance master class. They had a lovely day!

'BE PASSIONATE' VALUES AFTERNOON

This term our value is 'to be passionate'. In order to celebrate this value, on **Thursday 31st March,** we would like to invite your child to share their passion in their class room.

This will give the opportunity for each child to talk about something they are passionate about, sports they play, a club they attend, a musical instrument they play or a hobby they do? They can bring in photos, medals, instruments or anything else they would like to use when talking about and sharing the thing they are passionate about.

We look forward to hearing and finding out about the variety of passions that the Woodland school have!

Keep in Contact

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.

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.

We will soon be launching an official school Facebook page, following feedback that this is an easier form of being updated for some. Please look out for the launch.

PARENTMAIL/GOOGLE FORMS

Please continue to check your parent mail texts and email messages!

We will continue to use this to correspond with you.

If you are having problems it may help to update the app. However, if you are still having problems please let the office staff know and they will try their best to assist you.

Please ensure you book your parents evening appointments via the app which will take place on Tuesday 22nd March 2022 & Wednesday 23rd March 2022.

Also, just to advise you that, **due to the Natwest bank closing in Borehamwood, we will no longer be able to accept cash for future trips** so please ensure that you make the payment via the parent mail app at the correct time. Thank you for you co-operation with this.

PICK UP INFORMATION- COLLECTION FORMS

Another reminder that if someone else is picking your child up, to call the school in plenty of time. If it is a regular arrangement, please complete the collection form and this information can then be passed on to the class teacher and teacher's assistants.

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

SCHOOL GATEWAY/HERTS CATERING LTD

A reminder that all school meals should be paid weekly via the school gateway app that we are now using in school: https://schoolgateway.co.uk/get-started

The charge is £2.60 per day, at the moment, unless you are entitled to free school meals under the benefit umbrella. Please ensure you have downloaded the app in order to pay for your child's school meals. **We are unable to supply further meals for any children if their school dinner bill is over £20.00 and will request parents to provide a home packed lunch until the bill is paid in full.**

Just to advise you that a new menu has been sent out via google forms. Therefore can you please complete as soon as possible in order for us to collate the information. This menu will commence when we return after the Easter holidays on Tuesday 19th April 2022.

This menu will be put on the website for your information: woodlands.herts.sch.uk under the virtual office tab and then to school meals. You will find the dates at the top of the menu which indicates what week we are at.

We have sent the forms out via the google forms in order to save on paper, therefore please ensure you complete your child's choice this way.

If you have any problems, please let Lisa in the office aware and she will try to help.

PACKED LUNCHES

Please make sure if your child has a home packed lunch, that it is a healthy lunch. We are still seeing some children with chocolate bars and also some children with 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.** Thank you.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO READ PLEASE

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. 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 your child/ren if you receive benefits.

If you are having any problems with this, please advise the office staff who will be happy to help. 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 (as long as 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 really important that you apply under the 'benefit umbrella' in order for the school to receive funds that can help your child and so you do not miss out of other benefits. 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

WOODLANDS SCHOOL, STAFF AND PARENTS ASSOCIATION

We have a small dedicated group of committee members who work really hard during the school year to organise and host events to raise much needed funds for all the pupils of Woodlands.

WSSPA are in the process of organising the Mother's Day Secret room on 25th March 2022. Thank you for your gifts that were brought in for this event. The children can bring in their money (£1-£5.00) on Friday 25th March 2022 to purchase an item for their mum, nan, aunt or their loved one.

WSSPA are also organising the Easter Hunt and Eggstravaganza day, which will take place on Thursday 31st March 2022. The children will go on an egg hunt and then there will be a creative activity during the afternoon where there will be a prize for the egg-ceptional egg!!!!!!!

We understand that there is a lot going on requesting money for different events. We are aware that not everyone will be able to take part however the money raised by WSSPA and yourselves all go towards the pupils of the school. The coach for the recent trip to the theatre was funded by money raised by WSSPA and we are hoping to get some microphones for the school for future productions.

We appreciate all the support of the parents and also the hard work that WSSPA put in to make this all happen! It's all for the children!

After our recent WSSPA AGM we are pleased to advise you of the committee members and their roles:

Chair- Jen Peerless and Jacqui Joyce

Vice Chair-Charlie Hicks

Secretary-Daniela Hadzhidencheva

Vice Secretary-Jacqui Joyce

Treasurer-Sharon Knee

Vice Treasurer-Terri Young

It is a joint effort with the staff and the parents that will make WSSPA a success.

So a very big thank you to the WSSPA members- the pupils and staff really appreciate what you do for the school. A big thank you to the staff that help out with the events as well.

We desperately need more parents to join WSSPA to raise money for events for the children. This could involve helping out at one or two events across the year. Please speak to Lisa in the office if you may be able to give us some of your time. ☺

Please continue to show your support and please get involved! It's great fun if we all pull together.

DATES FOR THIS TERM

March 2022	Monday 14th March- Friday 18th March Tuesday 22nd March 2022 Wednesday 23rd March 2022 Friday 25th March 2022 Monday 28th March 2022 Tuesday 29th March 2022 Thursday 31st April 2022	Last week of school clubs Parents Evening 3.30-6.30pm Parents Evening 4.00-7.00pm Mother's Day Secret Room Lower KS2 production at 1.30pm Lower KS2 production at 6.00pm WSSPA Easter event
April 2022	1st April 2022 Monday 4th April- Monday 18th April Tuesday 19th April 2022	Break up at 1.30pm Half Term Summer A term starts
June 2022	22-24th June 2022	Years 5 & 6- Residential trip to Isle of Wight- selected pupils. No further spaces available.

ATTENDANCE

We are still continuing to strive to reach our 97% target in school.

If your child is off for longer than 3 days, we would advise that you call the doctor in order 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 24-48 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 in order 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.

We are also monitoring lateness in school as this is also a very important time of the day. 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 main office to get signed in, if you arrive once the doors are closed. This is the time when the teachers will be settling the children into the new day, letting them know what will be going on in the day so it is a very important time for your child.

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. We understand there are lots of colds and illnesses going around at the moment but ask you to continue to do lateral flow tests and if they have symptoms, to obtain a PCR test. We will update you with any new information we receive relating to covid.

Attendance for 3rd September 2021 – 2022

Year	%
Reception	91.1
Year 1	93.1
Year 2	93.2
Year 3	93.0
Year 4	91.6
Year 5	92.7
Year 6	94.8
Total	**92.8**

The attendance is still a little low as we are still experiencing a number of illnesses as stated above. However, we still want to improve on our attendance figures and ask that you help by sending your children in to school and on time all being that they are well enough to attend.

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 spring term we will be looking and practising to be ambitious and to be passionate. These values are teaching pupils to make be ambitious in everything they do and to follow and embrace their passions – both in and out of school.