Newsletter MARCH 2024

HEAD TEACHER NEWS

Dear Families,

We are delighted to bring you the latest updates and exciting news from our school community. Here's a glimpse into the happenings at Woodlands:

Cake Bake Winners

A sweet congratulations to the winners of our recent Cake Bake competition! Our students and staff showcased their baking talents, creativity, and teamwork. A big shout-out to all participants for making this event a delightful success. Thank you, also to Graham Hornigold, who gave up his time to come and judge the cakes as well as speaking to the children in assembly about his career. We raised over £600 and will be using some of these funds to buy new cooking resources for the children.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this tasty celebration!

Mother's Day Secret Room

In celebration of Mother's Day, we are holding our annual "Mother's Day Secret Room." Pupils will have the opportunity to purchase a gift up to the value of £5 on Friday 8th March.

Sign Up for Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening is a crucial time for open communication between teachers and parents. Please remember to sign up for the upcoming Parents' Evening scheduled for 12th and 14th March. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss your child's progress, address any concerns, and strengthen the partnership between home and school.

World Book Day

We are looking forward to our World Book Day celebrations tomorrow, which will be a literary delight! Annually. students and staff dress up as their favourite book characters, participate in engaging activities, and foster a love for reading throughout the school. Look out for our X (Twitter) posts!

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to another month filled with learning, growth, and community engagement.

Warm regards,

Miss R Woode

GET TO KNOW THE STAFF

Year Five

Ms V Godber
Year 5 Teacher

Mrs K Haffner
Year 5 - Wednesday

Ms S O'Sullivan
Teaching Assistant / MSA

Mrs S Enright
1:1 support am

Year Six

Miss K Islam
Year 6 Teacher

Mrs P Ridler
Year 6 Teacher - Monday

Miss L Smith
Teaching Assistant / MSA

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.

EVENTS/VISITS

SWEET SALE

Just a reminder that we will be selling sweets every Friday for the month of March to raise funds to buy playground equipment for the KS2 playground.

We have made a great start and thank you for your continued support!

EASTER PARADE- NURSERY, RECEPTION, YEAR 1 & 2

It's that time again when we ask parents and children of the above classes to be creative, and make an Easter Bonnet for the Easter Parade that will take place on Thursday 28th March at 9.00am. It is a lovely event which we hope you will be able to partake.

MOTHER'S DAY SECRET ROOM

Details below:

We will be holding our annual Mother's Day Secret Room on Friday 8th March 2024 where your child may bring in up to £5.00 to buy a gift.

Thank you for supporting this lovely event. Your donations we received on Friday 1st March are very much appreciated.

LOWER KS2 PRODUCTION- PUSS IN BOOTS

We are delighted to announce that Year 3 & 4 2 will be performing their production of Puss in Boots.

The dates are:

Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 5.30pm

Wednesday 27th March 2024 at 1.30pm

Tickets are available from the office and are £2.00 each.

The rehearsals are sounding great!

BART GEE- VISIT TO SCHOOL.

Woodlands were very honoured to be visited by Bart Gee, who spoke to them about turning his disability into possibility. The children along with the staff, were very inspired with his amazing achievements and how he has been able to adapt and work hard to achieve these with such grace and passion. He ended the assembly with a beautiful piece on the piano. How inspiring- thank you for your visit.

WOODLANDS CAKE BAKE

Oh, what a lovely day. The smell of all the cakes that filled the whole of the school was glorious!

We were lucky enough to have Tracey, chair of governors and Graham Hornigold, top pastry chef, judge all the cakes. It was a very hard decision for them both and took a lot of tasting to finally come to their decision.

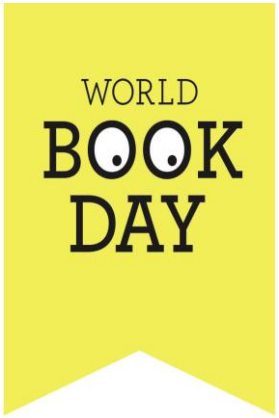
Thank you to everyone that took part as we had an abundance of cakes left which were sold after school, raising over £600 for the pupils of Woodlands! Thank you so much.

So here are the winners:

Harmony, Dolly Anne, Daisy, Enzo, Lily, Lulu, Luca, Charlie, and Mrs Barral- Davies.

Well done to you all! Let's get practising for next year!

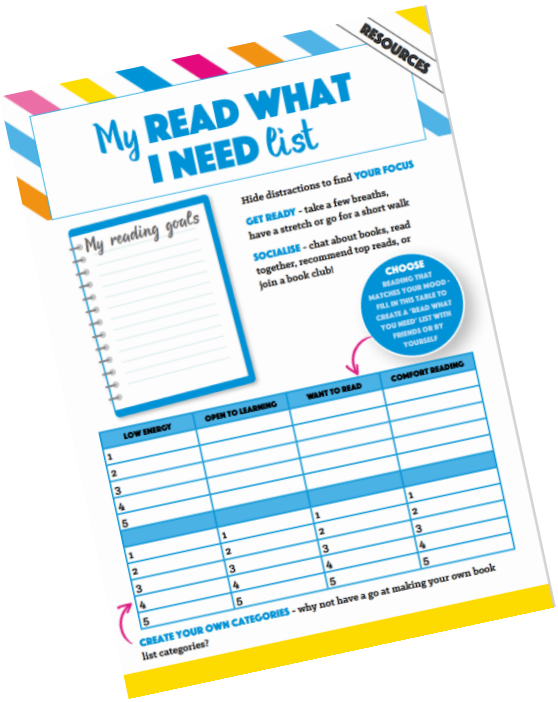
WORLD BOOK DAY

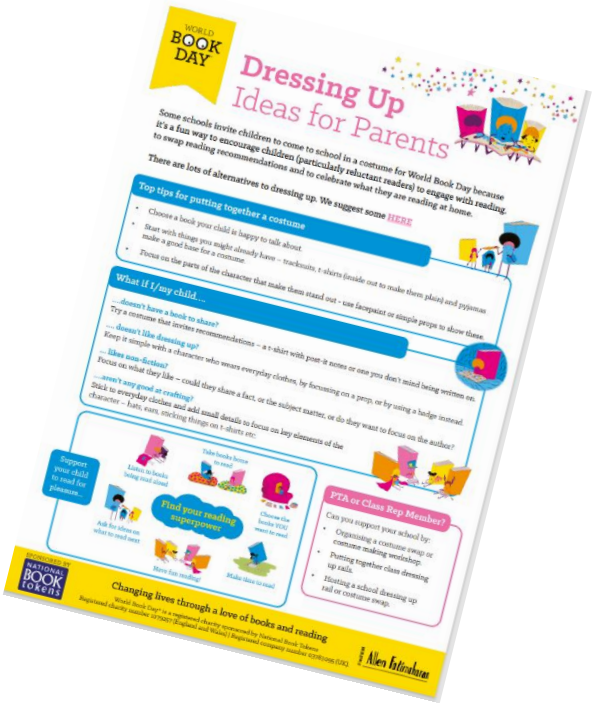


Another reminder World Book Day this year will be **THURSDAY 7TH MARCH 2024** where your child can come to school dressed as their favourite book character. We hope this gives you plenty of time to sort out a costume should your child wish to dress up. We understand not everyone wants to dress up but for those who do, we look forward to seeing your characters.

Please check out the following link to the official website:

Families - World Book Day





RED NOSE DAY FRIDAY 15Th MARCH 2024

Woodlands will be participating, trying to raise money for Red Nose Day this year on Friday 15th March 2024.

As with previous years, we will be asking the children to dress up in exchange for a donation to the Just Giving Page. Please note that **Year 6** are on a school trip that day so will need to wear their school uniform on this day.

Please see the following link to donate:

Woodlands Primary School Borehamwood is fundraising for Comic Relief (justgiving.com)

We hope to raise lots of money for this worthwhile charity. Please note we are unable to accept cash for this so please make sure you donate to the above link. It is very easy to do, and all your donations are appreciated.

For further information please check out the following page with details of where you can purchase this year's noses!

Red Nose Day | Comic Relief

Please copy and paste into your search bar or click and press the control button at the same time.

SCHOOL TRIPS/EVENTS

Year 6- RAF Museum trip- Friday 15th March 2024

Year 6- Hampton Court Palace- Wednesday 20th March 2024

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

Year 1- Mountfitchet Castle- Wednesday 22nd May 2024

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

We try our best to provide after school clubs and would like to thank the teachers and coaches who run the clubs.

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. 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 £3.20 per day (£16.00 per week). We have been notified that the prices will be going up in April but have not been finalised yet. We will let you know as soon as we can.

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. Please contact us if you are having any problems.

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)

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.**

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 o 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

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

As we stride into the new half term, 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- 5TH MARCH 2024

Year	%
Reception	**92.8**
Year 1	**92.3**
Year 2	**90.8**
Year 3	**96.3**
Year 4	**95.6**
Year 5	**91.4**
Year 6	**88.1**

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 spring b term, we focus on being passionate. These values are teaching pupils to be passionate– both in and out of school, having ideas and a passion that may help them in their future!

Miss Day will be giving an assembly with regards to being passionate and finding out what our and the pupils passions are.

In Spring a term, you will remember that we asked the children to dress up in what they would like to be when they are older. We had some great ideas; firemen/women, make up artists, nurse, doctors, teachers, and lots more. Thank you for making this happen- the children had a lovely day.

DATES FOR THIS TERM

February 2024	Monday 26th February 2024	Spring B commences
March 2024	Friday 1st March 2024 Thursday 7th March 2024 Friday 8th March 2024 Friday 8th March 2024 Tuesday 12th March 2024 Wednesday 13th March 2024 Thursday 14th March 2024 Friday 15th March 2024 Friday 15th March 2024 Wednesday 20th March 2024 Thursday 21st March 2024 Friday 22nd March 2024 Tuesday 26th March 2024 Wednesday 27th March 2024 Thursday 28th March 2024	Non-school uniform in exchange for a Mother's Day gift World Book Day- dress up as favourite character. Year 5 assembly Mother's Day Secret room- see poster on page 2 Parents Evening 16.00-19.00 14.30-16.30 (Year 4 only) 14.30-16.30 (not Nursery or Year 4) Red Nose Day tbc Year 6 – Royal RAF Museum Year 6- Hampton Court trip I Rock assembly TBC Year 6- assembly Lower KS2 Production at 5.30pm Lower KS2 Production at 1.30pm Easter Parade at 9.00am Break Up at 1.30pm for Easter break
April 2024	Monday 15th April 2024	Return to school 8.55am

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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December

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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