Newsletter
March/April 2023

HEAD TEACHER NEWS

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a successful and packed spring term for everyone at Woodlands.

We were delighted to raise over £500 on our Mothers' Day Secret Room. All funds will be spent on experiences for the children and keeping costs to a minimum for parents. Raising money for the school through WSSPA means that we can make enrichment activities more affordable and also provide children with in-school experiences. We value your support in these events and are trying different ways to raise funds. Our proposed quiz night had to be cancelled due to lack of interest, but we are hoping for a big turn out for our 'Family Bingo' event coming up next half term. Please come along for some family entertainment whilst support the school.

If you are able to offer some of your time to help with events, please let the office know and I will get in touch with you.

Key Stages 1 and 2 recently completed work on a text 'Africa Amazing Africa'. Some of their work is on display in the school hall.

As we continue to promote a love of reading in Woodlands, we have made books more accessible by providing a book swap outside of

the Nursery. Please help yourselves to books and feel free to place any preloved books in the box for others.

We are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Rowntree, who has been with us in Nursery since September. Mrs Rowntree has an exciting new job offer that she will be starting soon. Good luck with your new adventure! 😊

Below you will see a small selection of photographs of activities that the children have been involved in. Please do follow us on Twitter @woodlandspri to receive regular tweets.

Kind regards

Miss Woode

<u>GET TO KNOW THE STAFF-</u> Please meet the 'SEND TEAM'

Mrs L Waterworth

Mrs J Khanna

Mrs S Enright

Ms A Bennett

Miss J Horsfield

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

WHAT'S GOING ON?

SPORTS NEWS

The year 5/6 girls attended a Herts Consortium Football tournament at Radlett Prep on Wednesday 8th March 2023, where they won 2 games and lost 2 games. Goals were scored by Georgie and Isabelle. Well done to the girls who took part in this game.

We also took part in the swimming gala on Friday 17th March 2023. The children from years 5 & 6 took part in different races against other primary schools coming 5th overall. We would like to say thank you to the parents that have been picking their children up to take part and to the teachers and TA's that organise and accompany the children to these events.

We had a gymnastic competition on Friday 24th March 2023 which some pupils from Year 1, 3 & 5 took part. The competition went very well! The children did a great job and had a lovely time all round. A special well done to year 1 whose behaviour was incredible throughout!

Year 1 won 3rd place
Year 3 won 2nd
Year 5 won 4th

Well done to the children that took part in this competition. Also, thank you to Gemma, who coached the children and the teacher's assistants that took then to the competition.

MOTHER'S DAY SECRET ROOM

We would like to thank you all for your participation in the Mother's Day secret room, for all the donations that were handed in. We hope you all had a lovely Mother's Day on Sunday 19th March 2023.

We will try our best to continue with these events and are always happy for parents to help in any way they can.

Also, we would also like to thank you all for your donations for the Red Nose day where you have raised £114.00. It is very much appreciated as we are aware that funds are very tight for everyone now. Your generosity is very kind!

YEAR 3 & 4 PRODUCTION 'X Factory'

Year 3 & 4 have been busy practising their 'X Factory' production and are looking forward to showing their parents and family the show. We hope you will be able to make it on the following days:

Tuesday 18th April 2023 at 1.15pm (prompt start 1.30pm)

Wednesday 19th April 2023 at 5.45pm (prompt start 6.00pm)

We may have to postpone the production and will update you with the new dates. This is due to having some of the main characters off sick this week.

Tickets are £2.00 and available at the office- maximum tickets 2 per show to start with so it gives a chance for everyone to get a ticket.

Arbor

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 £3.20 from 17th April 2023.

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

As you are aware we will be staring the new Summer/Autumn menu from 17th April 2023. Therefore, 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 still having a few 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.

Another 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

We are very aware that there has been lots of illnesses within the school this term including a bout of chicken pox that seems to have gone and continues to go

through the classes Therefore, as previously advised, we have been putting the names of the children that have had a full calendar month into the raffle and will continue with this. We will pick out 3 names and these children will get a lovely prize at the end of the term.

With regards to attendance, we are aware that the summer term is nearly here and that some parents may start requesting holidays in term time. We must make you aware that most of these requests will be unauthorised unless it is exceptional circumstances. As a school we cannot authorise holidays. These absences will go down as unauthorised. We have to make you aware that we do have the fixed penalty in Woodlands where if your child/ren have more than 15 sessions (half a day = 1 session), in the current or previous term, we can issue a warning and a fixed penalty to both parents after a warning letter has been sent.

We do not want to issue these warnings/penalty notices, but we do have to have this in place if needs be.

The best thing for children is routine. Although we understand that some appointments are not in your control, we strongly discourage parents taking their children out of school in term time for anything that can be avoided. Avoidable absence leads to a lack of continuity in your child's learning and dysregulation.

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 92%.

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), could result in a fixed penalty notice being sent to both parents. County are also informed of children who we have concerns regarding their attendance – in line with protocol.

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 – 27th March 2023

Year	%
Reception	**90.9**
Year 1	**89.5**
Year 2	**91.6**
Year 3	**93.5**
Year 4	**90.3**
Year 5	**90.5**
Year 6	**90.8**

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

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.

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!		