



WOODHALL SCHOOL



www.woodhall.herts.sch.uk

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Wednesday 9th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's great to see our new (ish!) school library being used properly for the first time since changes were made to the COVID guidelines. Learning to read is one of the most important skills a child can learn. At Woodhall, we are passionate about helping every child to learn to read and develop a love of reading that will carry them through their life of learning. Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. As children start to learn to read at school, you can play an important role in helping to keep them interested in books, finding out what interests them and helping them to find books that will be engaging and fun for them. Give time to helping them practise reading the books they will bring home from school.

TOP READING TIPS...

JOIN OXHEY LIBRARY...get your child a library card so that they can choose and borrow books for FREE!
<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/libraries-and-archives.aspx> Oxhey Library: 0300123 4049. Opening hours: Monday 2-6pm/Tuesday 9.30am-6pm/Thursday 9.30am-6pm/Friday 9.30am-6pm/Saturday 9.30am-1pm.

ALL READING IS GOOD...don't discount non-fiction, comics, graphic novels, magazines and leaflets. The important thing is that your child is engaged and excited by what they are reading!

ASK QUESTIONS...to keep them interested in the story, ask your child questions as you read such as, 'What do you think will happen next?' or 'Where did we get to last night? Can you remember what had happened already?'

READ, READ, READ... bring along a book or magazine for any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's surgery.

READ IT AGAIN...AND AGAIN...AND AGAIN... encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems. Re-reading is crucial and helps to build up fluency and confidence.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT BEDTIME...bedtime stories are brilliant. Read to your child; or let your child read to you! It's a great way to end the day and to spend valuable time with your child.

And finally...

"Reading for pleasure is the single biggest factor in success later in life, outside of an education. Study after study has shown that those children who read for pleasure are the ones who are most likely to fulfil their ambitions. If your child reads, they will succeed – it's that simple." Bali Rai



Can you remember some of your favourite books when you were young? Please fill in our form so that we can create a display in the school entrance!

WOODHALL SCHOOL LIBRARIANS



The all-new Keepers of the Library; responsible for shelving returned books, ensuring that books are kept in order with the correct labels, tidying and helping other children with finding or choosing books are...Caitlyn, Jenson, Alessio, Riley, Hassanatou and Charley-Jo. Well done all of you...we know that you will do a fabulous job.



PARENTS'/CARERS' CONSULTATIONS

Parents'/Carers' consultations provide an opportunity to have a discussion with class teachers about how your child has settled into their new year group, their strengths, the 'social side' of school (friendships etc) and progress. This term, consultations will be held by telephone. Your child's teacher will be in touch shortly so that a suitable time/date can be organised.

Please note that, if you do not answer the phone at the organised time, the teacher will move you to the 'back of the list' so that he/she can try you again later. If possible, we will leave a message to say that we have phoned. Please do not call the school back, as each teacher will be phoning parents at pre-arranged times.

If you do not answer for a second time, we will send the consultation sheet home for you.

Early Years (Nursery/Reception) consultations will be arranged differently, and Mrs Roby will be in touch to organise these with parents/carers.

PERFORMANCE POETRY COMPETITION



Thursday 7th October is National Poetry Day, and here at Woodhall we have been busy learning poems to recite in front of an audience. Winners were chosen to perform in our celebration assembly.

Congratulations to everybody who took part, and especially to our overall winners Kye, Hope, Tyler, Julius and Harley. Perfect performances!

COATS AND KITS



Halfway through the Autumn Term and the weather is turning chilly...thank you for making sure that the children are now bringing waterproof coats to school. Just a reminder that we are still taking classes outdoors for PE (weather permitting) so please send them in with a tracksuit top/hoody on PE days.

HARVEST FESTIVAL



We will celebrate our Harvest Festival on Friday 22nd October. Each year, you very generously send in lots of brilliant donations, which we give to one of our local food banks, the *Step In Food Hub*. This has been a lifeline to some of our local families, particularly over the past two years. As usual, we will be collecting any non-perishable items – tins, pasta, toiletries etc. Please put any donations in the box marked 'Harvest Donations' which will be at the main entrance from Monday 11th October. Thank you very much – your kindness will make a huge difference to struggling families and other vulnerable residents.



HALLOWEEN DRESS-UP/RAFFLE

It's coming up to that spooky time of year again! Halloween (31st October) falls in half term this year. On Friday 22nd October, children will get the chance to try out this year's costumes on our Halloween dress-up day (yes, the same day as our Harvest Festival, so...Harvloween?!) Once again, we will be selling tickets for a fabulous Halloween raffle with winners to be drawn on Friday 22nd.



CHRISTMAS FAIR

We are in the very early stages of planning our Christmas Fair, which will take place after school on Friday 10th December. Can you help with organising this? If you have previously given your details, we will be in touch. If not, all help gratefully received! We need helpers to:

- Ask local shops and businesses for raffle donations
- Make cakes to sell on the day
- Help Santa to set up his grotto (luckily, reindeers don't need petrol!)
- Communicate with other parents/carers (if donations are needed)
- Decide on and organise stalls, refreshments, music and other fun.
- Sort out decorations and music



If you are able to help out, please let me know (I am on the gate most mornings).

FACEBOOK PAGE

Have you 'followed' our new school Facebook group? It's now linked to the school website. It's a great way for us to share some of the fantastic things going on in school, such as our topic 'WOW days'. You can find us here: <https://www.facebook.com/woodhallprimaryschool>

BREAKFAST CLUB

Unfortunately, we were not able to run our breakfast club due to an extremely low take-up - where we would not have been able to cover costs. We will offer the club again next term to see whether needs have changed. Apologies to parents who had signed their children up.

WOODHALL SCHOOL PARLIAMENT

The dispatch boxes are in, and we are excited to announce the launch of our all-new Woodhall School Parliament.

CONGRATULATIONS to our brilliant new Woodhall Members of Parliament: Leo, Krisiya, Rajveer, Natalie, Hope, Thomas, Lana, Nikson, Frankie, Lia, Freddie and Isabella.

Each Member will be officially 'sworn-in' at this week's celebration assembly. We know that they will do a fantastic job in representing the voice of their peers. Here, here!

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos will take place on the morning of Thursday 14th October. Children will have individual photos taken as well as a photo with siblings if requested. Pre-school children are welcome to come in for a photo with older brothers and sisters! Please look out for further information nearer the time.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Miss Lake

head@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

★ *DATES FOR YOUR DIARY* ★

DATE	EVENT	TIME
11.10.21	Harvest donations accepted from today Halloween raffle tickets on sale every day after school	N/A
14.10.21	School photos	Morning
14.10.21	Y4 tri-golf tournament at St.Joseph's	12.30-3.15pm
18.10.21	Come and Learn with Year 6	2pm
22.10.21	Woodhall Harvest Festival Halloween dress-up Day	Morning
25.10-29.10.21	HALF TERM WEEK	
1.11.21	Back to school Swimming starts for Y4 children	Soft start from 8.30am Afternoon
4.11.21	Come and Learn with Year 4	2pm
11.11.21	Come and Learn with Year 3	2pm
16.11.21	Come and Learn with Year 1	2pm
18.11.21	Y5 Fun run (South Oxhey playing fields)	12.30-3.15pm
22.11.21	Come and Learn with Year 5	2pm
25.11.21	Come and Learn with Year 2	2pm
29.11.21	Staff INSET day – no pupils	All day
9.12.21	Early Years' Christmas play	TBC
9.12.21	Y1-Y6 trip to Watersmeet: 'Cinderella'	Afternoon
10.12.21	Woodhall Christmas Fair	Afternoon
14.12.21	Woodhall Tree Festival	Afternoon
14.12.21	Y3-Y6 Carols by Candlelight	6pm
15.12.21	Woodhall's WOW Wednesday Christmas (a day of Christmas arts and crafts)	All day
16.12.21	Woodhall Christmas jumper day Christmas dinner day 'The X-Mas Factor' talent show	All day
21.12.21	Last day of term	School finishes 1pm

PLEASE SHARE A BOOK FOR OUR READING DISPLAY...

Please complete the box and send this page back to school. Thank you!

Here's an example:

My name is *Anna Smith.*

I am *Alfie's mum.*

One of my favourite books when I was younger was

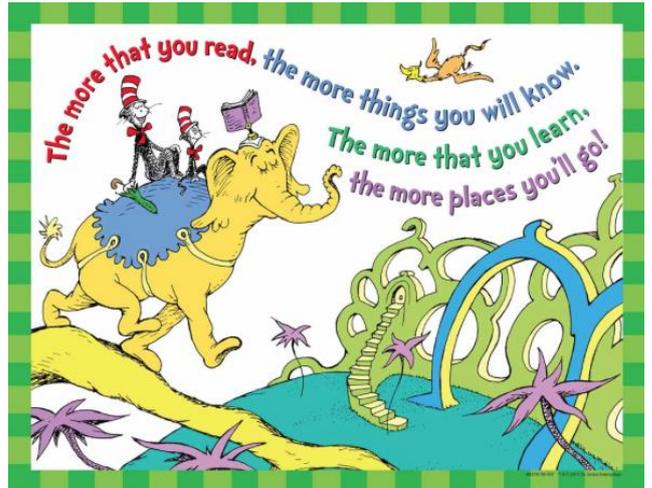
'The Magic Faraway Tree'

It was written by

Enid Blyton

The reason I loved this book so much was because

I loved all the different lands at the top of the Faraway Tree; especially Topsy-Turvy Land, and I wanted to visit there myself!



My name is _____

I am _____

One of my favourite books when I was younger was

It was written by

The reason I loved this book so much was because



P.S. If you have any family members that would like to share their favourite book, I will give children extras to take home!