



WOODHALL SCHOOL



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Monday 7th February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a whirlwind of a first half-term we've had! As you will know, the Woodhall community has been significantly impacted by the spread of Covid; reaching 'outbreak' status in January. As a result, we instigated extra measures – e.g. cancelling clubs and not using communal areas such as the lunch hall - as per our Covid Outbreak Plan. We are in regular contact with the Hertfordshire Covid Response Team, who commented that our measures were outstanding and entirely appropriate. We are pleased to report that most children and staff have now returned to school and we have been able to return to holding assemblies and eating lunch together. Thank you for your support and understanding during this challenging time. Let's hope that we have a more settled second half-term!



LOVE THAT BOOK!

Each term, we hold a 'Love That Book!' week, where we help pupils to develop a lifelong love of books and of reading for pleasure through engaging with rich and high-quality texts. This term, we chose Maurice Sendak's classic 'Where the Wild Things Are'. The children loved it! Each class used the story in different ways. Our Early Years children acted out the story (complete with Max's boat!), Year 1's classroom was destroyed overnight by Wild Things and the children had to write 'WANTED' posters to find out what had happened; Year 2 used felt and other materials to create Wild Things; Year 3 made some fantastic dioramas using various materials; Year 4 made their own Wild Things masks; Year 5 modelled 3D Wild Things using papier mache and Year 6 looked at evolution and inheritance, thinking about the offspring of the Wild Things. We all ended the week with the most noisy, stumpy, chaotic, whole-school WILD THING RUMPUS outside!



WORLD BOOK DAY: *Friday 4th March 2022*

This year we will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of World Book Day. Although the real World Book Day falls on Thursday, at Woodhall, we will be celebrating on **FRIDAY 4TH MARCH** with a whole host of fun, activities and (of course) our traditional World Book Day dress-up! This year, our dress-up theme will be LITERARY ANIMALS. Animals feature in so many fantastic children's books; Fantastic Mr. Fox, Paddington, The Tiger Who Came to Tea, the Just So stories, the Cat in the Hat, Winnie-the Pooh, Watership Down, Harry Potter, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Dear Zoo, The Sheep-Pig...the list goes on!

Why not have a look at the official World Book Day website? There are lots of great resources, ideas and activities as well as links to book readings: <https://www.worldbookday.com/>



'COME AND LEARN WITH...'

Thank you for your overwhelmingly positive feedback regarding last term's 'Come and Learn with...' sessions. As requested, we have scheduled new sessions for this term. Please see the dates below. If you didn't attend before, why not give it a try? Teachers will focus on a specific area of the curriculum and demonstrate different strategies for supporting learning. They will talk about the key components of the area, and about how we have planned to help children to 'catch up' after the lockdowns. You'll get a chance to ask any questions. We hope to be able to offer a wider range of parent/carer workshops in the summer term, once Covid guidelines have been relaxed.



ASSEMBLIES

Now that we are able to meet in the hall for assemblies again, we have lots of fantastic things to share and discuss with the children. This term, assemblies include Mental Health Week, the Winter Olympics, British Science Week, St.Patrick's Day, Pancake Day, Holi, Sports' Relief, Purim and Easter. We also dedicate assemblies to different subjects from our curriculum. Our assembly music this term features songs from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Every Friday we hold our Celebration Assembly, where we all join in to congratulate our 'Woodhall Wow' and 'Learner of the Week' winners, sports' awards, maths awards and much more. If your child receives an award at an out-of-school club, let us know so that we can mention them in assembly and celebrate together.

You can view this term's full assembly rota on our school website. We've included music links in case you want to listen at home!

GET PLAYING! MUSIC LESSONS

Last term, we had a visit from a brass musician, Giovanni. We are excited to be able to offer weekly brass 'taster' lessons (currently trumpet) with Giovanni for children in Years 3-6. These taster lessons are **COMPLETELY FREE** for half-a-term. If your child would like to join, please complete and return the form (on the back of the letter sent home last week) or register via <https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/GetPlaying/>



The more, the merrier!

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please ensure that your child comes to school in the correct uniform. All school uniform (including PE kits) can be ordered through our online supplier Mapac: www.mapac.com. On non-PE days, children should wear uniform with black school shoes. PE kits consist of either the school kit (via Mapac) or plain black jogging bottoms and a plain white t-shirt/plain black sweatshirt or hooded top. Thank you.



CARPENDERS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Many of the children/families at Woodhall live in Carpenders Park, and I pleased to say that from now on, our school will feature in the quarterly Residents' Association Newsletter. We do have spaces at Woodhall, and this will help to spread the word about all the brilliant things that go on here as well as letting everyone in Carpenders Park know that we are a family-centred school with a strong ethos around social, emotional and mental well-being. <http://www.carpendersparkresidents.org.uk/>

VALENTINE'S RAFFLE

Tickets for our Valentine's raffle will be on sale from Monday 7th February until Thursday 10th February. Some lovely prizes up for grabs! Huge thanks to Mrs Hills and Mrs Mangan for organising this.

Want to know about the real St.Valentine? Have a look at https://kids.kiddle.co/Saint_Valentine



HERTFORDSHIRE SPECIALIST DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

After half-term, you might see some new faces around Woodhall. This is because we are becoming the host school for one of Hertfordshire's five Specialist Development Centres (SDC). SDCs provide sessions for children aged 0-3 years who have Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities. Staff support their families through what can be an incredibly challenging time, and the service provides lots of external support depending on what each child needs (for example, physiotherapy or medical support). The SDC will be located in our former 'Community Room' and we will create a new 'Community Space' in school. Children attending the SDC will come from across the Three Rivers district. We look forward to welcoming them, their families and the SDC staff to Woodhall!

You can find out more about Specialist Development Centres here:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/early-years-0-5/early-years-specialist-development-centres.aspx>

As always, please get in touch with any questions or concerns. Thanks for your support everyone!

Miss Lake

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<https://www.facebook.com/woodhallprimaryschool>





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



DATE	EVENT	TIME
14.2-18.2.22 HALF TERM WEEK		
21.2.22	All back to school Year 5's Celts' Day	Soft start from 8.30am
22.2.22	Children can wear their Cubs, Brownies, Rainbows or Beavers uniforms to school today to celebrate Lord and Lady Baden-Powell's birthdays.	
24.2.22	Woodhall v St.Joseph's Netball Match (league)	3.45pm
28.2.22	'Come and Learn with Year 5' afternoon	2pm
2.3.22	'Come and Learn with Year 4' afternoon	2pm
3.3.22	Year 1 & Year 2 trip to Headstone Manor	Leaving at 9am
3.3.22	Woodhall v St.Joseph's Netball Match (friendly)	3.45pm
4.3.22	Woodhall's World Book Day dress-up (animals)	
8.3.22	'Come and Learn with Year 6' afternoon	2pm
9.3.22	'Come and Learn with Year 2' afternoon	2pm
10.3.22	'Come and Learn with Year 1' afternoon	2pm
16.3.22	Harrow School F.A.Cup anniversary football tournament	Afternoon – details TBC
17.3.22	Year 5 Tag Rugby Festival	12.30-2.45pm
24.3.22	Year 3/Year 4 Spring Concert	6pm
28.3.22	Staff INSET – no children at school today	
30.3.22	Year 6 £2 Challenge	
1.4.22	End of Term	1pm finish
4.4.22 EASTER HOLIDAYS		
30.5.22 HALF TERM WEEK		
22.7.22 END OF SUMMER TERM		

Open the windows and open the door
 And let the fresh breezes blow in, blow in.
 Jack Frost has gone to his home in the north
 And all of a sudden it's Spring!

(Author unknown)

