

Hello Everyone!

You might not know about the wonderful Woodhall School, as we are tucked away behind the trees on the other side of the railway line! Many of the families in our school community live in Carpenders Park, and it is great to have been given the opportunity to tell you a little bit about our lovely school.

Woodhall is a one-form entry primary school, with a mornings-only Nursery. We are a real community-oriented school, and we love having visitors (like our brilliant local police officers) and working alongside various community groups to bring a wide-range of experiences and support to our children and their families.

We had a very busy autumn term! It was great to have the children here for a full term without needing to close. At Woodhall, we thought carefully when planning changes to the curriculum following the lockdown periods to ensure the best provision for our children. During the autumn term, we focused on teaching key skills in maths, reading and writing and on filling gaps in learning resulting from missed schooling. Children thoroughly enjoyed their learning in the foundation subjects (history, geography, art, DT, Spanish etc.) and their experiences were enriched through carefully-planned whole school events and celebrations, such as Black History Month, World Mental Health Day and Anti-Bullying Week. We have our fantastic Woodhall School Parliament with our Children’s Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Freddie; and our Woodhall Members of Parliament hold class meetings and bring forward views and ideas of behalf of all of the children. Order!

We also…

* *Held a ‘topic WOW day’ in each class, engaging and enthusing the children at the very start of their termly learning journey;*
* *Ran ‘Come and Learn with…’ sessions for parents/carers which were a real success!*
* *Had our termly ‘Love That Book!’ week, where each class look at the same text in an age-appropriate way. This term, we used ‘The Lost Spells’ by Robert MacFarlane and Jackie Morris – the class displays in our hall are wonderful!*
* *Celebrated World First Aid Day, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Diwali, Black History Month, National Poetry Day, Harvest, the Battle of Hastings anniversary, Bonfire Night, Halloween, Remembrance Day, Hanukkah, Advent, Christmas (amongst many more!)*
* *Introduced a range of sports’ clubs including boxing, roller-skating, street dance, football, netball and tag rugby;*
* *Experienced a journey into deep space inside the Wonderdome, visited the mummies at the British Museum, saw the amazing plants at Kew Gardens, explored the woods in our local community, laughed and laughed at the Watersmeet pantomime;*
* *Welcomed our friends from the local community including Police Officers Chris, Ross, Daisy, James and Brent; Curate Josh; Councillors Reena and Chris; and had regular visitors from our school governors.*
* *Smiled for our school photos (in most cases!) and sang our hearts out at ‘Cheeky Cherubs’, ‘Prickly Hay’ and Carols by Candlelight;*
* *Listened to the sound of brass instruments, violins, steel drums and much more through our music lessons, musician visitors to school and the talents of our very own Woodhall teachers!*

Phew! All this on top of the brilliant learning going on in each classroom. We are so proud of the tremendous effort that all of the children made. As always, social/emotional and mental well-being continue to be high priority at Woodhall. This is something that we talk about very openly with the children, some of whom attend our excellent ROWAN (Reach Out Well-being and Nurture) provision. We all need a little extra support sometimes.

If you would like to come and visit us, we would love to show you around! Please either phone the school office on 0208 428 3447, or email me: head@woodhall.herts.sch.uk. We do have spaces, and can advise you on making applications for both the Early Years and in other classes.

Here’s what some of our visitors had to say last term…

*‘Such a wonderful school and we couldn't be happier. We are so lucky to have such a fantastic setting available.’* (Parent feedback form)

*‘Staff know all of their pupils very well and give such personalised, individual attention to each child, to help them achieve their full potential.’* (Parent feedback form)

*‘Every child matters in this school and all pupils are provided with every possible opportunity to be successful in their learning’* (Linda Hardman, Hertfordshire Improvement Partner)

We wish all the residents of Carpenders Park a very happy and healthy 2022.

Michelle Lake

Headteacher

