

Woodhall Weekly



Friday 20th December 2024



As usual, the weeks have whizzed by at Woodhall and now here we are at the end of the autumn term already. *And what a term it's been!* Despite it being a challenging time for our lovely little school, we keep the **children at the centre** of everything that we do. In addition to a very **carefully planned, broad and engaging curriculum**, we are proud that our provision is enriched with a **wide variety of unique events and experiences**. *There has been no stopping us on our incredible learning journey!*

The children at Woodhall have a **voice in what happens at their school**. At the very start of the term -and with the help of our new Woodhall Parliamentarians- children decided upon new 'big cat' class names and helped to shape **THE WOODHALL WAY**; statements that underpin our Woodhall Values and guide our daily lives at school.

Over the weeks, we have welcomed many new children and their families who have joined our school and become part of our bigger **Woodhall Family**. Not just our new Early Years children, but also throughout the year groups...**Ihsan, Dhyanam, Swalih, Aarav, Ryan, Aaron, Phoebe, Juan and Sofiia**, we are very happy that you chose Woodhall!

Our **special celebration days** this term have included **Diwali, Bonfire Night and Harvest**. It's always wonderful to see children **working together** across the year groups to learn more about special occasions celebrated not just in the UK but around the world. And of course, we can't forget about our very first **Elf Day**...Santa's toy production must have been significantly reduced that day as so many of his elves were at Woodhall!

The pupils in Year 6 have stepped into their new roles (those that come with being the senior class at school) with **great responsibility and pride**. We were especially proud of the way that the children planned and presented our **Woodhall Remembrance** assembly; a solemn and important event. *Well done, Year 6 Lions!*

We visited the amazing **Hobbledown Heath** for a day of team-building, fun and adventure; and we gazed in amazement at the exceptional performances, costumes and set design during our trip to see '**Alice in Wonderland**' at the **Royal Opera House**. We reminded the children of the importance of road safety during our '**Be Bright, Be Seen**' day and we were definitely the loudest school at Watford Palace Theatre when we went to see '**Aladdin**'!

Once again, we've welcomed a whole host of **special community visitors** to Woodhall. PCSOs Chris and Ross from our Safer Neighbourhood Team; local Councillor Chris Alley, All Saints' Vicar Deborah and our talented friends at Electric Umbrella (to name but a few!) We have continued to **play a huge part within our local community**...singing carols at the Senior Lunch Club's Christmas Lunch, making angels for All Saints, entering (and winning!) the South Oxhey Christmas Fair poster competition and much, much more.

Our totally unique **'baked beans for Harvest'** collection was not only huge fun and the centre of lots of very interesting questions (*which beans represent the best value? Which contain the least sugar? How many different brands can we collect?*) but our collection also weighed a spectacular **121kg** – all donated to the brilliant **South Oxhey Food Bank** to help local families in times of need.

We are looking forward to carrying out some very special, history-related work in South Oxhey after Christmas...but we'll tell you more about that in 2025!

Some of our **School Governors** spent the day with us this term and were very impressed by everything going on at school...the **children's excellent behaviour**, their **kindness**, their **outstanding attitudes towards learning** and their **hard work**. As one governor put it: **"When you step into Woodhall, it feels full of colour and light!"**

We know that our children are growing up in a highly-pressured world, heavily influenced by social media. Through a wide variety of approaches, from our daily interactions to assemblies to individual support, we always have the **children's social, emotional and mental health and well-being in mind**. In fact, this term we were very proud to be the **first local school** to introduce **weekly yoga sessions** for each class, led by the brilliant Louisa. It really is fantastic to witness this oasis of calm...children developing **core strength, balance and co-ordination**, and **learning to relax**, to be **aware of their feelings and emotions** and **manage anxieties**.

Of course, all of these things would not be possible without our Woodhall team of **highly experienced and dedicated staff**. As the country experiences a difficult and uncertain time in education, our staff team consistently go *'over and above'* to support the children and for that, I am a very grateful and proud Headteacher! We are also incredibly lucky to have a group of **reliable, supportive** and **highly-appreciated parent/carer volunteers**. So to anyone who's come with us on a trip, helped out with school events or supported children in their class this term...**THANKS A MILLION!**

All of us at Woodhall wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas break. See you in 2025!

Michelle Lake

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STRUGGLING AT CHRISTMAS?

Christmas can be a difficult time of year for your mental health and well-being, including worries about money and other practical issues. Here are some avenues of support for anyone struggling during the Christmas break:

WATFORD FOOD BANK: open over the Christmas period

01923 804435/07450344799

info@watford.foodbank.org.uk

HERTS MIND NETWORK: working across Hertfordshire to provide support for mental health and well-being.

02037 273600

info@hertfordshiremind.org

SAMARITANS: call at any time of the day or night.

116 123

io@samaritans.org

THREE RIVERS CITIZENS ADVICE: support for a variety of issues including debt and housing.

0208 515 8321

www.threeriverscab.org.uk

IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD, TRUST YOUR INSTINCT AND MAKE CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP.

Call the **NSPCC HELPLINE** on **0808 800 5000**

EMAIL via help@NSPCC.org.uk

A specialist will listen, advise and take any action necessary. You do not have to say who you are.

You can also call the **HERTFORDSHIRE CHILDREN'S SERVICES** on **0300 123 4043**

*If you think that a child is in **IMMEDIATE DANGER** or that a crime is being committed, call **999**.*



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note: life in primary school can be very eventful and sometimes we will need to make changes to the dates listed. When this happens, we will try to give you as much notice as possible.

DATE/TIME	EVENT	ANY OTHER INFORMATION
Friday 20th December (1pm)	End of term	
Monday 23rd December- Friday 3rd January/CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS		
Monday 6th January		Back to school
Monday 17th-Friday 21st February/HALF TERM WEEK		
Friday 4th April (1pm)		End of term
Monday 7th April – Monday 21st April/EASTER HOLIDAYS		
Tuesday 22nd April	Back to school	
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday Monday	School closed
Monday 26th May- Friday 30th May/HALF TERM WEEK		
Friday 18th July (1pm)		End of term

USEFUL CONTACTS

Headteacher: Michelle Lake

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SENCo: Mrs Raithatha

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EYFS (TIGER CUBS) Teacher/EYFS SENCo: Miss Jones

njones@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

Year 1/2 (PANTHERS) Teachers: Mrs Fitzgerald/Mrs Biedul

Julie.Fitzgerald@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

lbiedul@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

Year 3/4/5 (JAGUARS) Teacher: Mrs Cooper Battersby

Ebattersby@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

Year 5/6 (LIONS) Teachers: Mr Rubeck

jrubeck@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

SCHOOL OFFICE

0208 428 3447

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For notification of absence, please email:

attendance@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

