

# Woodhall Weekly



Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025



This week, we marked **World Book Day** with a celebration of bedtime stories, accompanied by children wearing their pyjamas and onesies to school (very comfortable!). Listening to your grown-up reading a story at bedtime helps to sow the very early seeds of **reading for pleasure** and a **lifelong love of books**, which is something that we really do nurture at Woodhall. Bedtime stories not only unlock **worlds of imagination and wonder** but they can also help children to explore new **feelings, experiences** and **knowledge** in a very **safe environment**. As children get older, they can start to participate in a **shared reading experience** with you, taking turns reading pages and discussing the story. In time, the child can transition to reading independently before going to sleep – much better than being on a device! Independent bedtime reading doesn't just promote enduring literacy skills, but it can also help foster good bedtime routines and sleeping habits.

In each class at Woodhall, in addition to texts providing a springboard for developing skills in English lessons, teachers read a book to their class purely for pleasure. As we all know, younger children love to hear their favourite stories read again and again, and this is no different in our **Tiger Cubs** class! Currently, the children's favourites include '**Troll and the Oliver**' and '**Grumbug**' by **Adam Stowe**, as well as '**Jack and the Beanstalk**' – the children have planted beans and are very excited about whether they might find a giant at the top of their beanstalks! Our **Panthers** class are loving some of Roald Dahl's stories for younger children! Mrs Fitzgerald and Mrs Biedul have just finished reading '**George's Marvellous Medicine**' to the class (who absolutely roared with laughter at George's grandmother having a '*small, puckered-up mouth like a dog's bottom*'). The children have voted for 'The Twits' as their next story and I know they will enjoy hearing about all the terrible tricks that Mr and Mrs Twit play upon each other!

Our **Jaguars** are currently busy reading a selection 'old classics' – timeless stories that are well-loved by generations – and up in our **Lions** class, Mr Rubeck is halfway through reading '**Cool**' by UK Children's Laureate **Frank Cottrell-Boyce**. This tale of how a terrifically tall boy finds himself teaching a class by accident is a fantastic read!

Reading – whether sharing books or reading independently – opens up a **world of possibilities**. We'd love to share your home book recommendations – why not email your child's class teacher and let them know about the books you are enjoying at home so that we can share them with other families?

Thank you for sending the children to school in their World Book Day finery and have a lovely weekend!

Michelle Lake

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### **SCHOOL LUNCHES: WEEKLY OPTIONS**

If your child has school lunches, please remember that the choices are:

1. School lunch **every day** (Monday to Friday)
2. School lunch on **Wednesdays** (*roast lunch*) **AND Fridays** (*Friday Fun Day*). Child has packed lunch for the rest of the week.
3. School lunch on a **Wednesday OR a Friday** only. Child has packed lunch for the rest of the week.

Unfortunately, we are not able to switch between options on a daily/weekly basis. Please make your choice at the start of each half-term. Thank you.

Our fantastic school cook Brogan will be introducing a brand new menu for the summer term, packed full of delicious hot and cold options! Don't forget that if you are in receipt of particular benefits, your child may be entitled to a free school lunch. Check by visiting:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

### **BITS AND BOBS FOR BONNETS**

On **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**, we will be busy bonnet-building at Woodhall! All of the children will make their Easter bonnets in class out of recycled materials...boxes, newspaper, magazines, plastic bottles, eggboxes and more. *If you have anything that might be useful, send it in!* Please note that resources brought in will be available to all of the children. Nearer the time, we will talk to the children about bringing in items that they can use for their bonnet only. Thank you!

### **OUR ROYAL VISIT**

If you've seen the photos from our royal visit last week – when His Majesty Henry VIII graced Woodhall with his presence – you'll know what a terrific time we had! Yesterday, I received the following email:

*'He (Henry VII) phoned me at lunch time on the day to tell me about everything the school had done for him because he was so blown away. In our 7+ years of delivering workshops across the country, we have NEVER had a school go all out like this to make the day the very best it could be for the children. The amount of people who came together to work on this is incredible. The decorated dining hall, the visit from the PCSOs, the engagement from staff and children, the fact that teachers throughout the school curtsied when they passed him in the corridor, the School Parliament...everyone was outstanding. It made Henry's day.'*

**Well done Woodhall!** Not only an amazing learning experience, but yet again our Woodhall Values have made an impact on our visitors. And also...it seems that Henry VIII is fully up-to-date with mobile phone technology!

### **EASTER RAFFLE**

Tickets for our legendary **Easter raffle** will be on sale from **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March** at **£1 for a strip of 5 tickets**. Winners will be drawn during our end-of-term Easter assembly.

This year, we have asked you for donations for our raffle. If you donate a prize, your child will receive a ticket for our star prize draw...**a whole box of Easter goodies!**



## **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
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Jaguars/Lions carbon monoxide safety workshops
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	KS1/KS2 Railway Safety assemblies
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Year 5 visit to Oxhey Library: workshop with local artist
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	Easter bonnet-making day
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	The Eggs Factor (talent show)/Easter evening disco
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b>	End of term/Easter Bonnet parade
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April/EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>	
<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	Back to school
<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	St.George’s Day dress-up
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Bank Holiday Monday
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Year 6 SATs Week
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May/HALF TERM WEEK</b>	
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Year 1 Phonics Screening Week
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Year 4 Multiplication Test Week
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Year 4 ‘Shine’ concert (Electric Umbrella) at St. Albans’ Cathedral
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Year 6: Hertfordshire secondary transition day
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Parents/Carers’ consultation evenings
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Year 6 Leaving do/Years 1-6 disco
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July (1pm)</b>	End of term; Year 6 leavers’ breakfast/assembly
<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August - Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September/SUMMER HOLIDAYS</b>	
<b>ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026</b>	
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Back to school
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October/ HALF TERM WEEK</b>	
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b>	Occasional Day
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	End of term
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January/CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS</b>	
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup>– Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February/HALF TERM WEEK</b>	
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April/EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>	
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> -Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May/HALF TERM WEEK</b>	
<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	End of term



# CONGRATULATIONS TO LAST WEEK'S AWARD WINNERS!

 **WE ARE SO PROUD OF OUR AWARD WINNERS!** 

28.2.25	The Woodhall Wow: PASSION	Learner of the Week	
<b>TIGER CUBS</b> 	BIA who has shown such a great passion for writing; using her knowledge of sounds to write lots of words independently. Brilliant Bia!	CARTER for his fantastic doubling in our maths sessions this week. And he worked out the answers REALLY quickly. What a marvellous mathematician!	
<b>PANTHERS</b> 	JOSEPH for the passion he shows for all of his learning and his wonderful enthusiasm in class. Amazing!	TIMOTHY whose focus and concentration has been very impressive in maths this week. Terrific Timothy!	
<b>JAGUARS</b> 	MATTHEW- you showed great passion for History in your role as Henry VIII's Usher on Tudor Day. Well done!	IHSAN- you work hard in absolutely every lesson and have thrown yourself at every challenge this week; from cooking, to creating a 3D model, to Tudor dancing! Well done!	
<b>LIONS</b> 	AARON who also showed a huge passion for history when King Henry came to visit. Incredible knowledge!	THOMAS who has produced some excellent writing both this week and last half-term s especially his biography based on 'Kensuke's Kingdom'. We were all very impressed!	
<b>HOUSE POINTS</b>			
<b>OAK</b>	<b>ASH</b>	<b>BEECH</b>	<b>ELM</b>
445	242	227	121

## 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](mailto:njones@woodhall.herts.sch.uk)

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

[Julie.Fitzgerald@woodhall.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Julie.Fitzgerald@woodhall.herts.sch.uk)

[lbiedul@woodhall.herts.sch.uk](mailto:lbiedul@woodhall.herts.sch.uk)

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

[Ebattersby@woodhall.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Ebattersby@woodhall.herts.sch.uk)

**Year 5/6 (LIONS) Teachers:** Mr Rubeck

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### SCHOOL OFFICE

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**For notification of absence, please email:**

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