

Woodhall Weekly



Friday 2nd May 2025



The new term is well and truly underway at Woodhall, with lots of **exciting learning** flourishing across the school. Our **Tiger Cubs** have chosen 'Pirates' as their new role-play area, so they will be hopping aboard the Good Ship Woodhall and sailing off into some exciting learning adventures including finding out about **directional vocabulary** (*up/down, forwards/backwards, left/right* etc.) through **creating treasure maps** and **sharing some brilliant books** such as 'The Night Pirates' by Peter Harris and Deborah Allright. Yo ho ho!

In Key Stage One, our **Panthers** class are busy planning and carrying out some **interesting investigations** in **science**. They are going to start by **comparing a range of materials** to explore what the best material to use for Teddy's umbrella might be. The children will learn **key vocabulary** such as *hard, soft, flexible, waterproof* and *transparent* as well as identifying the material something is made from and then describing how it feels, looks, and what it can do. **Exciting, hands-on science!**

Up in the **Jaguars**, the children are focusing on a very different type of tick-tock...they are **learning to read time** accurately on both digital and analogue clocks! Once you can tell the time, it's easy to forget how tricky it was to learn. There are so many skills involved, including **numeracy, spatial awareness, and language skills**. It requires understanding **time concepts, recognising numbers**, and using appropriate vocabulary to **describe time intervals**. But we know that the children will become experts in no time at all!

If you think that your Lions child is good at complaining, you'd be spot on! That's because our Lions are busy writing **letters of complaint**. The children are thinking about developing their use of **formal language** including **key points, specific information, organisational features** and ensuring that an **appropriate style and tone** is used. I have asked them to put their skills to good use by writing to the council to complain about the overgrown weeds outside our school!

Have you ever thought about becoming a school governor at Woodhall? We have a **space for a new parent governor**. As you know, we are a school with a **strong community ethic** and our work encompasses not just the pursuit of **academic achievement** but also providing significant **social, emotional and mental well-being support** for our children and their families. Governors are Britain's biggest volunteer group, with 30 000 in schools across the country. You don't have to be an educational professional to be a governor, but you do have to be **passionate about education** and be **willing to commit** some of your time to work with our school. Governing Bodies are the strategic leaders (looking at long-term aims and how we achieve them) of our school and play a vital part in making sure that every child gets the best possible education. Governors should 'understand their respective roles and perform these in a way that enhances the effectiveness of the school' (Ofsted). At Woodhall, we currently hold **five full governing body meetings per academic year**. As far as possible, these take place on Thursday evenings. Documents for the meeting are sent out beforehand and we ask that governors come to meetings having read them.

As a governor, you will take on particular roles/responsibilities, which may include **visiting school** during the working day in order to carry out specific roles (as well as supporting with other school events). **If you are interested in becoming a governor, please let me know.** Thank you.

Don't forget that we've got a long weekend coming up, and enjoy the Bank Holiday Monday!

Michelle Lake/head@woodhall.herts.sch.uk



WOODHALL'S 70th ANNIVERSARY: TIME TUNNEL DAY

On **Thursday 22nd May**, to launch our 70th anniversary celebrations and local history project, we are going to help the children to experience what a day at school might have been like in the 1950s, when Woodhall first opened. During the day children will take part in a 1950s-style assembly, lessons based around the 'three Rs' (Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic) and a PE lesson followed by traditional dancing and a rock n' roll hop in the hall! A traditional school lunch will be offered by our 1950s cook Brogan – don't worry, there'll still be a veggie option! On the day, we would like the children to wear their **school PE kits** (white t-shirt, black shorts/tracksuit bottoms). We are looking forward to seeing what the children think about a day at school 70 years ago!

WOODHALL'S 70th ANNIVERSARY: HAPPY BIRTHDAY WOODHALL DAY

On **FRIDAY 11th JULY** we are holding a big Woodhall family celebration day to celebrate our 70 years! The day will begin with the children singing and dancing, followed by a family picnic. DJ Mole will provide our through-the decades soundtrack and we'll have a barbeque, ice-cream and other refreshments, tombola, raffle, and plenty of fun games including inflatable axe-throwing, football shoot out and 'Zombie Strike'! It is (of course) a dress-up day... so pick your favourite decade and dress to impress!

More details to follow after half-term week. In the meantime, please **spread the word** and **SAVE THE DATE!**

PE CLUBS

Our fantastic caretaker Tom will be running two new after-school clubs this term: **Cricket Club** for Key Stage 2 on Tuesdays (3.30-4.30pm) and **Year 6 Rounders Club** on Fridays (2.00 -3.30pm). Please note that spaces are limited so if your child would like to take part, just complete and return the reply slip as soon as possible – children should have come home with a letter yesterday. Thank you.

ATTENDANCE REMINDER

We are very proud of the children's school attendance so far this year, with some **great improvements** seen across all of our classes. Woodhall children know that missing school means missing out!

Just a reminder that we **cannot authorise term-time holidays** and that families who do take children out of school to go away may be liable for a fine of £80 per parent, per child (going up to £160 per child if the fine is not paid within 21 days) following recent changes to attendance rules from the Department for Education. Hertfordshire County Council have already issued fines to parents in our local area.

Don't forget that we have lots of very special events that take place during the last week of term, including the **Key Stage 2 production**, the **Year 6 leavers' dinner** and whole school **end-of-year disco** and our **end-of-term assembly** where we give out our very special awards for Effort, Progress and Woodhall Ambassador as well as say goodbye to our Year 6 class.

To check next academic year's term dates, please see 'Dates for your Diary' below. Thank you.

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
Monday 7th April – Monday 21st April/EASTER HOLIDAYS	
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday Monday
Monday 12th – Thursday 15th May	Year 6 SATs Week
Thursday 22nd May	Time Tunnel Day (launch of local history project)
Monday 26th May- Friday 30th May/HALF TERM WEEK	
Monday 2nd – Friday 6th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Week
Thursday 5th/Friday 6th June	Year 6 residential trip to Gulliver's Land
Monday 9th – Friday 13th June	Year 4 Multiplication Test Week
Monday 16th – Friday 20th June	National School Sports' Week
Friday 20th June	Sports' Day (with family picnic)
Tuesday 24th June	Year 4 'Shine' concert (Electric Umbrella) at St. Albans' Cathedral
Thursday 26th June	Tiger Cubs' class assembly
Tuesday 1st July	Happy Birthday Woodhall: launch day at Oxhey Library
Thursday 3rd July	Panthers' class assembly
Thursday 10th July	Year 6: Hertfordshire secondary transition day
Thursday 10th July	Year 3 & Year 4 class assembly
Friday 11th July	Happy Birthday Woodhall! Family Fun Day
Tuesday 15th July	KS2 Production (2pm & 6pm performances)
Wednesday 16th July	Parents/Carers' consultation evenings
Thursday 17th July	'Woodhall's Got Talent' (during school day)
Thursday 17th July	Year 6 Leaving do/Years 1-6 disco
Friday 18th July (1pm)	End of term; Year 6 leavers' breakfast/assembly
Monday 21st August - Thursday 4th September/SUMMER HOLIDAYS	
ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026	
Friday 5th September	Back to school
Monday 27th – Friday 31st October/ HALF TERM WEEK	
Monday 1st December	Occasional Day
Friday 19th December	End of term
Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January/CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	
Monday 16th– Friday 20th February/HALF TERM WEEK	
Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April/EASTER HOLIDAYS	
Monday 25th -Friday 29th May/HALF TERM WEEK	
Wednesday 22nd July	End of term



CONGRATULATIONS TO LAST WEEK'S AWARD WINNERS!

WE ARE <u>SO</u> PROUD OF OUR AWARD WINNERS!		
25.4.25	<i>The Woodhall Wow: ASPIRATION</i>	<i>Learner of the Week</i>
TIGER CUBS 	<i>CARTER who has challenged himself to work on his writing this week...with fantastic results!</i>	<i>POPPY for sharing her incredible knowledge about primary and secondary colours with the other Tiger Cubs.</i>
PANTHERS 	<i>AIZA for always putting in 100% effort to be the best learner that she can be. A great example to everyone!</i>	<i>LACEY who has made so many links in her maths learning this week AND has shared them with others. A teacher in the making!</i>
JAGUARS 	<i>KODI for always working hard to reach his goals and practicing his times tables, handwriting and spellings diligently every morning.</i>	<i>ETHAN for fantastic writing and editing in our English lessons this week. <u>Well done!</u></i>
LIONS 	<i>MARIA for always aspiring to improve her work s. a great quality as she prepares to move to secondary school.</i>	<i>EDI for demonstrating an excellent understanding of ratio (a tricky area!) in our maths learning this week.</i>
HOUSE POINTS		
OAK	ASH	BEECH
217	212	212
		ELM
		183

USEFUL CONTACTS

Headteacher: Michelle Lake

head@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

SENCo: Mrs Raithatha

sraithatha@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

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

admin@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

For notification of absence, please email:

attendance@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

or:

Phone the Office and press Option 1