

Woodhall Tweetly



Friday 23rd January 2026



We are flying through the month and watching those first signs of spring starting to appear across the school grounds...frozen fingers crossed hope that the current snow forecast for next week doesn't happen!

Although we are still in January – the longest month in the world! – we are busy planning for our **enrichment events** this term. On **Thursday 5th March**, we will celebrate **'World Book Day'**. Our theme this year is **'Carnival of the Animals'**. *But surely that's a musical suite of fourteen movements composed by Camille Saint-Saens, I hear you say! Well, yes it is – and here's a great You Tube link:* <https://youtu.be/UmoZNL-LBKA?si=pvJcWkYeyM6in4cg> (*I guarantee you'll have heard a couple of the movements before; listen to 'Aquarium', 'Fossils' or 'Swan'*) – but it's been turned also a beautiful book called **'Symphony of Stories' by James Mayhew**. On World Book Day, we will be sharing stories from this text, listening to the music and getting creative with our own stories! **Our dress-up theme will be animals.**

From *flamingos to frogs, lions to lobsters, monkeys to millipedes* and everything in-between! And, as always, costumes do not have to be bought. Why not get creative over the half-term break with a recycled animal outfit? We are really looking forward to our Woodhall World Book Day and we will be inviting all of you to join us in the afternoon (more details nearer the time). On a story theme, the children are already immersed in this half-term's **shared class texts** and it is a joy to see them so **engaged with books** and focused on some **very imaginative linked writing tasks...**

In **Reception (Little Parrots)**, the children are reading books linked to the things that they love! Shared stories include *'Things I Like'* by Anthony Browne, *'Super Duper You'* by Sophy Henn and *'Happy to be Me'* by Emma Dodd. Repeated reading supports the children to understand the **concept of a sentence** whilst they also begin to **spell words independently**. Definitely super duper!

Our **Big Parrots** in **Year One** are learning all about **instructions** through reading *'Gruffalo Crumble'* by Julia Donaldson, and the children have already followed instructions to make two of the recipes: *Fox's Sandwiches* and *Terrible Tusks!* They are currently writing their own sets of **numbered instructions** – remembering to include **capital letters, full stops and finger spaces**, of course – for a variety of everyday tasks.

Puffin Class are reading *'Flat Stanley'*, the beloved children's classic by Jeff Brown. Inspired by his comical antics, the children will write **diaries** explaining a day in the life of the world's flattest boy. As well as all the **key features of a recount**, Year 2 will be focusing on **different sentence types** and **co-ordinating conjunctions** while Years 3 and 4 will be exploring **different sentence structures** including **subordination**, **different levels of formality** and **varying length and complexity**.

The **Kingfishers** have been using the book *'The Misadventures of Frederick'* written by the amazing Ben Manley and illustrated by the talented Emma Chichester Clark as the stimulus for their English learning. The book details the story of friendship between the cautious Frederick and his adventurous friend, Emily, through a series of letters they write to each other. They have been focusing on understanding the features of **formal and informal language**, how **language choices can be used as a tool to persuade** and finding out how to use **hyperbole** (exaggeration). This will culminate in the children writing a **formal persuasive letter** for a specific audience.

So, this rainy weekend, why not grab a book to share with your child... and let your imagination soar! Happy weekend!

Michelle Lake

head@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

FAMILY TOOLKIT COURSE AT WOODHALL

A reminder that a brilliant new course for parents starts at Woodhall on Thursday 26th February. The 'Family Toolkit' course will support you to **understand the connection between feelings and behaviour choices** as well as the different elements of parenting.

To register, just **let us know! We can then add you on to the course, as it is only available to Woodhall parents.** You will then need to complete the course registration form using this link: hertfordshire.gov.uk **Family Centres registration form** If you are not sure about how to complete the form, or have trouble accessing it, please let us know! Tom Wilcox, a Senior Family Support Worker, will be in our school office from 1pm on **Wednesday 4th February** to support any parents/carers with registration.



CONGRATULATIONS TO LAST WEEK'S AWARD WINNERS!

WE ARE <u>SO</u> PROUD OF OUR AWARD WINNERS!			
16.1.26	<i>The Woodhall Wow: RESILIENCE</i>	<i>Learner of the Week</i>	
LITTLE PARROTS 	Rapha- for working hard and keeping on trying to complete his Rainbow Challenges, remembering to ask for help.	Eva- for being a great help around the class and being a good friend by supporting her friends with their challenges.	
BIG PARROTS 	Arthur- M - for persevering with his maths rainbow challenge even though he found it really challenging	Poppy- for trying her best during our phonics lessons to correctly form her letters for our new sound.	
PUFFINS 	ELLIOT- for showing resilience in English lessons and trying his best to edit and make improvements to his writing with AMAZING results!	CONNOR- for his excellent Maths this week. He whizzed through SIX different pieces of work in one lesson! Miss Casada was blown away!	
KINGFISHERS 	HARRY... who has not given up in any of his tricky learning over the past two weeks. He has kept going and we are all very impressed. FANTASTIC!	DAISY for putting such a great effort into al of her work; her plan for a letter of complaint was especially brilliant. WELL DONE!	
HOUSE POINTS			
OAK	ASH	BEECH	ELM
166	133	98	140

USEFUL CONTACTS

Headteacher: Michelle Lake

head@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

SENCo: Mrs Raithatha

sraithatha@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

Early Years/Year One (PARROTS) Teachers: Miss Jones/Mrs Biedul

Nursery/Reception: njones@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

Year One: lbiedul@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

Years Two/Three/Four (PUFFINS) Teacher: Mrs Cooper Battersby

Ebattersby@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

Years Five/Six (KINGFISHERS) Teachers: Mrs Fitzgerald/Miss Lake

Julie.Fitzgerald@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

head@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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2025-2026

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 26th January	Governors' Day at Woodhall
Thursday 29th January	4pm SATs information meeting for parents of children in Year Six
Wednesday 4th February	1pm Tom Wilcox (Senior Family Support Work) in school helping parents to register for Family Toolkit course
Thursday 12th February	Lunar New Year arts and crafts' day
Monday 16th – Friday 20th February/HALF-TERM WEEK	
Wednesday 25th February	Parents' consultation day/evening
Thursday 26th February	9-11am Family Toolkit course starts (weekly, for 4 weeks)
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day: parents/carers invited for afternoon assembly
Friday 13th March	2-4.30pm SPRINGO! Fundraiser
Monday 16th March	Year Five Tag Rugby Festival at Greenfields School
Thursday 26th March	9am Easter Bonnet Parade
Friday 27th March	9am End-of-term assembly: parents/carers invited 1pm End of term
Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April/EASTER HOLIDAYS	
Monday 13th April	INSET Day: Children NOT in school!
Tuesday 14th April	Children back to school
Monday 11th-Thursday 14th May	Year 6 SATs Week
Tuesday 19th May	Year 6 Cricket Festival (at Bushey Cricket Club)
Monday 25th -Friday 29th May/HALF TERM WEEK	
Monday 1st June - Friday 5th June	Year 4 Multiplication Check Week
Thursday 4th June - Friday 5th June	Year 6 Residential Trip to Gulliver's Land
Monday 8th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Week
Wednesday 22nd July	1pm End-of-term
SUMMER HOLIDAYS	

