

Woodhall Matters



October 2026



It's been another busy and exciting few weeks at Woodhall School! Our children from Years 1 to 6 had a fantastic day out at Knebworth House and returned full of stories about their adventures. The workshops were engaging (despite a spectacular coach fiasco making us late!) and gave pupils the chance to learn in a hands-on way, while just seeing such a magnificent stately home was a real highlight for many. Of course, no visit would have been complete without time at Fort Knebworth, where the giant adventure playground proved extremely popular. The slides were certainly a firm favourite, and there were plenty of smiling faces all round! The trip was also a wonderful opportunity for children to strengthen friendship bonds within their new classes and further embed our Woodhall Family ethos. Learning, exploring and playing together helped children build connections and create lasting memories. So many children commented on how much they enjoyed the extended time outdoors with their friends, with some even telling staff that it was "better than sitting on a device!" A huge thank you goes to all of our wonderful volunteers: Nikki, Lynn, Nicolle, Rachel and Oana who gave up their time to support the trip. We simply couldn't offer these opportunities without your help and generosity.

As we move further into the autumn term, please remember that children should come to school with a waterproof coat every day. We believe that fresh air and outdoor play are important parts of the school day, and we will continue to send children out for playtimes in light rain whenever it is safe to do so. Having a suitable waterproof coat helps ensure everyone can enjoy being outside comfortably, whatever the weather decides to do!

We are also delighted with the success of our new (free!) Breakfast Club. Running from 8.00am to 8.30am each morning, it has been wonderful to see so many children enjoying a positive start to their day. The delicious menu includes toast, cereal, fruit, yoghurt, crumpets, scrambled egg, baked beans and much more. After breakfast, children have the opportunity to spend time playing games and chatting with friends before heading into class, helping everyone feel settled and ready to learn. If your child would like to attend our Breakfast Club, please talk to Nikki or Fouzia in the School Office. The more, the merrier!

Speaking of breakfast...it's nearly time for our Harvest Festival! Remember Bean Mountain and the Harvest Pastaval? This isn't just any Harvest, this is a Woodhall Harvest; and this year our Harvest collection theme is **BREAKFAST CEREAL**. We would love your support in helping us build a fantastic donation collection ready for Friday 23rd October. We want to see how many different types/sizes of cereal we can collect. Mini boxes, big boxes, famous brands, supermarket brands...there's *cerealsly* no limit! Every donation will be gratefully received and will go to the local food bank to help those who need it most. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Finally, our recent art workshops with resident artist Kat have been a huge success. Children explored a range of new artistic skills and techniques, showing great creativity and enthusiasm throughout. They particularly enjoyed trying their hand at silk painting and printing, producing some beautiful work that we cannot wait to share with you. If your child would like to continue developing their artistic talents, don't forget to sign up for Art Club using the QR code below. We know it will be another fantastic opportunity for budding young artists to learn, create and have fun together.

Happy weekend!

Michelle Lake

head@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

COME AND LEARN

Thank you to all those who attended our 'Come and Learn' sessions this week. We hope that you found it helpful to find out why foundational skills in English (early reading, handwriting) are so crucial for children's future learning and how we scaffold these at Woodhall.

Next week, Mrs Fitzgerald will be running a 'Come and Learn' session for parents/carers of children in **Years 4/5/6**. This will focus on **maths** and why it is crucial that we secure children's understanding of mathematical 'building blocks' before they move onto other areas of maths. Please come and join us at **2pm on Wednesday 14th October**.

CONSULTATION DAY

Parent consultations are an important opportunity for parents and teachers to work together to support each child's learning and well-being. They provide a chance to **celebrate successes, discuss progress**, identify any areas where **additional support** may be needed and agree on **next steps for learning**. Regular communication between home and school helps ensure that children feel supported, valued and encouraged to achieve their very best.

We understand that it can be difficult for our working parents to fit a consultation in day/nightshifts. Therefore we offer a range of appointment options: by **phone or in-person**, during the **daytime or evening**. Consultations for children in Years 1-6 will take place on **Wednesday 21st October**. Please look out for the appointments preference letter which will be sent home next week. The sooner you return it, the more likely you are to get your preferred time!

HEAR! HEAR!

Congratulations are in order for our new **Members of Woodhall Parliament**, who took the oath and received their badges in assembly this week. **Amy, Matthew, Louis, Rebecca, Oliver and Juvana** each wrote and read out a campaign speech in class and were voted for by their classmates. We know that they will do a brilliant job!

THE HALL IS ALIVE WITH THE SOUND OF MUSIC!

This half-term, our Iguanas and Chameleons have been busy taking a trip along the River Thames aboard the one and only **SOUL BOAT** with **Orphy, Chris, Ilario and Will!** Not only have the children discovered some of the greatest soul artists (James Brown, Aretha Franklin, Sam Cooke and many more) along the way but they have also unveiled some of the River's greatest mysteries (*why was there an iron-age helmet by Waterloo Bridge? Why is there a line of red pillars alongside Blackfriars Bridge? Why are there eight bronze figures along Vauxhall Bridge?*). Sadly, our trip is coming to an end soon. **On the afternoon of Thursday 22nd October, we would like to invite parents/carers to come along for a taste of what we have been learning!** Times will be confirmed as soon as possible. Toot! Toot!

Learning music plays a vital role in children's development and enriches their primary school experience in many ways. Through music, children develop **creativity, self-expression and confidence**, while also learning the value of **practice, perseverance and teamwork**. Whether singing or playing an instrument, our children gain a sense of **achievement and pride** in their performances.

Music also supports learning across the curriculum. Research shows that musical activities can help **improve listening skills, memory, concentration and pattern recognition**, all of which contribute positively to children's progress in subjects such as reading and mathematics. Performing together encourages **co-operation, communication and respect for others**, helping children build strong social skills and friendships.

Perhaps most importantly, music brings joy. It provides opportunities for children to **explore different cultures, express emotions and participate in shared experiences** that create lasting memories. Through music, children develop not only as learners, but as confident, well-rounded individuals ready to engage with the world around them. ***And that's exactly why we love music – in all its forms - here at Woodhall!*** As you know, our brilliant steel drums teacher Robert Clarke very sadly lost his battle with cancer this year. We thought carefully about continuing to teach steel drums, but Mr. Clarke was absolutely one-of-a-kind and irreplaceable. However, we are very pleased to let you know that instead, the children will have **new weekly music lessons**. Our Chameleons will be learning to play the **ukulele** and the Iguanas will be taking part in '**Glock Rock!**' sessions with our fantastic new music teacher, **Mr. Husband**. Mr. Husband will also be teaching small-group **guitar lessons**, which lots of you have already signed-up for. It won't be long until Oasis will be asking Woodhall to support them at Knebworth!

HALLOWEEN DRESS-UP AND RAFFLE

It's that time of year again! **Our Halloween dress-up day is Thursday 22nd October**. Children are invited to come to school in their favourite fancy dress costume for a donation of **£1**. We look forward to seeing the fantastic costumes and everyone's creativity on display! All donations will go towards supporting school activities.

As usual, we will also be talking to children about **staying safe at Halloween**. For more information and some useful posters that you can download, please see: <https://www.herts.police.uk/police-forces/hertfordshire-constabulary/areas/campaigns/halloween-and-bonfire-night/stay-safe-at-halloween/>

SAFETY NOTICE

Whilst we welcome children arriving at school on scooters and bikes, **please remind your child/ren to be very careful on the path leading up to the main entrance.** Cyclists should dismount and wheel their bike along the path. We have had a couple of 'near misses' in terms of children accidentally bumping into others and we need to be especially aware of toddlers and young children walking along the path.

Please do not let your child climb on the old playground equipment on the lower playground. This has been taped off because the play surface is damaged and dangerous.

Thank you!

FORE!

And more congratulations...this time, to our **Year 3 and Year 4 pupils** who represented Woodhall School so brilliantly at this week's **Tri-Golf Tournament**. The children demonstrated excellent golf skills throughout the event, showing impressive focus, accuracy and determination. We were especially proud of the **fantastic teamwork, encouragement and sportsmanship** they displayed, supporting one another every step of the way. Their **perseverance and positive attitudes** were evident in every challenge they faced, and they were **wonderful ambassadors for our school** (as always). *Well done to everyone who took part – you should be extremely proud of your achievements!*

FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT!



THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER/6-8PM

• £10 PER TABLE

- MAXIMUM OF 6 PER TEAM (ADULTS AND CHILDREN)
- HALLOWEEN HAMPER FOR THE WINNING TEAM!
- BAR (SOFT DRINKS, BEER AND WINE BUT NO SPIRITS...THEY'RE BUSY AT THIS TIME OF YEAR!)

- TUCK SHOP
- TOMBOLA

COME IN YOUR HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS...PRIZES FOR THE BEST-DRESSED TABLE!

BOOK YOUR TABLE VIA THE SCHOOL OFFICE

A SPOOKTACULAR NIGHT OF FAMILY FUN RAISING FUNDS FOR WOOOOOOOODHALL!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2026-2027

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
Wednesday 14th October	2pm: Parents/carers of Chameleons (Years 4-6) invited to 'Come and Learn' with the children with a focus on foundational skills in maths.
Wednesday 14th October	Year 1 and Year 2 Scooter training.
Monday 19th October	9am: Parents/carers of Geckos (Nursery and Reception) invited to join our 'Amazing Autumn' arts and crafts morning.
Wednesday 21st October	Parent/carer consultations.
Thursday 22nd October	Halloween dress-up day. Soul Boat: parents/carers invited to see children's performance. Evening: Woodhall Family Quiz Night!
Friday 23rd October	Harvest family assembly. Children's Halloween Raffle.
Monday 26th – Friday 30th October HALF-TERM WEEK	
Monday 2nd November	3.30pm Year 1-Year 6 Art Club starts
Thursday 5th November	9am: Parents/carers of Geckos (Nursery and Reception) invited to join our 'Come and Shine' arts and crafts morning.
Friday 6th November	Great Attendance celebration day
Wednesday 11th November	'Woodhall Remembers' Armistice Day family assembly.
Thursday 12th November	School photos.
Tuesday 17th November	'Spanish Day' at Woodhall
Wednesday 18th November	Year 5 Fun Run (at Greenfields). Children's flu vaccinations.
Tuesday 24th November	Railway Safety Day.
Monday 30th November	Occasional Day: school closed.
Tuesday 1st December	9am: Parents/carers of Geckos (Nursery/Reception) invited in for our coffee morning with a focus on learning to write in the Early Years.
Thursday 3rd December	Woodhall's Elf Day.
Wednesday 9th December	Years 1-6 trip to the Tower of London.
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Jumper/Christmas Dinner Day. Christmas at Woodhall (afternoon and evening performance).
Friday 18th December	End-of-term
Monday 21st December 2026 – Friday 1st January 2027 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	
Monday 4th January 2027	INSET day: school closed for children (staff only).
Tuesday 5th January	Children back to school.
Monday 15th – Friday 19th February/HALF TERM WEEK	
Monday 26th March – Friday 9th April/EASTER HOLIDAYS	
Monday 12th April	INSET day: school closed for children (staff only).
Tuesday 13th April	Children back to school.
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday Monday.
Monday 31st May -Friday 4th June/HALF TERM WEEK	
Monday 7th June	Children back to school.
Wednesday 21st July	End-of-term.
Thursday 22nd July: SUMMER HOLIDAYS	

USEFUL CONTACTS

Headteacher: Michelle Lake

head@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

SENCo: Mrs Raithatha

sraithatha@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

Geckos (Nursery/Reception)/SENCo: Miss Jones

njones@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

Iguanas (Years One-Three)/Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Cooper Battersby

Ebattersby@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

Iguanas (Years One & Two): Mrs Biedul

lbiedul@woodhall.herts.sch.uk

Chameleons: Mrs Fitzgerald/Miss Lake (see email address above)

Julie.Fitzgerald@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

SEND AT WOODHALL

If your child has **additional needs**, we will work closely with you to support them through school. At Woodhall, we have two SENCos (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators), **Mrs. Raithatha** and **Miss Jones**. Please bear in mind that, whilst we always support families, Mrs Raithatha and Miss Jones cannot always meet with parents/carers *immediately*. They can, however, be contacted via email and will get back to you at the earliest opportunity. Thank you!



ART CLUB



WOODHALL SCHOOL

MONDAYS

Beginning 2nd Nov - 14th Dec 2026

Excluding 30th Nov (Occasional day)

6 weeks - £45

3.30pm - 4.30pm

Year Groups 1 - 6

 [instagram.com/artboxkat](https://www.instagram.com/artboxkat)

Collage, painting,
silk painting,
printmaking,
model making &
much more!



Age appropriate
projects that children
will love



Lots of support &
encouragement
from a friendly,
professional artist
& tutor

Limited spaces available
TO BOOK PLEASE VISIT:



artboxworkshop.bookwhen.com

Bookings will open on
Saturday 26.09.26 at 7pm

Any queries please contact
Kat at artboxkat@gmail.com