

WOODLEY

C of E Primary School

Issue: 2

November

2016



Dear Parents,

Thank you very much to the positive feedback to our new style newsletter. To ensure that more people actually receive it (pupil post not always being very reliable) you will now receive this newsletter in both paper and electronic form. Our aim, moving forward, is to cut down on paper communication and I will be telling you more about this in next months newsletter.

Cross Country

Thank you to all the children who competed in our first cross country event. Unfortunately, our second event was cancelled due to bad weather. Mrs Poole and I had a lovely afternoon over in Marlow with excellent performances from our children.



Remembrance

It is really important for our children to think about the sacrifice of others and to this end, Mrs Benham and I accompanied a group of children to the war memorial in Woodford Park on 11th November. The children laid a wreath and represented the school admirably. Mr Blakely and the rest of the school observed a minutes silence in the school hall.



Working with the Children

The best part of my job is working with the children. This term I welcomed our diocesan adviser, Mrs Bennie, to school and whilst walking around our Foundation Area some girls were dancing with some pom-poms. In conversation, they told me they were going to make some costumes and later in the day they appeared at my office wearing the costumes. Well done girls, for using your imagination and cheering up your Head Teacher with your wonderful work.



Staffing

Things in school never stay the same for long and the end of this term will see the retirement of Mrs Skantzos. Although I have only known Mrs Skantzos for a short time, I would like to thank her for all her hard work and I am sure you will join with me in wishing her luck for the future. We are very fortunate that we have appointed Mrs Louise Smith and Mrs Emma Armstrong, two teachers who have worked with our children before, to replace Mrs Skantzos in Aspen and they are both looking forward to working with the children.

Christingle

I look forward to welcoming many of you to the school tomorrow to celebrate Christingle. Christmas will soon be with us but there is still lots of hard work for the staff and children to enjoy before we are ready for the well deserved break.

Have a lovely weekend and I hope to see many of you at the Christmas Fair on Saturday.

Best Wishes

Louisa Gurney , Head Teacher



Curriculum News

Foundation Stage:

As we edge into the season of winter, we decided that our topic for this term will be 'It's Freezing!'. The children's role-play has involved exploring our recreation of the depths of the Antarctic, complete with a new igloo corner, before coming back to get warm by the fire and watch some TV in the home area. They have also conducted some ice investigations: learning how to make and melt ice before seeing what other everyday liquids they are able to freeze.

Over the past week we have been writing our own class stories about the Antarctic. We discussed the elements that make up a good story, including characters and settings, then created one of our own between us. I'm sure that you will soon be hearing all about the adventures of Snow Pickle the Snowflake from Chestnut and the Snow Bunny from Willow!

We are well underway with our Foundation Christmas Tableau rehearsals and you should have received a letter informing you of your child's role. The children have really enjoyed learning Christmas songs and look forward to showing you all how tuneful they are on Friday the 9th of December. Perhaps your child can teach you some of the actions to the songs?

Thank you for your continued support!

Miss Bond, Acting Phase Leader.



Key Stage 1: (Years 1&2)

This half term, KS1's topic is: My Amazing Body! We have taken part in some fantastic investigations in science. When exploring our five senses, the children took part in an experiment with smell pots containing marmite, garlic and gingerbread syrup. They played a guess the sound game and marvelled at some optical illusions. The children were brave when we did a blindfolded taste test and were relieved when they discovered it was only a raisin! In RE, the children continued to explore with their senses when handling gold, frankincense and myrrh to explore the symbolism in gifts. In Design and Technology, the children continued to explore taste in sampling fruits for our healthy fruit salads.

We have been focusing on non-fiction books in our English lessons and the Y1 have really enjoyed making their own information books whilst the Y2 have begun to explore non-chronological reports on the body.

The children are also practising the Christmas play and we are amazed at how quickly they are learning their lines and instrument parts (Y2) and singing the songs (Y1 and Y2). We can't wait for you to see it!

Mrs Blakely, Acting Phase Leader.



Curriculum News

Lower Key Stage 2: (Years 3&4)

When we came back from the half term holidays, we started working on a new topic – The Ancient Egyptians. The children have been working hard and are enjoying learning about life 5000 years ago. So far we have talked about the importance of the Nile and the different roles people had in Egyptian Society. We have also been developing our musical skills. Year 4 have been learning to play the ukulele with Berkshire Maestros and Year 3 have been playing a range of percussion instruments with Mr Cutting. As it was Thanksgiving in America this week, we made mini-apple pies to mark the occasion. We made the pastry and chopped the apples. We had a small problem when our oven broke, but luckily our school cooks came to the rescue and let us borrow their oven. Mrs Morton, Acting Phase Leader.



Upper Key Stage 2: (Years 5&6)

This term, we have been thinking about the conditions endured by soldiers in the trenches and devised our own science investigation to see which material was the best insulator – hessian came out on top.

November proved to be a reflective month. We have studied the poems written by the war poets and this made Remembrance Day even more poignant, especially hearing 'The Soldier' by Rupert Brooke, read out by Prince Harry at the Cenotaph. After annotating our favorites, we then wrote our own thoughtful poems, some rhymed some didn't, but they were all very moving.

Haiku By Summer Harkness

Knock on our front door

Written letter on the floor

Dad had died, tears fell.

Poppies grow today

Heartbroken and lots of tears

It is hard to cope.

Life is very hard

I loved Dad, he was the best

Why did the war start?

Again in art, we have been inspired by the artist Paul Nash and his strong symbolic paintings of the war. Using screen printing, we have created our own WW1 images. We thought our finished artwork was very dramatic.



Mrs Sharman, Acting Phase Leader.



Sporting News

An exciting time for sport at Woodley C of E as we took part in our first cross country event at Marlow Rugby Club just before half term. The children who took part were very excited as they represented the school at this event. With lots of enthusiasm from the children, parents and staff a great time was had by all. The added excitement of running through the Autumn leaves, along by the River Thames and keeping off the hallowed rugby pitches was wonderful and we had some very impressive performances by our runners. Two of these were our upper junior athletes Josh Murray and Megan Thurlow who took 4th and 9th place respectively.

November saw the year 3/4 Indoor Athletics event at Bulmershe School which not only tested their athletic skills but also their cheering skills. As always the children were enthusiastic and whilst not securing a top three position they did the school proud!

Football has continued to dominate Friday evenings and the year 5/6 boys team has had a win against Beechwood and a closely fought loss against St Dominics.

Mr Colin Blakely, Deputy Head / Mrs Jane Poole, P.E Coordinator / Mr Michael Clare, First For Sports Coach

Sporting Fixture Dates

Monday 5th December - Year 5/6 Athletics - Bulmershe Leisure Centre - 3.30pm-5.15pm

Friday 9th December - 3.30pm - Football match away to Rivermead Primary School Year 5/6

Reminders from the Office

Clubs: School opens at 8am for clubs in the morning. Please don't arrive too early! As we enter the winter months it will be wet and cold so please use the outside canopy to keep dry and remember not to park in the staff car park. Please leave bikes/scooters at the front of school if your child is taking part in a club.

Email: Please make sure we have your current email address. As well as a paper copy you should also have received your newsletter via email. If you have not received an electronic copy please let the office have an up-to-date email address **as we will only be sending out newsletters via email from next month.**

Christmas Post: The post box will be available for pupils to post their Christmas Cards from 1st December. Please make sure envelopes are clearly labelled with first name and surname and if possible class.

Caterlink Parent Survey: Caterlink have put together a parent survey on Survey Monkey, see link below. They would really appreciate your feedback on school meals. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6MMN8MY>.

Leaving during the school day: Please make sure you let the office know if you have to pick your child up during the school day.



Dates

November

Wednesday 30th - 9am - EYFS/KS1 (F/Yr. 1/Yr. 2) Christingle Service at school

Wednesday 30th - 9.30am - KS2 (Year 3 - 6) Christingle Service at school

Wednesday 30th - PTA wrapping evening - PTA Room - 7pm - 10pm

December

Friday 2nd - evening - PTA set up for Christmas fair

Saturday 3rd - PTA Christmas Fair - 11am - 2pm

Monday 5th - Year 5/6 Sportshall Athletics 3.30pm Bulmershe Leisure Centre

Friday 9th - 9.30 and 2.30pm - Foundation tableau to parents

Friday 9th - 3.30pm Football match away to Rivermead Primary Year 5/6

Monday 12th - all clubs finish this week - parents welcome to come in and watch

Tuesday 13th - 6pm - KS1 (Year 1 and 2) - Nativity

Wednesday 14th - 6pm - KS1 (Year 1 and 2) - Nativity

Thursday 15th - 2pm - KS1 (Year 1 and 2) -Nativity

Friday 16th - School Christmas dinner

Monday 19th - Spring term club forms come home / web site

Monday 19th - 9.00am - Junior Carol Service at St Johns Church

Tuesday 20th - **Term ends at 2.30pm**

January

Wednesday 21st - Tuesday 3rd January - Christmas holiday

Wednesday 4th January - INSET day - school closed to pupils

Thursday 5th January - school returns

