

WOODLEY

C of E Primary School



Issue: 4

April

2019

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of another busy term, I have summarised some of the main events that I have been involved with and I am sure you will be interested to hear about the success of our children.

Cross Country: I would like to thank the "Cross Country Team" including children, staff and parents alike for their commitment to this event. I introduced this to the school two years ago and the development of our children has been impressive. Cross Country develops many skills in our children beyond the physical. I manage to attend the majority of the races and I only miss them if I have really urgent school business. I have seen the children grow in determination, resilience and also have a lot of fun. Mr Clare and I would love to welcome more children to Cross Country Club and events next year. As an individual event, for the majority of the time, it gives children the opportunity to compete against themselves and set individual targets. I am also extremely proud of our two top performers this year and you will read about them later in Mr Clare's section of the newsletter.

WASMA: We pride ourselves here, at Woodley C of E on the vast range of experiences that we give our children and now I am moving on to tell you about our musical achievements. WASMA (Wokingham Area Schools Music Association) concert took place at the Hexagon on Sunday 24th March. Woodley C of E Choir, joined a number of other local schools and a thoroughly entertaining evening was had by all. I would like to thank the children and Mrs Parsons, Mr Blakely and Mrs Powell who also gave up time on Sunday afternoon to attend the rehearsals.



Continued ...



Core Values and BRIGHT Learning: Our core values and BRIGHT Learning run through everything we do. This half term we have been talking about “Freedom” and what this means in our society and around the world. Please take some time to talk to your children and see what they remember from assemblies. We have also celebrated the many “gifts” that our children have. Gifts come in all shapes and sizes and we value them all equally. Ask your children about the gifts that they and others have been blessed with. We have seen many of our children’s gifts in assembly from playing the piano, violin or dancing. After Easter, we will be thinking about our core value of “Respect” and in our BRIGHT learning the focus will be Happy.

PTA: Thank you to the PTA for all their hard work this term and I am sure the Easter Egg Hunt will be success.

Library Bus: We have started to open the library bus once a week for the junior children to borrow non-fiction books. This has been popular with the children and I will be reviewing whether opening needs to be extended in the Summer Term.

And finally ...

Thank you for supporting the children with their home learning. The standard of work has been exceptional.

Have a lovely Easter.

Best Wishes

Louisa Gurney

Head Teacher



Curriculum News

Foundation Stage:

Another busy month has been had by all in foundation!

We have been focussing our work around the story Jack and The Beanstalk. To start off our topic we read the story where the children thoroughly enjoyed joining in rather enthusiastically with the 'fee fi fo fum...' bits. We acted out the story and drew story maps so that we became familiar with the story structure. This enabled the children to really know the story for when they had a go at writing it. A highlight for the children has been planting their own beans and watching them grow. We will be measuring them next week to see who's bean has grown the tallest.

In phonics we have been working really hard to consolidate the phase 3 sounds before some children move on after Easter. We have been practising our sentence writing by rehearsing the sentence that we want to write, using a capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop. We have also been encouraging the children to read back what they have written to ensure that it makes sense. We are very impressed with how hard the children have been working at this!

In Maths we have been practising to add and subtract. The children have been taught to use a range of strategies such as their fingers, using objects and a number line. They have really enjoyed completing our independent maths challenges that we have out in the environment. The last couple of weeks we have been learning all about doubling and halving. The children have really enjoyed doubling the spots on a ladybird and halving the pirate's treasure.



We are very much looking forward to our trip to Rushall Farm just after the Easter holidays. We have been going for a number of years and the children always have such a fantastic time. The trip will start off our topic on farms.

Reminders –

As the weather is beginning to get warmer and the children are regularly taking their jumpers/cardigans off please make sure that your child's jumper/cardigan is clearly named.

Please remember to read with your child 5 times per week and sign in the diary when you have done this.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Emma Luzolo – EYFS Phase Leader



Curriculum News

Key Stage 1:

The second half of the Spring Term has been a Royal affair! Our 'Knights and Castles' topic has been fully embraced by the children who have all enjoyed learning about our Queen and King Henry VIII.

We were lucky enough to receive a video message from 'The Queen' who encouraged us to write her a letter to gather more information about her. We thought about questions we would like to ask as well as the appropriate way to address her. The children worked hard on learning the skills needed to write a letter and each produced an excellent letter to be proud of. We will be sending the letters soon; fingers crossed for a reply!

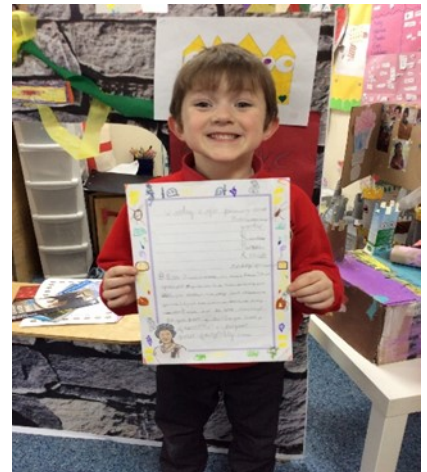
In Maths, we have been very busy. From measures to division we have been challenging the children to use and apply their understanding of number to a variety of curriculum areas. The children have been particularly interested in measure where they have been measuring length in centimetres. Try and encourage your child to apply their knowledge of measure at home; this helps consolidate the skills they have learnt at school.

We have been studying the artist Paul Klee and have tried out a range of his famous techniques. The children have been drawing and painting their own castle pictures. We are impressed with the outcome and look forward to sharing them with you soon.

Yet again we are astounded by the high quality home learning that we have received this term. The children have excelled themselves creatively and have brought in projects that are impressive for such young people! We have thoroughly enjoyed the sweet treats for The Queen and think we may have some potential star bakers within KS1.

We enjoyed our trip to Hampton Court Palace on Thursday 4th April. It was a lovely way to end an exciting and busy term.

Mrs Lucy Powell, KS1 Phase Leader



Curriculum News

Lower Key Stage 2: (Years 3&4)

The second half of the Spring Term has been both exciting and extremely busy in the Lower Juniors. As you are probably more than aware by now, our topic has been mostly about SPACE and linking that to our work on The Iron Man.

In English, although we have finished reading The Iron Man by Ted Hughes, we have continued to incorporate it into our learning. We learned how to write a persuasive letter and all the features needed. The phase successfully persuaded Mrs Gurney to allow them to watch the film The Iron Giant by promising to work on it and use it to compare and contrast with the book. In addition we also showed what we *really* know about space by producing a non-chronological report.

In Maths, our focus has been on fractions. It has been lovely to see the children having their 'lightbulb moments' and realising that they have gone from not understanding, to knowing a topic well enough that they can explain it to others.

We have been completely WOWed by the topic of Space and the children's dedication to producing amazing pieces of work. The facts that they have found out at school have been well used in the work that they have produced at home. The homework has stunned and impressed many members of staff not only because of the effort put in but for decorating the classrooms and corridors so beautifully. We were pleased that you got to see the vast array of marvels at the LKS2 performance work showcase.

We experienced a space day where we received a letter from the local Police stating that some suspicious 'alien' eggs were spotted on our field. The children wrote an account of what had happened and a narrative on their predictions on what was in the egg. On this day we also tried some space food – dehydrated fruit, watched science experiments happening in space and had a tour of the international space station. We all had a fantastic time at the Woodley Aviation Museum where the children showed how much they had learned and how curious they were



to learn more – they were a real credit to Woodley CofE Primary. We have written letters to the volunteers who run the museum thanking them for their time and knowledge.

Design and Technology was something to behold across the phase. Thank you for providing the boxes, bottles and bottle-tops to allow the children to have a great day designing, building and evaluating their Iron People. The day was enjoyed by all with the children discussing design features, learning to work with different children, compromising and making intricate decisions on what the best features of their Iron Person would be.

In Science, we have been learning about electricity and circuits – asking questions, making predictions and testing hypotheses.

A massive thank you needs to be said from the whole LKS2 team for your involvement in our performance, from: encouraging your children to learn their lines; for bringing them back for the evening performances; for laughing at the bad jokes and generally supporting your children in their learning.

As a final point, please continue to read 5-times-a-week (and signing the diary), it really does help in their reading stamina, fluency and pleasure. Times Table Rockstars is proving to be a winner in the classrooms as it taps into the competitive nature of children, both with themselves and their peers – please continue to encourage them to log on and rock-on!

Mrs Michelle Jay, LKS2 Phase Leader



Curriculum News

Upper Key Stage 2: (Years 5&6)

The term started with a practical theme, as the children brought in their amazing home learning: ships, plates and Trojan horses. It continued to be creative as in DT, we enjoyed tasting some traditional Greek starters and even had a go at making our own tzatziki – it actually tasted very authentic.

In Art we have been studying Greek sculpture and made our own mini sculptures using... a bar of soap. In computing, we used Scratch to create a game based on a myth. It involved the Minotaur, who continuously stalks Theseus, as he tries to collect the ancient coins. We certainly have some impressive coders in our school.

Keeping with the mythological theme, we have been writing our own myths, which have included the essential: hero, beast and problem to solve. Our writing has definitely improved and we are now including more complex sentences and high order punctuation such as: parenthesis, colons and semi colons. Our newspaper reports were based around the events of the Trojan horse and we now know what 'Beware of Greeks bearing gifts.' means!

Science has been all about mechanisms: pulleys, levers and gears, we made our own pulleys and designed our own marvelous mechanisms.

We enjoyed a trip to the URE museum, part of Reading University, and were lucky enough to handle some Greek pottery and look at the detail of the designs. RE this term has been looking at the Easter story and, as usual, RE Inspired led an interesting discussion on the events of Holy week. Now we are all looking forward to our Easter holidays.

Mrs Shaman, UKS2 Phase Leader.



Sporting News

It has been yet another busy half term for the sports teams at Woodley C of E.

The Year 5 and 6 football teams finished off the second half of the season unbeaten with 2 wins against Nine Mile Ride and Loddon Primary.

Our cross country season also came to an end with the relay races at Bulmershe. This is the first time we have entered the relays and all of the children ran really well. A special mention must go to the year 3 and 4 boys team for a 5th place finish.

Well done to our outstanding performers below.

Mr Michael Clare, PE Co-ordinator



Reminders from the Office

Office hours: 8.00am - 4.25pm
3.15pm

Peak times: 8.45am - 9.15am / 3.00pm -

Absence:

If your child is unwell please phone the school office and select option 1. Please make sure you phone and give a reason for your child's absence. The Attendance Officer will make contact with anyone who has not phoned in to find out the reason why a child is not in school. Alternatively, if you have downloaded the ParentMail app you can register absences there.

If your child arrives after the gates have shut please make sure you accompany them into the school office and sign them in. Even our older children need to be signed in by their parents.

Water bottles:

Children should bring a water bottle into school everyday.

Parent Mail:

98% of our families have now created an account with 76% of families using the mobile app. In order for school to start making savings on sending out communications we need every family to create an account and set up the app. If you are struggling, speak to a member of the office team who will be able to help you.



Airfield Club

Opening Times: 7.45am - 8.40am / 3.15pm—6.00pm

Due to popularity, we are finding that both Breakfast Club and After School Club are becoming full for most sessions. It is therefore really important, if you rely on the club for childcare, that you book online at far ahead as possible. We are not able to go over our numbers even if you regularly use the club.

Please do not add children to the bottom of the list if you arrive in the morning and they are not on the printed register. This means we are full. We have had to turn families away.

If you would like to use the Airfield Club to help with childcare support please fill in a registration form and return to the school office. Please allow 48 hours for your confirmation letter. This letter will enable you to go online and book sessions and make payments. Please remember the "48 Hour Rule" - 48 hours to book and 48 hours to cancel. Any queries please email TheAirfieldClub@woodley-pri.wokingham.sch.uk

You will still be charged if your child is sick or unable to attend the club unless you have given 48 hours' notice

PTA News

What a year we are having so far with some great fundraising events already taken place and many planned for the new term.

With all your help in the 2017/2018 academic year, the total raised was £12,200, which has mainly paid for and enabled the successful implementation of the sound system in the school hall. It also paid for other key equipment around the school, such as sports equipment and tables. In this academic year (2018/2019) we have already raised over £7,000 which is amazing. The main source of income has been through the Xmas fair, disco and cake sales. This year funds will be spent on key learning resources ready for the autumn term. Further work on the hall is needed, however this is likely to be a 2020 project. So, let's keep up the great work as not only is it important to raise these funds for the school, it's also good fun for all involved. Please put the following dates in your diaries...

Easter Egg Trail – Thursday 18th April to Monday 22nd April around the Woodley Airfield. If you haven't purchased your map, please remember to pick up a map from Tesco Express for £2.

Disco – Friday 17th May. Foundation and Infants 6pm – 7pm and Juniors 7.30pm - 8.30pm. Please arrive 15 minutes before to sign in. For the safeguarding of children and to make the disco entry more manageable, we ask that no parents stay during the disco unless they are volunteering to help and assigned on the rota with a task.

Summer Fair – Saturday 29th June 11am – 2pm. Please stick the date in your diaries and let's hope for another fun and sunny day. If you are keen to volunteer or help in anyway, please let one of the PTA know, shout out on our facebook group 'PTA Gang and Supporters', or email the PTA at woodleycofe.pta@googlemail.com.

The next PTA meetings are on 2nd May and 9th July at 8pm (Conker Room).



SUMMER TERM 2019 - DATES

APRIL

Monday 22nd - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 23rd - Inset Day

Wednesday 24th - School returns

Tuesday 30th - EYFS trip to Rushell Farm

MAY

Friday 3rd - Family Friday starts 8.40-9.00

Monday 6th - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 7th - Clubs start

Monday 13th-16th - KS2 SATS

Friday 16th - PTA Disco

Monday 20th-Thursdays 24th - Woodley Sports Week

Monday 20th - Year 5/6 Kwik Cricket 12.30-5.00 - Woodford Park

Tuesday 21st - Year 5/6 Swimming Gala - Blue Coat School - 9.10-12.15pm

Tuesday 21st - Year 2 Multi Skills Festival - Woodford Park

Wednesday 23rd - Year 3 Paralympics Competition - Woodford Park

Friday 24th - INSET Day - school closed to pupils

Monday 27th-Friday 31st - Half Term (Bikeability for Year 6 - dates tbc)

JUNE

Saturday 8th - Woodley Carnival

Thursday 13th - School photographs

Saturday 15th - PTA Quiz Night - details to follow

Tuesday 18th - F2 Stay and Play 2.15-3.00pm

Wednesday 19th - New Parent Meeting 6.30pm

Monday 24th - Sex Education Meeting - Year 6 - 6.30pm

Wednesday 26th - Universal Year 6 Transition Day when all year 6 children visit their new secondary school

JULY

Thursday 4th - Sports Day/Family Picnic

Monday 8th - last week of clubs

Monday 15th - Upper Junior Performance 6.30pm

Tuesday 16th - Upper Junior Performance 2.15pm

Thursday 18th - Upper Junior Performance 6.30pm

Monday 22nd - Upper Junior Leavers Party 6.00-7.30 (tbc)

