

WOODLEY

C of E Primary School



Issue: 3

February

2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Excellent Work.

I am sure that you and your children are looking forward to a well-deserved half term and from reading this newsletter, the children deserve a break after all the hard work they have been doing. The standard of work from the children has been really impressive and I know they will continue this to the end of the year. I have recently started to work with some of our Year 6 children, helping them prepare for their reading SATs paper in May. I have been so impressed with their attitude to work and their "BRAVE" learning.

Special Needs. (SEN).

This half term, I have taken over the role of SENCo and it has been great to work with some of you, as parents, to try and improve the provision for your children. Mrs Blee (Schools Support Coordinator) has been crucial in helping me with the role and please remember to contact Mrs Blee if you have any concerns regarding SEN.

Outward Facing School.

The school works very closely with a number of other schools and other agencies to ensure that the very best provision is offered to your children. We are currently part of the Schools Learning Alliance, a group of 12 local schools that come together to discuss and implement ideas for school improvement. I am also Chair of Wokingham Primary Heads Association and have regular meetings with Wokingham Borough Council to shape the future of school improvement in the local area. Education is continually changing. We have new accountability frameworks from both OFSTED and the Oxford Diocese and it is important that schools continually share best practice to benefit the education of the children.

PTA

I am continually grateful to you as parents and to the PTA for the extra funding that comes into the school. As you are aware, PTA funding has been responsible for our new Read, Write Inc. phonics scheme and we will be holding an update for parents on our progress in the summer term. The summer term will also see the introduction of Accelerated Reader into our school. Again, the PTA have funded this system which will provide on line books for Junior children, level the books we currently have in the school so they are closely matched to your child's ability and provide quizzes to assess their understanding. The summer term will see the introduction of the on-line books followed by the complete system in September, 2020.

Final Reminders.

We are aware that there are often reasons why children cannot come to school in the correct school uniform. If this is the case, please let the Office or your child's class teacher know and we can allow you a short time to get this sorted. Research shows that the outcomes for children are better when home and school work closely together. Please try to ensure that your child does not miss school unless they are really ill as every day counts. Please try to avoid taking children out of school unless it is a medical appointment that you cannot avoid. Reading with your children five times a week is key and thank you for continuing to support your children with their homework.

Our school is a real community. It is lovely to chat to so many of you outside school in the mornings and during Family Friday and we look forward to welcoming you into school for Parents Evenings in March.

Best wishes

Louisa Gurney, Head Teacher



Curriculum News

Foundation Stage:

This half term we have based our Topic work around traditional tales and the Chinese New Year celebrations. We started off by learning the story of The Three Little Pigs. We worked as a class to sequence the story and then made our own story maps and puppets. We then went on to learn about the story of The Three Billy Goats Gruff. The children absolutely loved working together to build rafts and bridges for the goats to cross the river. We have been providing lots of independent writing tasks in these topic sessions and have been encouraging the children to use their knowledge and skills learnt in Read Write Inc. We look forward to showing you all of their wonderful work at the upcoming parents evening after half term.



We then looked at the celebration of Chinese New Year. We learnt about how people prepare for and celebrate Chinese New Year and talked about what and how we celebrate with our families. The children loved learning about the Chinese New Year story and tried hard at using their phonics knowledge to write bits of the story. A firm favourite was preparing and eating a Chinese feast. The children demonstrated their ability to listen and handle tools safely when chopping up the ingredients. We talked about eating healthy and the need for variety in food. Some children had never tasted the food we cooked and were very brave at having a try! Our topic after half term will be Space and Easter.

In maths we have been learning all about number bonds to 5 where we have used our fingers and blocks to help us. We have been very impressed with how quickly the children have picked this concept up and look forward to moving onto number bonds to 10 after half term. We have also been working on securely knowing numbers to 10. We have made rainbows with 7 colours and spiders with 8 legs and 8 eyes. After half term we will be focusing on adding two groups and number bonds to 10.

Read Write Inc. is going really well and we are amazed at how well the children are doing. We are so impressed with the progress in reading and writing since the beginning of the year. We hope that you are too as they have been working really hard.

All the parent Tapestry accounts should be activated and up and running. Please ensure that you log in to your child's account regularly to see what we have been learning at school. If you are having problems accessing Tapestry then please come and see one of us and we will help you.

We hope that you have a wonderful half term and look forward to seeing you when we return.

Mrs Emma Luzolo
Foundation Stage Phase Leader.



Curriculum News

Key Stage 1:

This half term, KS1's topic is Dinosaur Discovery. We have learnt lots about dinosaurs including: which continents their fossils have been found on; what their life cycles were like, as well as whether they are carnivores, herbivores or omnivores. We looked at clues to help us find things out. We have also been investigating which



animal group dinosaurs belonged to and how we know. We have studied Mary Anning as an important scientist and learnt about her work and its impact on what we know about dinosaurs. In RE, the children have been looking at the concept of commitment and prayer. We have been exploring how prayer helps Muslims in their everyday lives. In Art, we



have learnt to print in different ways, using sponges, stamps and poly-tiles. We have been studying Andy Warhol and looked at lots of his printing work.

In English, we have had a big focus on handwriting and most of the children in KS1 have been learning to, or practising, their joined up handwriting each day for morning work. You may notice that your child will start to bring home handwriting practise on the reverse of their spelling home learning.

In maths, the children have been adding, subtracting and learning all about money. Please help your child by showing them the different coins and notes and choosing the correct amounts if you go to the shops.

Thank you for all of your support with reading, maths and topic home learning. It really makes a difference and impact on your child's progress. We hope you all have a restful half term break.



Miss Lauren Adkins, KS1 Phase Leader



Curriculum News

Lower Key Stage 2:

The start of spring term and 2020 has been very busy in the Lower Juniors. Our topic theme this term is 'Gadgets and Gizmos' looking at inventions and gadgets over time.

In English, we have been reading an original story by Pie Corbett entitled 'The Old Mill' - a suspense and adventure story. The children have learnt the features of a suspense story and have written and published their own. They are rightly very proud of them. Our LKS2 class book is 'Operation Gadgetman' by Malorie Blackman. We will be using the story to draft our own diary entries in the style of the main character, again, using the features of a suspense, adventure story.

In Maths, we have worked hard on integrating resources into our learning. The children have enjoyed using counters, rods, bead-strings and designing their own fraction walls to show their understanding of unit and non-unit fractions. We will be looking at fraction word problems and equivalent fractions. Due to this, there has been a lot of talk about sharing, mostly food. A maths lesson on fractions and we all go to break looking forward to our snacks.

Topic has been based around 'gadgets and gizmos' and inventions from the year 2000 as shown in the Knowledge Organiser for the topic. We have been looking at the progress made in the way we take photos, listening to music and communicating with each others. We have been listening to music on a record player, looking at cassettes and CDs, leaving some of us feeling very old. In Science, we have witnessed great growth mind-sets on show whilst looking at and learning about sound movement and working scientifically during investigations. We thoroughly enjoyed our LKS2 visit to Winchester Science Centre where the children were commended for their participation and behaviour. It was a pleasure to see their interactions with each other as they competed to make rockets propelled with 'jet fuel' to see which team's rocket would travel furthest. Unfortunately, it wasn't the teacher's rocket. At the end of the day, the children were overflowing with facts and information about space, forces and curious about other exhibits they had seen in the centre. A great day was had by all.

As always, we appreciate you signing the Home-School Diary after listening to your child read 5-times-a-week. It



not only helps instil a love of reading for both pleasure and information but is an essential part of their education. For LKS2, times tables are important as we start the Government Multiplication Tables Check in June 2020. The children are learning their times tables in a variety of ways in school as the learning of times tables are an integral part to understanding and applying maths concepts – please encourage your child to log on to **Times Table Rockstars** to practise timed and targeted questions in a fun way.

We are all very excited about the selection of different work we will get to see this term in the topic Home Learning over the next few weeks. Please feel free to bring it in as soon as it is done.

Thank you for your support and loans of appliances and gadgets – we will look after them. It has been a pleasure to work with such enthusiastic children who are striving to show their best learning.

Mrs Michelle Jay, LKS2 Phase Leader



Curriculum News

Upper Key Stage 2

New Year – new exciting topic 'Extreme Earth'. The Upper Juniors have already immersed themselves into this topic, finding out about: the physical geography of the Earth, extreme conditions, volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. We have been fascinated by the Earth's core and have had fun investigating how mountains are formed. In computing, we are currently making our own Scratch project showing a volcano erupting and including links for explanations. Mr Miles has been impressed with our coding skills.

In English we have written some beautiful winter poems full of figurative language, some rhymed others didn't but they all created vivid images in the reader's mind. Recently, we have researched how earthquakes happen and written a detailed explanation, supported by diagrams, using lots of technical vocabulary and features of this genre.



In Art we have recreated our own 3D version of Hokusai's iconic work 'The Great Wave' layering card and paper. We are now using shading techniques and tones to show the movements of a tornado - the results of both are very effective.

Music is our current focus and we are in the process of composing our own piece of music to accompany an extreme natural event. Some talented musicians are even using staves and notes to show their music.



Science has also all been about our amazing Earth and how it moves in Space. We have discussed how we get day and night, and the seasons and why we (and other planets) orbit the Sun. We have looked at the different phases of the moon and now understand what a 'waning gibbous' is.

In maths, Year 6 have been looking at geometry and Year 5 have been thinking about fractions, decimals and percentages. Year 6 are now revising different topics and developing their independent working skills whilst year 5 continue to look at time, and ways data can be presented. It has been a topical way to start 2020 and we have a greater understanding of the devastation that extreme weather can cause.

Mrs Alison Sharman, UKS2 Phase Leader



Sporting News

It has been a fantastic start to the term for Woodley C of E's sports teams.

The YR 5 & 6 Football Team has progressed through to the knockout stages of the Wokingham District tournament and they are very excited for the match against Wheatfield Primary.

The cross country team have made the best start we have ever had. A special mention must go to the Yr 3 & 4 girls team for a 1st place finish and the Yr 5 & 6 boys team for a 4th place finish.

Our next cross country event takes place on 27th March 2020 at Reddam House. Letters have been sent to squad members, please return permission slips as soon possible.

Mr Michael Clare, PE Co-Ordinator

Reminders from the Office

Office hours: 8.00am - 4.25pm Peak times: 8.45am - 9.15am / 3.00pm - 3.15pm

Water Bottles. Please send your child to school with a named water bottle.

Reporting absences. If your child is not well enough to come to school, please phone the office before 10.00am to report your child absent from school. Please leave their name, class and a reason for absence. On phoning and reaching the school switchboard, please select option 1 to leave a message. If your child has a medical appointment that can not be made outside of school hours please pop into the office and fill out a medical appointment form. Any absence not explained, will result in an unauthorised absence and will effect your child's attendance record.

School Uniform. If you are purchasing new uniform this half term, please check out website for our Uniform Policy. It is important the long hair is tied back everyday and we ask that there are no extreme hairstyles such as stars and strips cut into hair styles. Fitbits are allowed as long as they do not connect with the internet and they do have to be removed for PE. If children are fiddling with such items, they may be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day.



PTA News

Hopefully everyone enjoyed the Valentines Day Doughnut Sale after school today. This is the first time the PTA have held this event, so we hope this will be a successful fundraising event. We will confirm the total with you in our next communication to you. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped and also to you all for supporting our Year 1 and Year 2 cake sale earlier this term which we are pleased to announce raised £128.59.

Future PTA Events for your diaries are:

Friday 28th February 2020. Cake Sale to raise money for Year 3 and 4. Please drop cake donations into the school office from Thursday 27th February 2020.

Thursday 5th March 2020. Next PTA Meeting. 8.00pm in the Conker Room. New faces always welcome.

Saturday 21st March 2020. Quiz Night. Tickets are £12 per person and includes food. The quiz will be held at school and starts at 7pm. Letters and entry forms will be issued very soon.

Thursday 9th April 2020 — Monday 13th April 2020. Woodley Airfield Easter Egg Trail. Egg Maker Registration Forms have been issued and are due back end of February. Copies can be collected from the school office. If anyone has any questions about the trail, being an egg maker or how to get involved, please contact Helen Simmons (Year 1), Nina Goulden (Year 2) or Jane von Benecke (Year 1 and Year 5) either in the playground at the end of the day or leave a note in the PTA Box located just inside the school front door and we will contact you.

24th April 2020. Cake Sale to raise money for the SEN Department.

Friday 15th May 2020. School Disco. This disco will include Foundation children. Forms will be emailed home nearer the date.

As always we are extremely grateful for all the support you give us. Whether that is by baking a cake, helping to sell cakes, donations or offers of help. The PTA raises valuable funds for the school and this would not be possible without the whole school community helping. Many hands make light work and so if you are able to help maybe even for just one event we would love to hear from you.

woodleycofepta@googlemail.com

Or leave a note in the PTA box located just inside the school front door.

Many thanks, Your PTA Committee

