

Woodlands Academy of Learning

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a sad week for staff in school because one of our members of staff, Mrs Pitt in Y3, was taken seriously ill on Monday. All our prayers and best wishes are with her as she recovers. We are also missing Mrs Corbett at the moment because she has had an operation, but I am pleased to report she is on the mend and will hopefully be back with us soon. Therefore we have two new members of the team, Mr Browne and Mrs Rai in Y3, working alongside Mrs Purcell, and the rest of the Y3 team.

Impact of recent changes has been the focus the week. We welcomed Mrs Sedgewick (From Lindens Teaching School) into school on Monday to visit all our classes to evaluate the impact of our new approach to Maths in line with the new National Curriculum. This new approach involves a greater depth of understanding so that our children aren't just learning a 'strategy' in order to calculate but they are understanding how the strategy works. This new approach is linked to the way Maths is taught in Singapore where they have had startling results. It is called the concrete, pictorial and abstract approach to new mathematical concepts. This involves our children utilising various mathematical equipment and drawings to understand what is happening to the numbers in a calculation. Mrs Sedgewick was extremely impressed by the way our new approach was being used, it is certainly making a difference to the progress of our children. Also, Miss Riley and I undertook a learning walk to identify how well phonics is being taught in Y1 and YR. This lesson is taught daily from 1:00—1:45 in small groups. It was wonderful to see our children so engaged, reading their books to their partners and confidently learning the sounds.

Reverend Deakin led the whole school in assembly on Tuesday, focussing on how we care for each other and our environment, linking to the theme of the week - Remembrance. Thank you to all our families who have supported Armistice day with the purchase of poppies and associated items from Woodlands. All our classes held the two minute silence on Wednesday along with the rest of the Country.

It was great to see our children getting into the spirit of Children In Need on Friday in their own clothes. Next Friday is another non-uniform day in return for an 'unwanted' gift that we can sell at our Christmas Fair which is creeping closer... It is also the day of our sponsored silence to support the girls in Romania. How wonderful that our children can make a difference in the world.

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Newton.

Dates for the Calendar

- 13.11.15 Deadline for Christmas lunch orders
- 20.11.15 Sponsored silence for Nightingales
- 20.11.15 Non-uniform day: Christmas Fair
- 24.11.15 Christmas Lunches begin with N
- 27.11.15 Y4 visit to Black country Museum
- 27.11.15 Christmas Fair
- 29.11.15 Woodlands participate in the evening service at the Methodist Church
- 1.12.15 YR Visit to Ash End Farm
- 15.12.15 Y5/Y6 concert am, Y3/Y4 concert pm,
- 16.12.15 Y1/Y2 concert, YR/N concert, both performances will be repeated am and pm
- 16.12.15 Y6 Theatre Visit
- 17.12.15 Y3/Y4 concert am, Y5/Y6 concert pm
- 18.12.15 Last day of the Autumn Term





25 years at Woodlands!

Unwavering support and dedication most certainly deserved a basket of fruit from everyone at Woodlands. Congratulations and **Thank You** to Dennis Davies who has made us all smile every morning for 25 years!

Thank you to Kellogg's

Woodies breakfast and after school club has received a £500 grant from Kellogg's after staff completed an online training course to enhance our breakfast club.

The free training course, developed by Northumbria University, gives practical support and advice on how to run an effective breakfast club covering aspects such as child nutrition, food hygiene, advertising and how to access other sources of funding.

Well done to Mrs Alves and Mrs Arnstein who made this possible, and of course - thank you to Kellogg's. Mrs Alves has already spent the grant on exciting materials for our Woodies children.



Smart Children



I have noticed that a number of children aren't wearing their school tie.

This is an important part of our uniform and shows pride in our special school. They are available to purchase from the office. Thank you.



Every Monday we celebrate the achievements of our children through the reward of certificates in our 'Celebration of Learning Assembly'. There is always a lot to celebrate and we can't share all the certificate winners, but we thought you might like to know who the children were that earned: **Star Of The Week.**

Class	Name	Reason
RE	Oliver Baker-Clare Aiden Ball	Using and applying RML skills in labs to spell and then write mum and dad. Problem solving how to fix the tap on our role play sink showing great perseverance.
RR	Dexter Preece Harriet Simmons	For sharing his knowledge of dinosaurs with the class. For using her Fred talk to independently label a picture of a dinosaur.
1G	All of year 1	For their enthusiasm and hard work during Explore & Discovery week.
1H	All of year 1	For their enthusiasm and hard work during Explore & Discovery week.
2S	Morgan Felton Charlie Fillingham	For a fabulous retell of Rama & Sita. For using great TAD openers on his Rama & Sita retell.
2A	Charlie Bates Summer Brown	A fantastic opening to his Rama and Sita retell. Charlie used his whiteboard to edit and up level his work before writing it in his book. A positive attitude towards all of her learning, particularly in maths. Summer solved measurement word problem using all four operations.
3P	Abygail Brittle Luke Beavon	Working really hard in maths to be able to convert CM into MM. Working hard to improve his handwriting and remembering to use finger spaces.
3CP	Brandon Reeves Henry Woodfield	Measuring length in MM, CM, M. Recount of Noah's Ark using paragraphs.
4N	Vikki Chen Sian-Dana Letman	Super fraction work. Finding fractions of colour. Super fraction work. Finding fractions of colour.
4R	Edward Woodfield Grace Wagstaff	Sustained effort all week in English & maths. Super punctuation for dialogue and great expression when reading out loud.
5C	Jessica Baker Ben Woodfield	Excellent effort in all subject areas. Excellent newspaper report writing in English.
5T	Brooke Webb Jayden Shinton	Her superb newspaper report in English – I think we have a future journalist on our hands. His amazing newspaper report in English. Not only that his handwriting has blown Mrs Cliff and I away.
6E	Millie Gledhill Callum Pearce	Fantastic effort in all maths – listening carefully. Good work on calculating percentages. Supporting others in their learning.
6P	Ava Bird Freya Ball	Excellent participation during class discussions, volunteering well thought out answers and explanations – super! Demonstrating a fantastic understanding of fractions of quantities.