

A word from Mrs Milner

Friday 21st July 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

I simply cannot believe that this is my last ever word to you as the Headteacher of Woodside Junior School. There is not a lot left to say, but first of all a huge thank you to all the parents and carers, past and present, for the last twelve years of your support for our work. Your support for the children and our staff was and continues to be, vital in ensuring that Woodside continues to be a successful school of choice in the Amersham community. Thank you once more for your kind words and wishes. I am touched by it all, and I only wish that I can express more eloquently what it means to me, personally. Your extremely generous gift genuinely made me humble and thank you once more for all the kind gifts and messages. I feel incredibly sad to leave but I know that the time is right for me and the school. I am passing the baton to Mr. Lloyd, and I am confident that I am leaving Woodside in good shape, with a great foundation to continue building a successful and popular school. This is only possible thanks to our amazing staff and your fantastic children. Woodside pupils are a real credit to this school and most importantly to you—parents. Yes, children can be frustrating and yes, they push the boundaries (sometimes) but in my long teaching career, I can honestly say that I have not come across any more polite, hardworking, compassionate, and just fun to be with pupils. So, thank you for bringing them up to be kind and wonderful. Our job as educators is so much easier!

I would like to also thank all Woodside staff -past and present. Thank you for all your dedication, hours of work, compassion, understanding, and resilience, and for being great teachers and support staff. I will miss you all and wish you all the very best. You made my Headship so easy and for this, I am very grateful.

I would like to save my last words for all the children of our school. What can I say – you are simply the best -in every possible way. You made my job so great and exciting. Teaching and being a Headteacher is the best job, ever! Thank you so much for being just you...

So, parents, boys and girls, and our staff—thank you and I hope that you have a lovely summer. Whilst I will not see you in September, I wish you a great start to the new academic year. I am hoping that I will see you during your fantastic productions – and I am looking forward to it.

With my warmest summer wishes
Dorota Milner
Headteacher

P.S. For all the parents who were not able to join us during my farewell assembly, I enclose the script of my goodbye speech. Thank you for listening.

Today, I am filled with a mix of emotions. Sadness to leave such a thriving, successful school but also pride and joy once I reflect on what we have achieved. After a remarkable 12 years together and 10 as a Headteacher, it is time for me to bid farewell to this incredible school. I am both proud and humbled to see how far we have come since I first stepped into the role of a Headteacher, building on the success of the previous Headteacher, Mrs. Harratt.

Looking back, it feels like just yesterday when we started this journey together. Our school was smaller, with only 90 pupils, and we faced various challenges. Woodside was very much a Cinderella of Amersham. Perception within the community was that there were better schools in Amersham, more successful in many aspects. But our staff embraced challenges with determination and a shared vision for excellence. And today, I am proud to witness how this school has evolved into a thriving institution with 240 pupils eager to learn and grow. Woodside is not only excellent for academia, but we also have successes in performing art and sport, as well as looking after the whole child. I know that the pastoral care we provide is second to none. So today, Woodside is a school of choice for many parents, and I am so very proud of this.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the parents who have placed their trust in me and the entire school staff. Your unwavering support and partnership have been instrumental in achieving the success we celebrate today. Your involvement in your children's education has made a significant difference in their lives, and I am sincerely grateful for the trust you have bestowed upon us. I know that we will not let you down.

PTO for more of Mrs Milner's newsletter...

House Point Totals

	2403	1774	2411	2655
This Term	2403	1774	2411	2655
This Year	7983	8266	7381	7933
	Maple	Willow	Elm	Cedar

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
21.7.23	Break up 1.30pm
	
Tues 5.9.23	Pupils return to school for the Autumn Term
23.9.23	Cross Country event @ Gayhurst Park
12.10.23	Flu Vaccinations
11.11.23	Cross Country event

Changes to Wraparound Care Costs from September 2023

I hope that you agree with me that our wraparound care is an amazing facility that provides excellent care for the children. We have tried our best to keep the charges constant in order not to burden our parents during these difficult times. Unfortunately, it is not sustainable as the price of energy and food have risen - as I am sure you are aware. We, therefore, made a difficult decision with our governors to raise the charges to £6 per hour. I hope that parents will understand and support this and continue to use our wraparound care as it still provides a fantastic value for money.

Many thanks for continuous support

You will be able to make bookings for September onwards from 1st August 2023

[Click here for the calendar of](#)

[23/24 Term Dates](#)

Thank you once again to Florence, Penny and Bhuv for serenading us and Maxim for his piano playing in our final end of year assembly today- what a lovely way to finish off the year!

Well done to Seb for his Gymnastics!

Continued...

As I prepare to hand over the reins to a new leader, I am filled with confidence and hope. I am certain that under Mr. Lloyd's capable leadership, this school will continue to flourish and reach even greater heights. Change is part of life's cycle, and I do not doubt that the seeds we've planted together will continue to bear fruit long into the future.

To each pupil, past and present, thank you for inspiring me every single day. Your curiosity, energy, and zest for learning has been a constant source of amusement and job satisfaction for me. Seeing you grow and succeed has been the most rewarding aspect of my time here, and I will cherish these memories forever. I want you all to know just how wonderful every one of you truly are. I understand that being a child can be frustrating at times, but let me tell you, you hold the key to the future. Education is the foundation that opens countless doors of opportunity, and you have the power to shape and change the world, so go for it with all your determination.

Life will present you with challenges and opportunities, and I encourage you to embrace them with no fear. Take risks, for it is through failures that you will grow stronger and wiser. Always remember to give 100% in everything you do and aim high with ambition and determination. At Woodside, we value integrity, respect, and responsibility, but above all, kindness reigns supreme. Treat others fairly and with the same kindness you would want for yourself. As you navigate through childhood and school, cherish every moment and enjoy the journey. Believe in yourselves, as I believe in each one of you. Your journey has just begun, and the world awaits your brilliance. So, go out there, be fearless, and be kind. I am incredibly proud of every one of you, and I can't wait to see the incredible impact you will make.

I hope that you will allow me to say my last words to the staff.

As I bid goodbye, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for your hard work and dedication throughout the years. Teaching and working in a school is not an easy task, but it is undoubtedly the most rewarding and fulfilling profession in the world. Each one of you holds the privilege of shaping young minds, and there is truly no better job than working with children. Each day brings frustration, joy, laughter, and pride.

To the exceptional team of teachers, support staff, office staff, midday supervisors, and our site manager, I owe you all an immeasurable debt of gratitude. You are the heart and soul of this school, the ones who work tirelessly behind the scenes, ensuring that every child receives the best possible education. Your commitment, passion, and collaboration have made this school the beacon of excellence it is today. Without you, this journey would not have been possible. Thank you to all Woodside staff past and present – without your commitment to the education and welfare of our pupils – this success would not have been possible. Parents, I can assure you that you have an amazing staff looking after your children. I know that all our staff care about the welfare and happiness of your most precious commodity.

Together, we have formed a fantastic team, facing the joys and challenges of each day with resilience and determination. Your commitment to our children's growth and well-being has been nothing short of inspiring. As I embark on a new journey, I will deeply miss each one of you. Your support, camaraderie, and kindness have made this school a special place, and I am immensely grateful to have worked alongside the best team I could ever ask for.

Thank you for going the extra mile to ensure that each child feels valued and cared for. So, as I say my goodbyes, I do so full of appreciation. You are all exceptional individuals and I love and miss all of you.

In closing, I want to say that it has been an honour and privilege to serve as your Headteacher. I am eternally grateful for the support you have shown me. The school's success is not the work of a single individual but the result of our collective efforts as a team –parents, pupils, staff, and governors.

I leave with gratitude and pride, knowing that the school is in capable hands and will continue to be a place of inspiration, growth, and excellence. Thank you all for being a part of this unforgettable chapter in my life.

Curriculum / Events Brief Update

Just a very brief curriculum/events update. On Tuesday we held the last Rocksteady concert (for this academic year). Thank you once more to Bertie and our fantastic musicians for their brilliant performances. I think that being part of a rock group is such a fantastic opportunity for the children. I am, therefore, grateful to Rocksteady for their involvement with our school.

Tuesday afternoon saw the event of the year—this is what all the children have been waiting for. Woodside's Got Talent!! We had everything – drums, singing, magic tricks, and gymnastics. Our distinguished panel debated into the early hours as choosing winners was incredibly difficult. Firstly—well done to all the pupils who took part. I think that it is incredible that so many children dare to stand in front of an audience and present their talents. So, a huge clap, and well done. All children received Certificates of Participation. Our winners were:

1st place – Lily (Year 6) - singing and guitar

2nd place- Callum (Year 5) – drumming

3rd place (joint) – Nathun (Year3) -piano and Aarav (Year 6) - rapid Rubik Cube solving

Special mention to Anvay for audience participation.

On Wednesday, Woodside was privileged to welcome a the Mayor of Amersham who opened our pond. I would like to say a huge thank you to all adults who have been involved in this project and special thanks to our volunteers' parents who helped the children to make the pond mosaic and all the parents who contributed their time, resources, and energy. Mrs Webber was the member of staff who initiated the whole project so thank you once more.

Yesterday we held our Leavers' Assembly for Year 6 pupils (followed by a water fight). It is always sad to see our Year 6 cohort leave but we know that they will enjoy their secondary schools. Please remember us, here at Woodside, and our door is always open for you to visit. Good luck Year 6. Go for it!

Thank you to Mrs Harrison and her willing team of pupils for selling the Coronation Posters after school yesterday. The posters were beautiful and a wonderful memory of this historic year. The money raised will be donated to the two charities chosen at the start of the year by the School Council—Cancer Research UK and Air Ambulance.

Finally, a massive congratulations to all the students below for **pupil of the term** and **pupil of the year!**

Pupil of the Term

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Felicity	Millie	Penny	Christina
Wilf	Dylan	Naoki	Leon
Benjamin	Lohan	Jack. E	Ishani
Gurisha	Anna-Maria	Emily. A	Medhansh

Pupil of the Year

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Grace	Niaz	Emily. W	Emilia
Herbie	Max	Jack. D	Akhil
Hugh	Maria-Natalia	Zenab	Carys
Eva	Cole	Hugo	Pavan

Safeguarding

Please note that Mrs Milner and Mrs Nickless will continue to be the school's Safeguarding Leads during the summer holiday up until the 31st of August 2023. If you have a safeguarding concerns about a child please either: · Contact the school office, as e-mails will be monitored: office@wsd.odbst.org (this is for non-urgent concerns)

· Contact the First Response Directly: 01296 383 962 between 9am to 5:30pm Monday to Thursday, 9am to 5pm Friday. 0800 999 7677 before 9am, after 5:30pm (5pm on a Friday) or at weekends (Emergency Duty Team) – for all urgent concerns

· Chidline: call anytime -0800 1111

· If you believe there is an immediate risk of significant harm or if anyone is in immediate danger, always call the police on 999.

From the 1st of September 2023 Mr Owen Lloyd will be the school's Safeguarding Lead.

Please remember that safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. If in doubt – contact the numbers above

Goodbye & good luck



Extra curricular activities in the summer holidays and beyond...

Summer Holidays at Wycombe Museum

Sunday 23rd July - Sunday 3rd September

Chiltern Wildlife Trail

Available daily 10am - 4pm • £3 per child

The Chilterns is home to amazing wildlife and plants. Hunt our grounds for hidden fact files about them - track down all the facts and claim your prize!



Trails



Best for age 3 - 11

25th & 26th July, Tuesday & Wednesday

Discover & Make: Brilliant Beads

Various start times • £4 per child

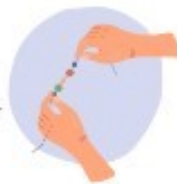
Make a beaded keychain or bracelet!
Children's craft workshop inspired by traditional Chiltern craft, tambour beading.



Crafts



For children 4 - 11



1st & 2nd August, Tuesday & Wednesday

Discover & Make: Archaeology Dig!

Various start times • £4 per child

Hunt for relics and make your own archaeological dig site in a bottle!
Learn about local archaeological finds.



Crafts



For children 3 - 11



8th & 9th August, Tuesday & Wednesday

Discover & Make: Pond Slime!

Sessions through the day • £4 per child

Hunt for toads, dragonflies, newts and more! Make nature-inspired slime and learn about local pond wildlife.



Crafts



For children 3 - 11



15th & 16th August, Tuesday & Wednesday

Discover & Make: Mosaic Madness

Sessions through the day • £4.50 per child

Make your own mosaic coaster out of glass tiles, and learn all about the Roman history of High Wycombe.



Crafts



For children 4 - 11



18th August, Friday

Fox & Cubs Forest School

9.45am & 11.30am • £8/£9.50

Join us for a special summer holidays forest school-inspired outdoor session. With one session for 18 month - 5 year olds, and another for toddlers & siblings up to age 7. Check online for more info.



Crafts



For children 18 months - 7 years



25th August, Friday

Kid's Art Club

Starts 11am • £6 per child

Get inspired by the museum's art collection in our mixed media art workshop!



Crafts



For children 3 - 11



Children must be accompanied by an adult at all events.

Book all tickets at
wycombemuseum.org.uk

☎ 01494 957210

✉ info@wycombemuseum.org

🌐 www.wycombemuseum.org.uk

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to book

