

A word from Mrs Milner



Friday 25th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was such a privilege to be part of the cross country running event that took place last Saturday. Our pupils, as always, conducted themselves brilliantly and our school achieved three team medals. Well done to all the boys and girls who took part in this particular event. It really did not matter whether you finished first or last, or in between – all that mattered was that you all completed a challenging course and had fun. Below is a further word from Mrs Tandara (this also includes the Year 4 Benchball Festival).

On Saturday 19th November it was the second of our cross-country events of the season. This took place at Hervines Park and, although muddy, it was a dry and sunny morning. 42 children from Woodside took part and it was wonderful to see quite a few new faces. Woodside runners showed sheer determination and resilience as they set off to complete the course. Well done to Dylan (Year 5), Jack (Year 5), Ollie (Year 4) and Hugh (Year 3) for coming within the top ten positions. Some of the races have had up to 80 children running!

To gain a team medal, the positions of the fastest three children in each year group race are totalled and the lowest three totals are awarded a position and medals. We did amazingly well and achieved three team medals.

- Year 3 boys were 3rd place – Hugh, Jackson and Raffy
- Year 5 boys were 2nd place – Jack, Dylan and William
- Year 6 girls were 2nd place - Lydia, Juliette and Evie

Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to the parents for your support. The next event is Saturday 21st January at Lowndes Park, Chesham.

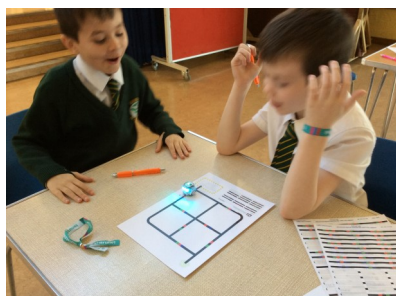
On Monday 21st November, Year 4 took part in a Benchball Festival at Amersham school. There were six teams competing with four other local schools. Well done to everyone for excellent teamwork. One of the Woodside teams came 1st in one competition and another team came 4th. Well done woodside Year 4.

I am sure that you will agree with me that our school excels at sport under Mrs Tandara's watchful eye as our PE and Sport Lead. Thank you to Mrs Tandara for her hard work and dedication.

We also had an amazing STEM workshop for our Year 4 and Year 5 children this week, organised by Mrs Webber, our passionate and dedicated Science Lead. Her brief summary is below:

This week, we were visited by 9 STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) students from Brunel University, who worked with all of our year 4 and 5 children. The students talked the children through a STEM activity that involved coding a mini robot called a Ozobot. The children were captivated and worked in pairs to complete challenges. For more information about Ozobots follow this link <https://ozobot.com>

Hopefully, by meeting these fantastic students and learning something new from the STEM world, some of our children may too aspire for a career in STEM.



My newsletter continues on the next page.....there's a lot to cover this week!

House Point Totals

	Maple	Willow	Elm	Cedar
This Week	239	233	229	230
Since Start of Term	2143	2397	2029	2272
	Maple	Willow	Elm	Cedar

Children In Need

The school raised £236.84 for Children In Need last Friday (18th December 2022).



Thank you for all your donations!

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
28.11.22	Foodbank Collection
29.11.22	School Nursing Team in school for children's 'flu vaccinations
30.11.22	Year 5 to watch the Amersham School production
1.12.22	Deadline for entries for Young Artist Competition
12.12.22	Yr3 watching St George's Nativity Play * Music concert for parents (who are studying an instrument within school time)
13.12.22	Rocksteady Concert @10am * Yr4 Christmas performance (matinee and evening performances)
14.12.22	Yr4 Ancient Greek Day * Christmas Lunch (book via Parent Pay)
15.12.22	Christmas Carols at St Michael's Church (All School)
16.12.22	Christmas Jumper Day PTA Christmas Cheer event (afterschool)
Tues 20.12.22 End of Term 1.30pm	Break up at 1.30pm on Tuesday 20th December 2022. No Hideout Zone afterschool club on last day of term. Breakfast club is still available. Return to school Thursday 5th January 2023.
5.1.23	School returns for Spring Term
21.1.23	Cross Country Event—Lowndes Park, Chesham
20.3.23- 24.3.23	Yr6 Residential
08.05.23	Additional BANK HOLIDAY- His Majesty's coronation
17.6.23	Advance notice!! PTA Summer Fair—SAVE THE DATE

Mrs Milner's Update (continued)

Friday 25th November 2022

Year 6 pupils travelled to London to visit the Natural History Museum to support their science learning. Below is the children's account of the visit.



Year 6 went on a trip to the Natural History Museum. We all were very excited, carrying bags on our backs. First of all, we walked to the Amersham train station, where we had 40-minute delay. When we finally arrived, we had lunch -to everyone's delight! We then put our coats on the pegs and went to look around for bit. We even went up the elevator into a giant, round meteor.

After that, 6DR went to do workshop, whereas 6C went on a tour. On the tour, we made a definition of evolution and studied different parts of a timeline to see how things evolved and adapted over time. In the workshop, we found out why and how evolution happens. We then had to sort different foot structures, with where they would be suited best and why we thought that. After that we did an experiment, where we had two types of lizards, one of the big toed (good for gripping) and the other (small toed – not as good for gripping but nimbler). We tested which lizard would be better in different circumstance (natural selection). Natural Selection is the theory of evolution, created by Charles Darwin. It is when less successful of a species die out, whereas the more successful pass on their traits to their offspring. We even saw the return of Dippy, the nations' favourite dinosaur, where we answered a few questions about him. On the journey home, we had a race against time and we were sprinting down the tunnel to the tube. If we di not do this, we would have missed the tube and then the train to Amersham. The journey home did not have a delay but the grass when we were walking was really muddy and wet. At 5 o'clock we arrived back to school, where we were picked up by our parents or went to The Hideout Zone.

By Leo and Georgia

Well done boys and girls -it looks like you had a very exciting day and learnt new things.

I would like to keep you in the proverbial' loop' and let you know that both Mrs Harrison and I have been busy interviewing prospective teachers to fill our vacancies in Year 4 and Year 6. I will keep you informed as soon as we have firm news regarding the new members of staff. On this note, if you would like to make a donation towards Mrs Drake's and Mr Ahmed's leaving present then please contact the office. There is absolutely no pressure to contribute, and I know that, in the past, parents preferred to organise a small farewell gift themselves.

I really enjoyed spending the last two Friday afternoons in Year 3. This gave me the opportunity to get to know the children. Headteacher's job can be paperwork driven, therefore, it is always lovely to be able to leave the office, get back to the 'roots' and teach. Year 3 pupils seem so well settled into their Woodside routines, and I sincerely hope that their first term at our school continues to be a success.

Like many of the children, I am a huge football fan and am very enthusiastic about the World Cup. Congratulations to the England Team for their fantastic victory against Iran. Brilliant result! Big cheer to all the supporters within our Woodside community. Good luck - whichever team you support. Whether you are watching the football or not, I wish you all a wonderful weekend.....I will try to keep the children calm but it is only a month to Christmas today!

With my warmest wishes,

Dorota Milner, Headteacher



CELEBRATING OUR CHILDREN'S TALENTS

EVERY WEEK IN OUR CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY, WE ALLOW TIME TO
RECOGNIZE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CHILDREN OUTSIDE OF
SCHOOL .

Beatrix

Harley

Eva

Raffy

Mabel

Mason

Seb

*PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO LET MRS MILNER KNOW THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS
BEFORE FRIDAY MORNING SO THEY CAN BE INCLUDED IN OUR ASSEMBLY*

Safeguarding

Schools remain one of the front-line organisations for protecting children and young people, with safeguarding and child protection forming a crucial part of their role. When your child is in school, the school is responsible for keeping them safe from harm and abuse. The school should create a safe learning environment, identify pupils who are suffering or at risk of harm and take suitable action. The school also needs to train staff in child protection.

Unfortunately, child protection and safeguarding can potentially be one of the most difficult areas of discussion between the school and parents and can be a subject of conflict and disagreement. There are occasions when families will refuse or avoid cooperating with schools, resulting in Headteachers, seeking help from external agencies.

According to the government statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard children (DfE, 2019), safeguarding means protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of children's health or development, ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe, and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes. Every aspect of this document applies to schools.

Children's charities, including the NSPCC, work closely with schools and other organisations around improving their safeguarding policies, practices and procedures. NSPCC states that schools must know how to recognise, respond, report and refer concerns about child abuse and neglect. One of the challenges is being aware of the issues in the community and being able to react to them. The risk of radicalisation of young people in one part of the country, for example, will not apply in another area. Similarly, not every housing estate has gangs, while rural and coastal towns are as prone to drug problems as urban areas.

Our staff all receive annual safeguarding training and regular updates throughout the year. Our school's safeguarding leads are Dorota Milner, Headteacher and Gillian Nickless, School Business Manager. If any parent or carer who has any concerns—please contact dsl@wsd.odbst.org or come into the office to meet with us.



Easing the financial pressure of Christmas

As we slowly gearing up Christmas festivities, there is a potential financial pressure on families. I found some articles that give advice to families how to manage Christmas festivities on a smaller than usual budget. I appreciate that this is not applicable to everyone, but I hope that some families may find this useful. Apologies in advance if parents will find this condescending – this is not my intention.

· Make a plan and shop in advance

Some people start saving for Christmas earlier in the year – joining a Christmas savings club, for example. Park Christmas Savings and Variety Christmas Savings Club has been recommended by the Money Pages. For those without Christmas savings this year, the Money Pages suggests making sure families take advantage of Black Friday and Cyber Monday in order to get the best prices for gifts. Make a list of the items you need ahead of these shopping events to ensure you don't stray from your plan. A word of caution -not all Black Friday bargains are genuine. Some companies hike up their prices just before!

· Look out for codes, discounts and cashback

The Money Pages suggests signing up to emails from the shops where families will spend the most money in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Families will get notifications for things such as discounts, free delivery and in-store promotions.

· Buy fewer gifts and purchase cheaper alternatives

Secret Santa has become a stalwart of Christmas – it's a great way to give gifts within a large group without spending money to buy everyone a present. Families could consider buying second hand good. Thanks to websites like Vinted, it's entirely possible to get good quality, branded items for a fraction of the price and it's kinder to the environment. Don't forget the charity shops either. There are many websites that sell second-hand items in good condition for a discounted price, such as Preloved and Gumtree, as well as places like Facebook Marketplace. However, please be cautious and only use registered sites.

· Prioritise your expenses

First things first: make a list of all your festive expenses and prioritise each one. Decide what's important to have (food, for example) and what's a nice-to-have treat. Your list of expenses should include everything from presents to Christmas cards, decorations, special treats, stocking fillers, meals out and new clothes. Once you have your list, it's time to check it twice. Split your expenses into essential and non-essential costs. Where possible, try to find cheaper alternatives or cut down on your non-essential costs.

· Set a budget — and track your spending

Budgeting is a great way to keep track of festive spending. Whether you prefer jotting the figures down in a notebook or creating a spreadsheet online, note down all of the costs you'll need to cover over the festive season such as food, presents, decorations and travel. Once your budget has been set, don't forget to keep note of what you spend. Writing down everything you buy – whether that's online or in stores — will help you keep up with all that shopping as you go.

· Plan your meals – and swap to supermarket own brands

Reduce food waste at Christmas by planning your meals. The experts recommend doing this for everything over the holidays, including Christmas dinner, drinks parties and savoury snacks. Once you've worked out what you need to buy, why not see if you can swap to supermarket own brands. In most cases, you are unlikely to notice any difference