

A word from Mrs Milner

Friday 12th May 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a lovely Coronation weekend and enjoyed some community events, including the Big Lunch. Communities across the UK came together to celebrate a moment in history and share friendship, food and fun for the Coronation Big Lunch, part of the official Coronation celebrations from 6th-8th May 2023. I personally was not aware that June marks a whole Month of Community. According to the Eden Project Communities, you can get together during the month of June and celebrate everything that makes our communities great. You can hold a Big Lunch anytime during the month, or even the year. Please visit: <https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-lunch> for more information.

This week our Year 6 pupils took part in the annual SATs tests. SATs, for those of you who are interested, stands for: Standard Attainment Tests. SATs are administered by primary schools to measure children’s educational achievement in Year 6 (both attainment and progress). These assessments take place in the month of May for Year 6 (age 11) and are formal tests in English (grammar, punctuation, spelling and reading) and Maths. Each paper is approximately 45 minutes long. I am pleased to report that our marvellous Year 6 pupils did extremely well this week – all children were smiling, happy and eager to show what they have learnt during this current and previous years education. Additionally, they thoroughly enjoyed our ‘continental’ breakfast! Many thanks to our Year 6 teachers, as well as our office staff, for facilitating this great opportunity. I can share with you that Woodside’s breakfast was as good as any ‘continental’ breakfast in a hotel: cereal, toast, fruit, and yogurt. Well done to all the Year 6 children for their commitment, resilience, and good humour. Onwards and upwards Year 6!

A quick note to say that our Year 3 pupils took part in a non-competitive tennis tournament this week. As usual, our pupils were a credit to you parents and carers as well as to the school. Well done Year 3!

May I just politely remind all parents and carers that if you are sending your child to school not wearing the correct uniform or shoes -please either Dojo their class teacher or drop a line to our office. This will stop children being challenged by either myself or our staff members. Many thanks and I really appreciate your cooperation in the matter.

I cannot believe that it is only two weeks until the half term. Time certainly flies by and the next half term is going to be as busy as ever with all the fantastic learning and activities planned for our pupils.

Last but not least- please remember that I keep Friday mornings free, so you can pop in and see me at that time without a prior appointment.

With my warmest and sunny wishes
Dorota Milner
Headteacher

Please read on to hear more from Mrs Harrison on the next pages.....

**Zoom link for the next PTA meeting on
Tuesday 13th June 2023 8pm - 9pm**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5753949165>

Dates for your diary	
Date	Event
16.5.23	PQA Workshop
26.5.23	Mufti Day- Bring in a bottle for tombola
5.6.23	Inset day
9.6.23	Year 5 Trip to Tate Modern
13.6.23	School Group/Class Photos
13.6.23	Year 4 Tri Golf Festival at Chiltern Hills Academy
13.6.23	PTA Meeting via Zoom 8-9pm
15.6.23	Year 5 Athletics at DCHS
17.6.23	PTA Summer Fair—2pm-4pm
22.6.23	Careers Day
27.6.23	Year 6 Games at DCHS
29.6.23	Sports Day (reserve date 13.7.23)
w/c 3.7.23	Bike-ability (Yr6)
4.7.23	Transition Day
12.7.23	Year 5 to St Clement Danes School
12.7.23	Year 3 to West Wittering Beach
13.7.23	Year 6 production PM and Eve
14.7.23	Ice-Cream van (funded by PTA)
17.7.23	Mrs Milner's leaving assembly 9-10am on the field (parents invited)
18.7.23	Rock Steady Concert to School 10am
18.7.23	Woodside's Got Talent PM
20.7.23	Year 6 Leavers assembly (AM) - parents invited
21.7.23	Break up 1.30pm
	Link to 2023/24 term dates on website

House Point Totals

This Week	199	188	185	190
	Maple	Willow	Elm	Cedar



Mrs Harrison's Curriculum update

The King's Coronation

Last week, we celebrated the King's Coronation in school on Friday afternoon. Miss Richer, our History lead, led an assembly and the children then took part in a range of activities, from collage and art, to drama. Year 6 were challenged to choreograph a marching band display in large groups. I have to say- their final routines were excellent and so much fun to watch! The children also paraded around our track- flags in hand. As mentioned in last week's newsletter, the children, in conjunction with the Rotary Club and Amersham Town council, planted a wildflower garden outside the front of Woodside. The children also planted a Cherry Royal Burgundy Tree to commemorate the coronation of the King.

We have put together some class posters of the children's coronation tile designs which look fabulous. These will be available to buy in either A4 or A3 at the Summer Fayre on 17th June for £1 each.





A word from Mrs Jonwood: On Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th May, Year 3 visited the Amersham Museum. We were very lucky with the weather and had a lovely walk there and the children managed the steep uphill walk back brilliantly! At the museum, we learned all about how Amersham changed when the railway arrived. The day involved a really interesting lesson about the man who brought the railway to Amersham, followed by a drama activity where the children were able to dress up in traditional Victorian clothing. After that, we had an object handling session and then studied maps of Amersham from different time periods. Did you know that Amersham on the hill did not exist until the railway was built? It was a fantastic morning and we learned so much!

Maths



We have signed up to Teach Active for the next 5 years as a school. Last week I ran a CPD session on how to make Maths lessons more active. This can be as simple as moving around the room to find answers, to games, giant number lines and maths hunts around our grounds. This is Motty- our Teach Active mascot. I will also be sending some general information home to you in the coming weeks about times tables and mental maths, including some of the 'facts' that it is useful for children to be able to recall easily. I will be running an extended maths information session for parents early on in the Autumn term.

Pond project

Mr Appleby has kindly emptied our pond. It has been in need of some TLC for a while now. Mrs Catanach will be working with a team of year 6 children over the next few weeks to bring our pond back to life which we are very excited about. We hope this will become a haven for pond- dwelling wildlife and are looking forward to the finished project.



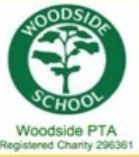
Recycling: A reminder that we recycle pringle tubes, pens, old make up, washing up gloves, toothbrushes, electric toothbrush heads and toothpaste tubes. Please bring in items and place them in our recycling boxes in the front entrance.

We are looking for donations of gardening tools, pond plants and pots/ planters to help us with this project.

Careers Day

Many thanks to those of you who have responded to my request for parents to come and talk to the children about their jobs. For the day to run successfully, it would be really great if we could have some more volunteers! Please e-mail the office 'For the attention of Mrs Harrison' if this is something you may be able to help us out with.

Have a wonderful weekend, Mrs Harrison



Upcoming dates for your diary Summer Term 2023

Mon
June

12th

Bag2School collection: please donate unwanted & good condition clothes and shoes. Leave bags by the school office

Tues
June

13th

PTA meeting on zoom – 8 to 9pm
All welcome so please do join in
More info nearer the time

Sat
June

17th



SUMMER FAIR! 2-4pm
More information, volunteering and donation requests to follow!

Tues
July

4th

2nd hand uniform sale on Transition Day
for all existing and new parents

SUMMER FAIR UPDATE!

We are really looking forward to our main fundraising event of the year so please put the date in your diary and bring your friends and family along for a fun packed afternoon!

Some things to look forward to:

- Adult and children's tombolas
- Trail/treasure hunt
- Face painting
- Great raffle prizes
- Coffee van, bar, cakes & refreshments
- And much more more!

Please do sign up to help – we can run this event without your support – many thanks, PTA Team



WELL DONE!

* Well Done to Penny and Sienna as well as Flynn who serenaded the school during assembly today!!

* Well done to Carter who supported his Dad in the Three Peak Challenge- Carter's Dad has been raising money for Woodside School so another huge THANK YOU!

* Urvi won a medal for singing at a ceremony- well done Urvi!!

Safeguarding

I make no apologies for bringing your attention to this subject again, as the statistics speak for themselves:

- In January, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF, 2023) published data showing that sexual abuse imagery of primary-aged children is 1,000% worse since the Covid-19 lockdowns.
- The statistics for the numbers of children harmed through online sexual abuse – and the number of images and videos removed by the IWF – has been growing steadily across all age ranges over recent years.
- The IWF report that it has seen a 1,058% increase in the numbers of children aged 7 to 10 who have been recorded, “via an internet-connected device, often by a predator that has contacted them online”.
- Almost two-thirds of the material analysed was “self-generated”, where a child was groomed, coerced, tricked, or blackmailed into performing a sexual act in front of a camera.
- Around 14% of the photos or videos involving children aged 7 to 10 was deemed to be “Category A” – showing the most extreme form of abuse.

The above statistics are very worrying and, as I said previously, we all have a duty to ensure that children are protected. Schools ensure that online safety is integrated into all areas of school life and is an integral part of all safeguarding policies and procedures. Additionally, schools ensure that:

- Children are taught about online safety in an age-appropriate way.
- Parents are provided with regular information about online safety.
- Have a clear policy on children’s use of mobile technology and devices while on the school site.
There are robust filters and monitors in place on all school devices.

Parents and carers play a pivotal role in ensuring that their children stay safe online. The NSPCC website has plenty of practical ideas / suggestions regarding all the necessary steps that parents can take.

Please visit:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#guides>

I cannot emphasise enough how important it is that parents support schools in keeping the children safe online.

Many thanks



Wellbeing

Promoting mental health and wellbeing

Promoting children and young people's wellbeing is a key part of keeping them safe, helping them develop and ensuring they have positive outcomes into adulthood (Public Health England, 2021).

Mental health plays a key role in a child's overall wellbeing and can be affected by various factors, including:

- Environment
- Stress
- Family circumstances
- Abuse and neglect.

Negative experiences can adversely affect a child's mental health, just as positive experiences can help improve it. Schools are at the forefront of promoting mental well-being of children in their care. There are some strategies that schools can deploy to help. This includes:

- Talking with children about their mental health
- Strategies to help improve mental health
- Tips to share with parents and carers.

Schools promote children and young people's social and emotional skills and mental health and wellbeing through the curriculum, RSHE and wider cross-curricular activity – all within an overarching framework of a whole-school approach to mental health.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, or CAMHS, are the NHS-run services that assess and treat children and young people with mental health issues. CAMHS is available across the UK, and can work with schools to accept referrals. Please speak to either Ms Richer (SENDCo) or Mrs Milner (Headteacher) in confidence if you need assistance with any possible referral.

At Woodside, we ensure that we create an ethos where children feel that there are trusting adults they can talk to about their worries, concerns, and questions. Additionally, we have 'Worry Boxes' in each classroom and run ELSA groups. Sometimes just knowing that there is someone to turn to can have a positive impact on a child's mental health. We ensure that children know that our staff are there for them. We remind them they do not need to deal with concerns on their own and talk to them regularly about where they can access support.

Please be aware that we have had a report of head lice in school. Do check your child's hair especially before they come back on Monday. For further advice on how to treat headlice- please follow the NHS guidance link below...

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

The Chilterns Chalk Streams project are holding a 'River Chess Discovery' family fun day on 27th May on Chesham Moor from 1pm, with chalk stream education activities, river dipping, refreshments stands and much more. Click the link below to find out more information...

<https://www.chilternstreams.org/events/chess-valley-walk-launch/>