

A word from Mrs Milner

Friday 7th July 2023



Dear Parents / Carers

I cannot believe that after this weekend it will only be two weeks until the end of the school term and only two weeks of being the Headteacher of Woodside and serving our community. The next two weeks are going to be extremely busy. Our class teachers are finalising the end of the year reports, which you will receive by/on Monday 17th July. If there is a comment or grade that you feel needs a further explanation, you will also have the opportunity to see your child's class teacher on Tuesday 18th July. If this is the case, please contact the office who will be able to liaise with the teachers to find a suitable time.

Transition Day took place on Tuesday 4th July for all our pupils. This special day provides an opportunity for children to meet their new class teachers, explore their new classroom, and for some year groups perhaps make new friends. For prospective Year 3 pupils, it is a significant step towards their primary school journey. Our prospective Year 3 pupils arrived with a mix of nervousness and excitement, eager to meet their new class teachers and make new friends. Whilst the children were busy acquainting themselves with their new environment, parents/carers were welcomed into the school as well. They had the opportunity to meet with teachers, our new Headteacher, Mr Lloyd, Mrs Harrison and Mrs Richer. Mrs Nickless also explained all the necessary practicalities of joining our school. During the day, all the children participated in various activities designed to foster friendship and teamwork and our staff took the time to get to know their new classes.

Overall, I believe that it was a successful day which allowed the children to ease their transition into the next academic year. Our Year 6 pupils had an opportunity to spend a day in their new secondary schools and experience a much larger and busier environment. Well done to all.

I would like to express my thanks to all the parents/carers who took the time to complete and return the survey. Your valuable feedback and insights are crucial in helping us understand your needs and improve what we offer to your children. We appreciate your active involvement in your child's education and look forward to continuing our partnership in providing the best possible learning experience for your child. The survey is anonymous and once I collate all the responses I will address, in my next newsletter, any issues raised by the parental body. Thank you once more on behalf of all our staff.

Well, I think that this will be it for this week as I head out for the school's Walk a Mile for Mental Health. I would like to finish by saying thank you to all staff, parents and children for making Woodside such a great place to lead. I hope that you all will have a fabulous weekend.

As always with my warmest and sunny wishes
Dorota Milner
Headteacher

House Point Totals				
This week	198	210	213	187
	Maple	Willow	Elm	Cedar

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
10.7.23	Soundbox Assembly 9am
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 1.30pm and 6pm (parents invited)
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 (parents invited)
18.7.23	Woodside's Got Talent PM
19.7.23	Circus Skills
20.7.23	Year 6 Leavers assembly (AM) - parents invited Year 6 Water Fight (PM)
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

[Click here for the calendar of 23/24 Term Dates](#)

WELL DONE!

A HUGE Well Done to...

- Harry from Year 4 for getting a Distinction in his Guitar Grade 1 exam.
- Antoni from Year 3 for receiving a medal from First Touch Football
- Reeva from Year 3 received the Chief Scout's Bronze Award at Beavers this evening (the highest award a Beaver can earn- see picture below...



Finally, As you were aware we had our 'Nude Food' day on Thursday 6th July. The Eco Councillors have reported that the competition was extremely high and they were very impressed with the high number of participants.

The winning class with the least amount of plastic was..... 5WM!!!!

Congratulations, please see below for some pictures including a wooden trophy to be displayed proudly in class!



Wellbeing

WHAT'S ON IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

- **Black Park Country Park** and **Langley Park Country Park** usually host lots of events including things like junior forest schools, bug hunts, den building, family picnic and animal handling experiences. Lots of them are related to dinosaurs this year. You can find all of the events here. Their new playground is open from mid-July as well!
- **The Roald Dahl Museum** and story centre are holding tons of craft activities and events throughout the holidays. There are guided walks along the village and countryside routes for £3 per person. You can find out about doing the route yourself here. They're also running Danny's Awesome activity week from the 2nd – 7th August. There are two free trails in the museum and storytelling sessions all included with admission.
- Throughout the summer **Chinnor Railway** have steam days on Thursdays and Sundays during the school holidays, as well as the 20th and 29th August.
- **Missenden Abbey** have their summer fair, in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice, on the 17th of July from 11am – 4pm.
- There's a woodlands explorers summer trail at **Burnham Beeches** from the 22nd of July – 4 September. Suggested donation £2.
- **Cliveden near Taplow** have announced their Come out and Play summer adventure. It's a bit unclear from the website but I think that's their summer trail, and not just a repackaging of their normal family activities. Either way there's plenty for families to do, and National Trust members visit for free.
- The amazing new galleries at **Discover Bucks Museum** in Aylesbury will be open during the summer holidays and there is also a "Feel the Force" summer science festival from the 25th of July – 3rd September. They haven't announced all the details of that yet. The Roald Dahl Children's Gallery will also be open during the school holidays.
- **Astonbury Festival** is on the 13th of August. It's completely FREE and held in Aston Clinton Park. As well as the bands there will be children's activities, food and drink. All the details are here.
- There's also Parklife Weekend on the 27th and 28th August and it's totally FREE. This is such a good weekend with tons of free music, we've had such a great time when we've been before.
- Play around the **Parishes** is happening throughout the summer. There will be 40 FREE events in 20 parishes in our area. There will be soft play, a bouncy castle, giant games, crafts, circus skills, parachute games and more. Click to link to see what's happening in your area.
- **Waddesdon Manor** haven't announced what their summer events and activities will be. They usually do a trail etc so I'll update this when they share the details. One thing they have announced is PE with Joe Wicks on the 2nd August. £8 per adult, £3 per child with all proceeds going to Children in Need.
- **Buckinghamshire Railway Centre** has three special events during the summer holidays, on top of their normal steaming days. There's a Day out with Thomas weekend (23-25 July), Marshall and Skye will be visiting (14th August) and there's an August Bank holiday classic vehicle special.
- **Chiltern Open Air Museum** in South Buckinghamshire have several special events planned. There's a Viking Raid on the 16th & 17th July, Classic vehicles on the 23rd & 24th July, Wellington's Army on the 30th & 31st, The Great War on the 13th & 14th August and Medieval Jousting on the 20th & 21st.
- The **Eden Centre** in High Wycombe have their Big Day Out on the 16th July. It's a FREE mini festival including visits from Peppa Pig and loads of activities for the kids.
- **High Wycombe Museum** has numerous family events on Tuesdays and Wednesdays over the summer holidays. There's lots of different craft activities to choose from. Prices vary according to activity.
- **Hughenden Manor** has a Royalty in Nature Trail running until the 29th August. There's also a Mindful Monument walk available until the 29th August as well with prompts along the way, helping you to connect with nature. Follow the orange trail from the Ice House. Both trails are free with admission.
- **Milton Keynes Play Association** – They're really pushing the boat out this year with their play sessions. There are free sessions across the Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire area during the summer holidays. Check out their website page for all the details.

Wellbeing continued...

- There's normally a massive beach outside **John Lewis at The Centre:Milton Keynes**. They haven't confirmed if it's happening this year or not. There is a free craft activity on the 30th July though.
- **MK Play Day** is back this year. It will be on the 3rd August from 11-4 at Campbell Park and is totally FREE.
- There's a 1940's weekend at **Milton Keynes Museum** (read the review here) on the 3rd & 4th September. There will be music, you can learn how to cook your ratios and see some stunning 1940's vehicles.
- **Great Linford Manor Park** in Buckinghamshire are hosting Summer Stories in the Park as one of their events during the school holidays on the 25th July.
- **Howe Park Wood in Milton Keynes** have got tons of family friendly events taking place throughout the summer holidays. There's craft days, pond dipping, tree tots and bug hunting. Most of the events are either free or very cheap.
- **Bletchley Park** have lots of family friendly activities included with admission this summer holidays. There's also a series of summer concerts at weekends during August, also included with admission.
- **Thrift Farm** have got a new nature trail, jumping pillows, zip wire and panning for gold. And from August they will be opening their brand new sunflower field as well.
- The summer holiday event at **Stowe** hasn't been announced yet either. I think the National Trust are just being quite slow announcing their summer holiday activities this year!
- **It's Buckingham Fringe Week** from the 16th – 23rd July. There's loads of activities happening during the week, including a FREE fun day on the 17th.
- There's an outdoor performance of Peter Pan on the **Green next to St Peter and St Paul's Church** on the 3rd August.



WHAT'S ON

Safeguarding

I know that I wrote to you about summer safety before; however, I am not making any apology for writing about it yet again. As children are out of school and spend more time on their devices, summer can be hazardous for children with regards to online safety. I was listening to a radio programme about the internet safety amongst 12-year-olds and really was privy to some shocking statistics.

From the Office for National Statistics

1. *Almost 9 in 10 children (89%) aged 10 to 15 years said they went online every day.*
2. *While the majority of children told us they only spoke to or exchanged messages with people online who they knew in person, around one in six children (17%) aged 10 to 15 years spoke with someone they had never met before (equivalent to 682,000 children) in the previous 12 months.*
3. *An estimated 1 in 50 children (2%) said that they spoke to or messaged someone online in the previous 12 months who they thought was their age but later found out were much older.*
4. *An estimated 5% of children aged 10 to 15 years met up in person with someone they had only spoken to online (equivalent to 212,000 children) in the previous 12 months.*
5. *Around 1 in 10 children (11%) aged 13 to 15 years reported receiving a sexual message, while 1 in 100 reported sending a sexual message, in the previous 12 months.*
6. *Girls aged 13 to 15 years were significantly more likely to report receiving sexual messages than boys (16% compared with 6%) in the previous 12 months.*
7. *The majority of parents or guardians of children aged 10 to 15 years (64%) had some sort of rules about the length of time and when their children can go online.*

It was found in a recent Ofcom media use and attitudes report that 'more than a third (36%) of children aged 8-17 said they had seen something 'worrying or nasty' online in the past 12 months.' With such a common occurrence, it is useful for professionals, parents and carers to be aware of how they can support.

Social Media

Social media will be a popular choice for many, and while it is a phenomenal tool to stay in touch with friends and family members, there can be certain risks associated with young people experiencing harm online. It is good for parents and carers to be aware of what platforms are being used, as well as what the latest trends are. Take a look at what features may be available to help set some additional security around who they can connect with and the types of content they see.

Safer Internet Searching

In many schools, it is a requirement to have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place, but what about at home? Depending on the type of internet connection you may have, safer internet searching is an essential practice for when children and young people are spending more time at home. Discover Swiggle, the child-friendly search engine that is ad-free and can be used as your default home page. Swiggle consistently filters out harmful content whilst prioritising educational resources. You can also see guidance from the UK Safer Internet Centre around using devices safely.

Supporting Digital Wellbeing

More time online can lead to a poor online/ offline balance, which can sometimes negatively affect a young person's digital wellbeing. Going online will be common for many but try and encourage a young person in your care to set some time for offline activities as well. Many social media platforms have included wellbeing features in recent times to set options around screen time and the way content is presented. Take time to see what is available and raise awareness around what will set some boundaries.

Online Gaming

With more time at home comes more time to game. The Ofcom media use and attitudes report highlighted that 'six in ten children aged 3-17 played games online in 2021, increasing to three-quarters of 12-17s' As well as this, 'more than a third of 8-17s who gamed online played with people they didn't know (36%)' Gaming provides a lot of connective freedom and is clearly a massively enjoyable experience for many but it is important for young people to understand where risks may occur and how they can safely navigate these online spaces. Raise awareness around how to block, mute and report someone who is being inappropriate as well as highlighting that it is ok to step away from the game if they feel uncomfortable.

Protection from sexual abuse

Whilst it's an uncomfortable thought, parents need to ask questions of any childcare provider, play scheme or holiday centre children's services, about how they prevent their workers harming a child. The NSPCC has a useful video about the prevention of sexual abuse in particular and what adults can do to ask organisations about how they keep children safe. You can watch the video: [Preventing Child Sexual Abuse \(NSPCC\)](#)

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-abuse>