

# A word from Mrs Milner

Friday 10th February 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

Half term is here; therefore I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all our Woodside community – children, staff and parents for all your continuous support for our pupils. I firmly believe that the partnership between the school and home is vital to improving children’s educational outcomes, motivation and emotional well-being in a broader sense. It is a two-way process, and those of you who have worked with me for a while, will know that I propagate an open and honest discussion between parents, staff and pupils. Many thanks once more - all your input is, as always, very much appreciated.

Can I now send my sincere apology. With the planned teacher strike days, the school does not receive any additional information from the union(s) concerned. According to the NEU’s website, where it states:

**Wednesday 1 March 2023: all eligible members in the following English regions: East Midlands, West Midlands, Eastern.**

**Thursday 2 March 2023: all eligible members in the following English regions: London, South East, South West.**

As far as my own geographical knowledge is concerned, I always believed that Amersham (Buckinghamshire) falls within the South-East of England. I found out today, that according to the NEU, Buckinghamshire and Amersham are actually within the Eastern region! This means that the planned strike day will now take place on the **1<sup>st</sup> March 2023** and not the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2023, as previously communicated to you. My sincere apologies again for this confusion. I am not able to let you know, at this stage, if any classes will close but **please think of alternative arrangements for your children** -just in case we do have to close the school or certain classes. As soon, as I am aware of any changes, I will communicate them to you. Additional strike days are planned for 15<sup>th</sup> March and 16<sup>th</sup> March. **Please note that the Year 5 trip to the Living Rainforest will go ahead as planned.**

The 7<sup>th</sup> February marked Safer Internet Day and I will write more about this in our Safeguarding section of the newsletter. Please note that World Book Day is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Mrs Jonwood has sent a separate letter regarding this very exciting day.

Thank you very much for your kind donations for today’s Break the Rules Day. With the children’s agreement, we have decided to donate some of the funds raised to the Turkey and Syria Emergency Appel to contribute, in some small way, towards relieving this humanitarian tragedy.

All that is left for me to do is to wish you a very restful half term. We will see you back on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at the usual time.

With my warmest wishes,

Dorota Milner, Headteacher

## House Point Totals

House Point Totals				
Totals for this half term	1342	1298	1101	1336
This Week	266	225	193	287
Total	3876	4080	3514	4093
	Maple	Willow	Elm	Cedar

## Dates for your diary

Date	Event
13.2.23—17.2.23	Half Term break
21.2.23	External Basketball event- Selected students only
21.2.23	PTA Meeting 8-9pm via Zoom Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5753949165">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5753949165</a>
23.2.23	Bags to School collection
23.2.23	Year 6 Workshop- Portals to the Past
1.3.23	Year 5 Trip to Living Rainforest
2.3.23	World Book Day
4.3.22	Cross Country Event—Little Misenden
6.3.22	Easter Hamper Raffle Tickets go on sale via Classlist
10.3.23	After school Bingo evening! All years welcome! More info to follow
20.3.23-24.3.23	Year 6 Residential
27.3.23	Easter Hamper Raffle Draw!
28.3.23	Year 5 Easter assembly to parents at 2.20pm
28.3.23	Parent/Teacher Interviews (Day 1)
30.3.23	Year 3 Dance Festival at Dr Challoner’s
30.3.23	Parent/Teacher Interviews (Day 2)
31.3.23	<b>Break up at 1.30pm on Friday 31st March.</b> <b>No Hideout Zone afterschool club on last day of term. Breakfast club is still available. Return to school Monday 17th April.</b>
1.5.23	Bank Holiday
5.5.23	Year 4 Tri Golf Festival at Chiltern Hills Academy
8.5.23	<b>Additional BANK HOLIDAY- His Majesty’s coronation</b>
9.5.23	Year 3 Tennis event at Dr Challoner’s
17.6.23	PTA Summer Fair—SAVE THE DATE
	<a href="#">Link to 2023/24 term dates on website</a>

# Mrs Harrison's Weekly Curriculum Update

## Curriculum Update

It's been as busy as ever here at Woodside in the final week before half term. I can hardly believe that we are already half-way through this academic year. This week, the children all took part in the **Sports for Schools sponsored fitness circuit**. It was such a lot of fun! It was impossible not to smile at their determination and camaraderie as the children all cheered each other on.



We were so lucky to be joined by **Nerys Pearce** who led the event and took an assembly at the end of the day. Nerys, an ex-army medic, was paralysed from the waist down in an accident in 2004. She has since competed in the Invictus Games and won medals in power lifting, rowing, track and field; conquered Race Across America on a hand bike; and is aiming to become the world's fastest disabled female driver. Nerys was truly inspirational and showed us what can be achieved, despite adversity, with support, focus and determination.



This week I had the pleasure of spending some time in year 4. We planned an active maths session and brought the children to the hall to measure the perimeter of large shapes. In the afternoon, I joined one year 4 class for their hockey session with the Amersham and Chalfont Hockey club coach. I very much enjoyed running around with the children and playing their tackling game with them!

Year 5 have been busy with Mr Appleby this week learning about first aid.

This week has also been **Internet Safety Week** and the children took part in an assembly with Mrs Fox about staying safe online. We teach online safety through PSHE and assemblies every half term so the children are regularly being reminded about this important topic.

This week has also been **Children's Mental Health Week**. Mental Health and well-being is woven into our PSHE curriculum and assemblies throughout the year, so whilst a week such as this is significant, it is something we are always talking about in school. The theme this year is 'Let's connect.' The children have connected with their classmates and learnt more about their shared interests. Some of our **Well-Being Ambassadors** ran a lunchtime activity for years 3 and 4 to make paper chains to



## ***Mrs Harrison's Weekly Curriculum Update continued...***

show how we as a school community are all connected. It was very popular, and we are planning to do this again.

It's half term, so instead of a book recommendation, I thought I'd share a couple of places to visit which are free. I'm a huge fan of the great outdoors, and spending time in the fresh air. It's not always easy when you have children of different ages, but a walk in the park or the woods is always good for our well-being.

### **Ruislip Lido**



Sandy 'beach', lake, railway and woods. 30 minutes away with a nice café (and ice-cream). Large car park but you can park for free if you head to Sherwood Avenue and walk through the woods.

### **Hervines Park- on the doorstep**



Muddy wood with a field and very small park. Good tree roots for climbing!

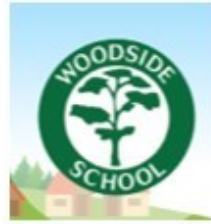
### **RAF Museum- London**



Great because it's free! Not an outdoor option, but there is an outdoor play area and café. Several large hangars and plenty to see. Car park charges apply.

I hope you all have a lovely break.

Mrs Harrison 😊



**Woodside School is now working with Amersham Town Council to help support the local recycling initiative and Amersham based charity, Medictomedic.**

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS CAN NOW BE RECYCLED AT  
WOODSIDE SCHOOL:**

- **PRINGLE TUBES**
- **PLASTIC WRITING IMPLEMENTS: PENS, FELT TIPS, MARKERS**
- **USED TOOTHPASTE TUBES (NOT PUMPS)**
- **USED TOOTHBRUSHES**
- **USED ELECTRIC TOOTHBRUSH HEADS**
- **USED MARIGOLD GLOVES**

**USED MAKE-UP**

- **MASCARA**
- **LIPSTICKS AND LIP GLOSS TUBES AND LIP BALMS**
- **EYE SHADOW COMPACTS**
- **LIP AND CHEEK HIGHLIGHTERS**
- **BRONZER STICKS**

Medic to Medic supports disadvantaged students training as doctors, nurses and medical professionals in Malawi. They have partnered with Terracycle on a number of recycling programmes. The items collected and recycled help to raise funds for Medic to Medic. This will also help our school community to reduce household waste and become more environmentally friendly.

# Safeguarding

## Safer Internet Day

Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, the day sees thousands of organisations get involved to promote the safe, responsible, and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. From cyberbullying to social networking to digital identity, each year Safer Internet Day aims to raise awareness of emerging online issues and current concerns.

The internet **can** be dangerous for everyone, but children and teens are especially vulnerable. From cyber predators to social media posts that can come back to haunt them later in life, online hazards can have severe, costly, even tragic, consequences. Children may unwittingly expose their families to internet threats, for example, by accidentally downloading malware that could give cyber criminals access to their parents' bank account or other sensitive information. Protecting children on the internet is a matter of awareness—knowing what dangers lurk and how to safeguard against them. Although cyber security software can help protect against some threats, the most important safety measure is open communication with your children. The internet can pose serious dangers to children. It can also open doors of wonder for them that previous generations could not even have dreamed of. Help ensure that your children's online safety so they experience the joys and opportunities of the online world, and avoid its hazards.

**Be aware. Be vigilant.** But first and foremost be actively involved in your children's digital and day-to-day lives and communicate openly.

(from <https://www.kaspersky.co.uk/resource-center/threats/top-seven-dangers-children-face-online>)

### 1. Cyberbullying

The vast majority, 90% of teens agree that cyber bullying is a problem, and 63% believe this is a serious problem. Social media and online games are today's virtual playground, and that is where, according to statistics, much cyber bullying takes place. Children can be ridiculed in social media exchanges. Or, in online gaming, their player personas can be subjected to incessant attack, turning the game from an imaginative adventure into a humiliating ordeal that escalate into cyber bullying across multiple platforms and in real-life. The best foundation for protecting against cyber bullying is to be comfortable talking to your children about what is going on in their lives online and in in real-life.

### 2. Cyber Predators

These days sexual and other predators often stalk children on the internet, taking advantage of their innocence, lack of adult supervision and abusing their trust. This can culminate in children being lured into dangerous personal encounters. These predators lurk on social media and gaming platforms that appeal to children—the same virtual venues where anonymity facilitates cyber bullying. There, they can exploit not only children's innocence, but also their gift of imagination. "Let's play pretend" is a common and healthy part of online gaming and interaction, but predators can use it as a hook to pull children in. The best protection is regularly talking to your children about what is going on in their day-to-day lives.

### 3. Posting Private Information

Children and teenagers to a certain extent, do not understand social boundaries. They may post personally identifiable information (PII) online, for example in their social media profiles (if they have one as most of them have a minimum age), that should not be out in public. This might be anything from images of awkward personal moments - to their home addresses or family holiday plans.

#### 4. Phishing

Phishing is what cyber security professionals call the use of emails that try to trick people into clicking on malicious links or attachments. These can be especially difficult for children to detect because often, the email will appear to be from someone legitimate, like a friend or family member, saying simply, "Hey—thought you might like this!" This can also be done with using messaging apps or text messages—then it's called "smishing".

Phishing emails and smishing texts can pop up at any time, but the cyber criminals who devise them keep watch on sites that are popular with children, and gather information such as email addresses and friends' names and other information to tailor their attacks, just as they do when spear phishing adults to access corporate networks. Teach your children to avoid clicking on emails or texts from strangers and to be wary of messages that appear to be from their friends but seem "off" or have no genuine personal message attached.

#### 5. Falling for Scams

Children may fall for scams that offer things they value, such as free access to online games or special features. Young people are easy marks for scams because they have not yet learned to be wary. As with phishing, cyber criminals can use sites popular with children to identify potential victims, and then promise prizes in return for what they want—like parents' credit card information.

#### 6. Accidentally Downloading Malware

Malware is computer software that is installed without the knowledge of permission of the victim and performs harmful actions on the computer. This includes stealing personal information from your computer or hijacking it for use in a "botnet," which causes sluggish performance. Cyber criminals often trick people into downloading malware. Phishing is one such trick, but there are others—such as convincing victims to download malware masquerading as games. As with scams, educating your children is the best protection, but comprehensive, cross-device cyber security software and related security protections can help safeguard your child's computer against any malware that sneaks into it. In addition, many internet security products also include specific parental controls and applications that can help you build a secure framework for your children's online activities.

#### 7. Posts that Come Back to Haunt a Child Later in Life

The internet does not have a "Delete" key. Things that happen online, stay online. **Forever.** Anything your child puts online is nearly impossible to remove later. The dangers of social media are especially daunting. It is hard for teenagers, in particular, to consider how a party picture or Snapchat message could cause problems ten years down the road when they interview for a new job. Explain to your teens that their style and opinions are guaranteed to change as they grow older. With no "Take-Back" or "Delete" buttons, their 15-year-old self can dramatically alter their adult life in a single click. How they wish to present themselves online and IRL will likely change as they age—but internet posts are forever.

# Wellbeing

## Family Support Service

The FSS will be running three exciting projects online and in person for young people in years 7 and upwards, starting in February 2023. For more information, please click [HERE](#).

## Support for Families

Attached is the [Wellbeing and Support](#) information that has been gathered to support families in Bucks. The document, containing links for the many resources available online, has now had several telephone numbers added.

## Children Heard and Seen

Children Heard and Seen support children, young people and their families who are impacted by parental imprisonment. For more information regarding the support they can offer please see the [FLYER](#) attached.

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## An afternoon with Jacqueline Wilson

On Saturday 18th March from 2.30pm, Jacqueline Wilson will be at Sarratt Village Hall talking about her new book 'The Other Edie Trimmer'. Click [here](#) to find out more information and to purchase tickets.

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## February half term activities at Discover Bucks Museum, Aylesbury

This half term from 13th to 18th February at Discover Bucks Museum in Aylesbury, there is a fun-filled week of activities planned for families, many of which are inspired by their current exhibition *Your Amazing Brain*. Please click [here](#) and [here](#) for more information.

**Have a safe and restful half term.**

**From all staff at Woodside**