

# A word from Mrs Milner

Friday 13th January 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

I sincerely hope that you are all well and that the January blues do not get to you too much. Certainly, this weather does not help but I am hoping that sunshine will appear at some stage soon. We have recently updated our curriculum content on our website, so please take five minutes to familiarise yourselves with it. You will find some very useful information relating to the curricular intent as well as pedagogy. I will be grateful for any comments that you may have.

Before Christmas we conducted a pupil survey relating to safeguarding and also pupil's general enjoyment of Woodside school. We had 219 responses, as many pupils were absent just before Christmas due to colds and coughs. The outcome of the survey is positive, and I will share with you some of its headlines. This survey was anonymous; therefore, we are unable to follow through with individual pupils. I will, however, share the outcomes with all children during our assembly next week.

- Only one pupil stated that he/she does not enjoy coming to school –all the rest of our pupils stated 'yes' or 'sometimes.' I will ask the children why 'sometimes' and what can we, as adults, do to make it a 'yes' all the time!
- Five pupils stated that they do not enjoy lessons – all the rest of pupils stated 'yes' or 'sometimes.' It was probably a slightly unrealistic expectation that all children will always enjoy all their lessons at all times; however, please be assured that we strive to achieve 100% enjoyment 100% of the time.
- An overwhelming majority of pupils stated that they learn something new daily.
- Three pupils felt that they did not make good progress last term. The rest of pupils stated 'yes' or 'maybe.' Perhaps we, as a school, need to be more explicit with our children regarding what good progress looks like.
- The most enjoyable lesson is PE (this will make Mrs Tandara very happy), followed by art and mathematics. Children's least enjoyable subject is religious education. I will endeavour to make our RE lessons more exciting for the children.
- One pupil felt that Woodside is not a friendly school. The rest of our pupils stated 'yes' (190) and 'sometimes' (28). I feel personally responsible that for some pupils Woodside is friendly only 'sometimes.' I will work with our staff and children to see what else we can do to change children's perception.
- 99% of children stated that they feel safe at school. This makes all of us very happy, as this is such an important factor of our safeguarding work. Three pupils who stated that they do not feel safe, are worried about people jumping over the fence or someone entering our dining room. I will reassure the children during our assembly next week.
- 97% of pupils felt that there is an adult at school that they can talk to if they have any worries or feel unsafe.
- Five pupils stated that they do not enjoy break or lunchtimes. We will work with our Play Leaders to ensure that break times / lunchtimes are enjoyable to all.
- Eight pupils stated that they would not know whom to speak to if they received a hurtful message on the internet or on their mobile phone. Mrs Fox will be conducting our termly internet safety assembly soon. Please continue talking to your son /daughter and remind them about the basic internet safety. I hope that my safeguarding / e-safety bulletins in the weekly newsletters are useful.

PTO onto the next page for more of my weekly newsletter...

## House Point Totals

House Point Totals				
This Week	<b>280</b>	256	267	230
Since Start of Term	2814	<b>3038</b>	2680	2987
	<b>Maple</b>	<b>Willow</b>	<b>Elm</b>	<b>Cedar</b>

## Dates for your diary

Date	Event
16.1.23	Young Voices at the O2
17.1.23	PTA meeting at the School 8-9pm
18.1.23	Abi Elphinstone Children's Author 1.45pm-2.45pm
21.1.23	Cross Country Event—Lowndes Park, Chesham
1.2.23	Year 5 Cross Country at The Misbourne School
2.2.23	Year 3 Mega-Fest Rugby at Dr Challoner's
7.2.23	GB Athlete Visit
13.2.23— 17.2.23	<b>Half Term break</b>
21.2.23	Bags 2 School Collection
21.2.23	External Basketball event- Selected children only
4.3.22	Cross Country Event—Little Misenden
20.3.23- 24.3.23	Yr6 Residential
30.3.23	Year 3 Dance Festival at Dr Challoner's
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	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
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 Milner's Update (continued)

Friday 13th November 2022

- The next question revolves around bullying and perhaps, with hindsight, I could have worded it better. The question asked: "Have you ever been bullied at Woodside Junior School?" Consequently, it does not relate to any incidents that may be happening now and of which we, the staff, have not been informed. 92% of pupils stated that they have never been bullied. I will conduct our anti-bullying assembly this term. We work hard to explain to the children that bullying is sustained and not 'one off' unkindness. Eighteen children who felt that they were bullied stated that this involved pushing (39%), followed by being left out of the game and name calling.
- Out of eighteen pupils who felt that they were bullied at some point during their time at Woodside, sixteen stated that the adults at Woodside took any bullying issue seriously.
- A vast majority stated that that children play nicely in the playground and if there are arguments, adults help to resolve any issues.
- Thirteen pupils were not sure about B Levels (our Behaviour system).

Thank you to all the children who participated in this survey. Your views will be acted upon to ensure that our school continues to remain friendly and happy.

I will be asking parents/carers towards the end of this half term to complete a short survey as well – thank you in advance.

I am so very lucky, as a Headteacher, to have such a dedicated body of staff, who happily give up a portion of their lunch break to run a variety of clubs for children's enjoyment and participation. Last term we had a wide selection of clubs, ranging from library club, art club, 'wobble club', chess club etc. This term is no exception, and we will be asking the children very shortly to sign up in school to our vast selection of clubs. Thank you once more to all the staff and I will let you view the full list of clubs available to the children in my next week's newsletter.

We are all looking forward to Monday's Young Voices at the O2. Mrs Harrison and Mr Harvey-Mott have worked incredibly hard with our pupils and I am sure that this will be a remarkable event.

Thank you very much to those parents/carers who completed our uniform survey at the end of last term. We are collating all the answers and will be reporting back to you within the next few weeks.

I hope that you all will have a lovely and peaceful weekend,

With my warmest wishes

Dorota Milner

Headteacher

Mrs Webber and Mr Appleby would greatly appreciate any donation (large or small) of compost for our Gardening Club.

**Unfortunately, following Mr Ahmed's departure we do not, now, have the capacity to run our football club for boys and girls. I am hoping that this will be resolved during the summer term. I know that this is so disappointing for the children and I can only apologise. Sorry boys and girls –please bear with us until summer. If anything changes, I will let you know immediately.**



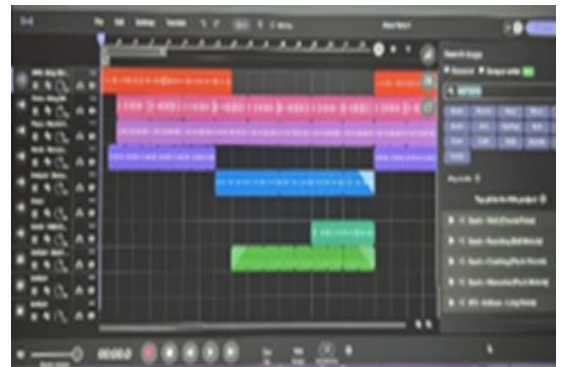
# Mrs Harrison's Curriculum Update

## Young Voices

Our school choir (years 5 and 6) have been working incredibly hard to learn the songs and moves for our performance at the O2 Arena on Monday. They will be joining hundreds of other children, who will all come together on the night to sing 10 (very long and intricate) songs. Many of the numbers are made up of multiple songs so we have had a lot to learn - including a dance number to a Basement Jaxx medley! We will also be joined by Heather Small (M People) on the night who will be performing her song 'Moving On Up'. We will then join her to sing 'Proud.' Young Voices create some of the largest choirs in the world and it's going to be such an incredible experience for us all. This is the first time we have taken part as a school, and we are hoping to repeat it in future years. We will let you know all about it next week!



## The Music Curriculum



On the theme of music, I thought I'd share what the children are currently doing in year 5. They have just started a really fun unit on creating digital soundtracks and they are instantly hooked! They've only just got started, but some of the compositions are worthy of making a dance hit. I'm looking forward to seeing how this progresses over the coming weeks. We hope to share some of these with you via the website at the end of the unit.

## Times Tables - Year 3 and 4

Look out for some changes to our times tables weekly tests over the coming weeks. This will be communicated to you via the class teachers. There will be a number of levels to work through at each stage (for example Bronze- levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5). The children will then receive certificates at the end of each stage. Year 3 will be the first to start this new 'set-up' next week.

I have now taken over the leadership of maths—a subject (among others) that I am very passionate about. We would love to invite you in for a parent/carer workshop and we will let you know about this once a date has been decided.

## My book recommendations of the week



### The Boy in the Tower- Polly Ho-Yen

From the seventeenth floor of the tower block where he lives with his mother, Ade watches as the buildings fall around him. The Bluchers - a strange and terrible kind of plant - are taking over the city, and everyone is being forced to evacuate, but his mother is refusing to leave her room. So Ade watches alone as the city slowly empties, and the Bluchers creep ever closer.

A science-fiction tale, this is also a story of friendship, loyalty, bravery, and beautifully told in the voice of a lonely, young boy who is struggling to make sense of it all, as well as looking after his ill mother. This book is set in a multi-cultural, urban setting and is a thought-provoking story that will touch you. I would recommend this for year 5 or 6 readers.

### Safeguarding

Unfortunately, I need to raise the issue of parking on Mitchell Walk. Because it is such a reoccurring issue and has huge safety implications, I am going to include this in my safeguarding portion of this newsletter.

Some parents continue to park illegally on the 'zig-zags' – please note that those lines are for a very specific reason: **to keep children safe**. The Highway Code clearly states: you must not park on them or overtake the leading vehicle when approaching the crossing. Parking here would block the view for pedestrians and the approaching traffic. **Please do not park or stop on the 'zig-zag' lines**. It was also brought to my attention that some parents/carers park on the opposite side of the road and let their children out of the back passenger seat—straight onto the road. Please do not let your child disembark on the roadside.

Some of our pupils walk to/from school independently. The Green Cross Code is an important aid in learning to cross roads safely. If children learn this and always follow the code when they cross the road, it will help them to be safe. Please explain to them (however young) that it is important to stop at the curb, look both ways and listen out for traffic before crossing the road. When it's safe to cross, remind your child to walk straight across the road and keep looking and listening for traffic. Do not cross diagonally. Please talk to your child about the Green Cross Code:

#### The Green Cross Code

Find a safe place to cross

- Use a pedestrian crossing if there is one
- Choose a place where you can see clearly in all directions
- If an obstacle is blocking your view of the road, choose a better place to cross!

Stop just before you get to the curb

- Do not stand on the kerb
- If there is no pavement, stand at the edge of the road.

Look all around for traffic and listen

- Traffic can come from any direction
- Sometimes you can hear traffic before you see it
- If you see or hear an emergency vehicle in the distance, let it pass
- If traffic is coming, let it pass
- Never run across the road when traffic is coming, even if you think there is time. It can be difficult to judge the speed of traffic
- Be aware that traffic may speed up.

When it is safe, go straight across the road- do not run

- Continue to look and listen as you cross
- Look out for cyclists and quieter vehicles, you may not hear them approaching
- Walk straight across the road.



## Wellbeing

All costs seem to be rising at the moment which can be overwhelming. There are organisations that can help:

[Cost of living support - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Help with the cost of living \(Helping Hand\) | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

### Foodbanks

There are foodbanks across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes.

[Find a Food Bank - The Trussell Trust](#)

If you need help from a foodbank there are a few simple steps to follow, these are outlined via the website:

### **THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP IS TO GET A FOODBANK VOUCHER.**

In order to provide the most appropriate help for the circumstances of your situation we work with local agencies. If they feel you are struggling to put food on the table, they will issue you with a foodbank voucher. The local agency can also provide long term support if needed to help address some of the issues behind the reasons for your crisis. Agencies we work with include: Citizens Advice, housing support officers, children's centres, health visitors, social services and some local charities including Aylesbury Homeless Action Group. During the coronavirus outbreak, if you cannot access the usual agencies to obtain a voucher

in the usual way, contact the Bucks Local Emergency Support Team:

You can apply online here [Helping Hands – Buckinghamshire Council](#)

Telephone numbers:

01296 531 151, 0800 999 7677, 01494 785660

### **Other online resources:**

Too good to go app link – [Too Good To Go](#) with the cost of living rising this app is a great way to pick up some food at a reduced cost in your local area. "The anti-food waste app lets you rescue delicious, unsold food from businesses to save it from going to waste"

Martin Lewis, money saving expert: [Money Saving Expert: Energy Help, Credit Cards](#)