

# A word from Mrs Milner

Friday 14th July 2023



Dear Parents / Carers

It is the penultimate newsletter of the term, academic year and my headship. Mrs Harrison has outlined in her curriculum newsletter all the exciting activities that took place at our school. On my part, I will brief you about everything else that has happened at our school. I will start with the wonderful Year 6 production.

The Year 6 production of Peter Pan was a truly fantastic experience. Our pupils showcased their exceptional talent, be it singing, narrating, dancing, speaking or helping with props. From the very first scene to the final one, their performances were nothing short of extraordinary. The Year 6 pupils delivered a truly impressive performance, showcasing their talent and hard work. The children’s dedication to their roles was evident throughout the evening and I hope that all the adults in the audience enjoyed this performance as much as I did. The entire Year 6 team, including the actors, singers and behind the scenes crew, deserve a commendation for their collaborative effort in creating a memorable production. I would like to extend my thanks to all the Year 6 adult team members, who worked with the children, ensuring this great production. Thank you - Mrs Cave-Hawkes, Miss Croot, Mr Bruce, Miss Green, Miss Lindsay and Mrs Shah. Mr Bruce - you have excelled yourself this year in producing wonderful scenery and props which really brought the production to Broadway standards!

As you are aware our Year 6 pupils sat some end of KS2 tests. There was a lot of publicity in the media regarding the tests and the level of difficulty, which allegedly left some pupils upset. I was very pleased to report that our Year 6 pupils took the tests in their stride and all the children did the best they could have done. I received their results on Tuesday. As we will only release the children’s individual results together with their reports, it will not be appropriate for me to let you know the overall percentages of pupils gaining the National Standard / Greater Depth. However, I can tell you that all children did very well and Woodside’s results were, as usual, well above the national averages. These excellent results are thanks to the children’s resilience and diligence as well and our staff’s dedication to their learning. I will share the percentages with you next week.

On Thursday Mrs Bannister went with four of our Year 5 pupils to the Eco Summit organised by the ODBST Trust. The Eco Summit brought together children from ODBST schools in a collective effort to exchange ideas and promote discussions on zero net carbon and eco sustainability. This crucial topic, one that resonates with the global urgency of addressing climate change, was at the forefront of the summit. The Trust demonstrated its commitment to creating a greener future by providing a platform for the children to come together and collaborate on this important topic. Thank you to our Eco Council, who worked so tirelessly throughout the year to raise our community awareness with regards to sustainability and use of plastic. Thank you to Mrs Bannister, who worked with our Eco Council on the Woodside’s lunches free from plastic initiative.

Last Friday's "Walk a Mile for Mental Health" was a wonderful event that successfully raised awareness about mental health. It was lovely to see all participants, regardless of their fitness level, complete the mile and receive a well-deserved medal as a token of appreciation for their involvement. Special thanks go to Mrs. Harrison for her effort in organising this impactful event and Mrs Cave-Hawkes for running the event on the day so successfully, which served as a reminder of the importance of promoting mental well-being within our community. Thank you once more to all the children and adults who participated in this event.

Anyway, I will sign off now. Last newsletter next week!

Have a lovely weekend

With my warmest wishes

Dorota Milner

Dates for your diary	
Date	Event
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

### Changes to Wraparound Care Costs from September 2023

I hope that you agree with me that our wraparound care is an amazing facility that provides excellent care for the children. We have tried our best to keep the charges constant in order not to burden our parents during these difficult times. Unfortunately, it is not sustainable as the price of energy and food have risen - as I am sure you are aware. We, therefore, made a difficult decision with our governors to raise the charges to £6 per hour. I hope that parents will understand and support this and continue to use our wraparound care as it still provides a fantastic value for money.

Many thanks for continuous support

[Click here for the calendar of](#)

[23/24 Term Dates](#)

### House Point Totals

This week	119	97	132	149
	Maple	Willow	Elm	Cedar

# Parent/Carer Survey - July 2023

I promised that I would share the results of the parental survey with you. Please click [here](#) to view the results and I have summarised some of the comments below. Whilst, the results are very positive, it is clear that there are some points for consideration. We had 80 responses from our families – thank you again for taking the time to respond to our survey. I will now respond to your concerns and suggestions one by one:

- It would be really useful if there was a way to guarantee the prompt opening of the school gate in the morning. **Thank you and please accept my apologies. I reminded our staff about the importance of prompt opening of the gates. I sincerely hope that this will improve.**
- Homework – some parents state there is too much and some state that there is not enough – **I have requested that Mr Lloyd discusses this with our staff to review this.**
- ...a lot of things are left to last minute – **again apologies if this has happened. We are trying very hard to give you as much information as possible via newsletters (right hand side column has all the important dates) and Dojos. Occasionally, things change at the very last minute and hence the late messages. However, I understand the frustration and will endeavour to ask our staff to address this next academic year.**
- Parents have offices starting at 9 am so if school allows drop from 8:20 or 8:25 am that will ease of traffic around the school and give parents opportunity to get back to work on time.- **I am afraid this will not be possible as class teachers are bound by their directed working hours. We have a wonderful Breakfast Club that caters for the children from 7.45am onwards.**
- Should more able / gifted talents be identified to parents – **The teachers will always share your children’s attainment /performance during parent / teacher interviews. We may not use these exact terms in the conversations but if you have any queries or questions regarding this, please ask your child’s teachers during the parent/teacher interviews.**
- Consideration around children’s needs that are behavioural/ trauma/ SEN based- **please be assured that we work with all children and all families regardless the circumstances. Miss Richer, our SENDCo, is here to offer support and advice.**
- The newsletter is too long. – **perhaps, but I always have felt that it serves a useful purpose for our community, especially the safeguarding and well-being section. I put these sections at the end of the newsletter in case parents’ time is short.**
- I have noticed that a couple of children regularly get into trouble and keep the whole class back after school etc. – **as I am aware, we do not approve of the whole class sanctions. Perhaps the class was late leaving the classroom if the teacher needed to deliver some important messages but we would never have kept all the children behind as a consequence.**
- Communication with the parents is crucial to the success of the relationship between Woodside and Parents. - **thank you to a parent who made very useful comments regarding our communication. This will be passed to our office and Mr Lloyd for their consideration.**
- I think that it would be very beneficial for parents with children at both Woodside and St George's if closer links were forged – **please be assured that both schools cooperate closely; however, we are two different schools and it is not always possible to coordinate things. However, I take on board suggestions and will pass them on to our team as well as St. George’s team.**
- Health and Safety considering I hear that number of children had incidents – **please be assured that the incidents were unfortunate accidents that were not related to poor standards of health and safety at Woodside.**
- It will be nice to see if parents are provided with more opportunity to be involved in the school activities.- **we welcome volunteers at Woodside but for most of our activities we require individuals to be DBS checked. If you would like to be more involved, please contact the office and we can perform the necessary checks which will enable you to support the school on trips/with school activities.**
- Opportunity’s for parents to come and see their children's work- we were promised this in year 4 but were never invited and year 5 is finished but we have not been invited to see children's work in the classroom. – **this is an absolutely fair criticism and my apologies. Again, I will pass this on and ask that parents have the opportunity to see their children’s classroom in the next academic year.**
- Need to add more clubs for tennis, badminton, football and cricket- **we have a full rotation of sports activities available for the children during lunchtimes (including tennis and badminton in the summer months). In terms of external suppliers running paid clubs, we already offer football, netball and taekwondo (and hockey at times) and our hall is in use by our wraparound care on the other days. It is therefore difficult to offer other clubs without removing clubs from our current offering.**

I thought that it will be nice for our staff to hear some lovely comments that parents wrote. Here they are...

- Thank you for everything
- Thank you Mrs Milner and good luck Mr Lloyd - you've joined a wonderful school!
- I love Woodside. There are so many positives, not just the teaching my daughter receives,....
- I just want to say thank you to the office staff as they have been very kind and supportive....
- Thanks to everyone for your support !
- Thanks for the opportunity to share our thoughts - it is appreciated.
- I have been extremely impressed with Woodside School over the last 3 years. As a parent I have felt listened to whenever I have had any concerns. During Covid I felt the school managed all of the ever changing rules and guidelines incredibly well. The level of care the staff show the children is impressive. Overall I absolutely love this school
- School is great. We love it. Teachers and really special and we thanks them all.
- Fantastic school.
- Thank you for everything, Mrs Milner!
- The staff are a wonderful team and my son loves coming to school. Thank you to everyone for fostering such a warm and nurturing environment.
- I like the fact that the children get to take part in sports events at secondary schools, hope this continues. [\(It will be!\)](#)

Thank you once more parents and carers. Really appreciate your comments, suggestions and insightfulness. I genuinely feel that this partnership between the school and parents is so beneficial to our children.

Anyway, I will sign off now. Last newsletter next week!

Have a lovely weekend  
With my warmest wishes  
Dorota Milner



**Congratulations to:**

Joey 5HM - Grade 2 Piano (Distinction)

Sophie 5WM – medal for raising money for the children’s Hospice charity.

Edie, Neve, Samuel, and Emily from Year 5 who took part in the Eco Council Summit

To all our Yr6 pupils for their Bikeability Course

## Mrs Harrison's Curriculum update

I'm not sure a week has gone by where we, as a school community, have not been busy! But here we are, at the end of another fun-filled week, with so much to celebrate.



Firstly, our **outdoor pond club** have been busy regenerating the area and we were very proud to finally be able to fill it with water and plants this week! The children have been busy painting birdhouses, making a minibeast hotel, whittling, creating a beautiful mosaic, planting flowers and painting the fence. It has been a real team effort and I am so glad to have been able to be a part of it. But I must extend my thanks to Mr Appleby who is always on-hand to help with these outdoor projects, but also to Michelle and Bizi who have given up their time to help and to Rose and Finlay's dad as well as Mrs Nickless' parents who donated some of the pond plants. Now to welcome the wildlife!



Last Friday, our wonderful **Well-being Ambassadors** helped to run our first **'Walk a Mile for Mental Health'** event. I would love for this to become an annual event, inviting the whole school community to join in raising awareness of Mental Health and the importance of looking after ourselves. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to be there but I heard there was a great atmosphere and those that came enjoyed themselves. Thank you to all of the staff who rallied around to help on the afternoon. It's always such a good team effort!



Recently, year 6 took part in a fascinating hands-on **Science lesson** where they had the opportunity to dissect a heart. This really helped them to understand the internal workings of this organ and helped them to consolidate their learning about the circulatory system in Science.



On Monday, **Soundbox Music Academy** demonstrated the drum kit in assembly. The children really enjoyed this. Soundbox teach drumming here each week, so if you are interested in your child taking up drumming lessons next year, please visit their website <https://www.soundboxma.org/>.

On Wednesday we had two year groups on trips: Year 3 went to the beach and Year 5 took part in a STEM workshop at St Clement Danes School.

This year, year 3 have studied both the local area and Lyme Regis as a part of their geography topics- comparing and contrasting the two areas. This is also linked to their science topic 'Rocks and Fossils' where they also learned about Mary Anning. This **beach trip** to West Wittering enabled them to see a coastal area for themselves, as well as having a great deal of fun!

"The weather stayed dry and the sun even shone for most of the day. We went for a lovely long walk around the headland to search for rocks and shells and to identify coastal features. After that the children had a fantastic time playing on the beach. We splashed in the sea, built sandcastles and chased frisbees then we rounded off the day with ice cream. The children were all so well behaved and had such a wonderful time, as did all the staff that went. A special thank you to the members of staff who came on their days off." (Year 3 teachers)



"The completion of the two year **ENTHUSE STEM** partnership was brought to a close with a fantastic day of STEM challenges completed by our year 5 children, attended at Clement Danes school. The children were totally inspired after talking to several STEM ambassadors. They participated in a crime scene, forensic science session where they used the filtering process and chromatography to solve the crime. Children also explored the wonders of sound, were introduced to DNA and slowed down a marble run using everyday materials. Year 5 were a real credit to our school as they showed real enthusiasm, were inquisitive and showed an eagerness to learn more." (Year 5 teachers)



On Wednesday morning, a group of children tried out a new sport for Woodside. **Kinball** is a team sport which involves a large ball. It is played with three teams all competing against each other to win at the same time. The object of Kinball is simple: to score more than the other two opponents and win the game! We had great fun and quickly got familiar with the rules. We recommend Kinball so look out for it in the Autumn Term!

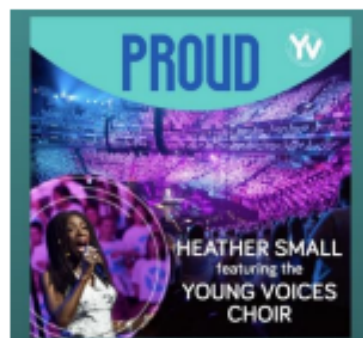
The Young Voices choir who performed at the O2 back in January, are starring on the newly-released single by Heather Small which is pretty cool! So check it out and have a listen!

Finally, **Discovery Sprouts** is running a Forest school inspired Summer Holiday Club at Woodside this year:

**Thursday 27th and Friday 28th July 9am-3pm for 6-12 year olds.**

The holiday clubs aim to encourage independence with the freedom to play, explore and learn new skills. The groups are small so that everyone receives plenty of support and supervision. Time is spent in the mud kitchen, bug hunting, campfire cooking, den building, crafting and working with tools. There will be challenges, projects and plenty of time just to play. I will also be there so am looking forward to that.

[www.bookwhen.com/discoverysprouts](http://www.bookwhen.com/discoverysprouts)



That's all from me. Plenty more to keep us all busy next week. We hope to see some of you on **Monday 17th July at 9:15am** for Mrs Milner's leaving assembly- although this will only go ahead if the rain holds off as we will be outside.

**Mrs Harrison**