

A word from Mrs Milner

Friday 17th March 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all, thank you very much for all your support for the work that we do here at Woodside. It is very much appreciated by all the staff. What can I say—another very busy week at Woodside. As it was ‘science week’, our children participated in the STEM activities under the watchful eye of Mrs Webber. Mrs Webber will provide more information for you in next week’s newsletter. However, I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Webber for organising this week’s science activities. For your information –British Science Week is an event that celebrates science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. British Science Week provides a platform to stimulate and support teachers, STEM professionals, science communicators and the public to produce and participate in STEM events and activities. I am very proud that our school acknowledges this initiative and participates in science events. This is all to inspire our future scientists, mathematicians, designers and engineers. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. STEM subjects teach children important transferable skills that include critical thinking, problem solving and teamwork. These skills can be applied throughout life. The concept of STEM learning is to combine science, technology, engineering and maths to help pupils understand how the subjects they study can be applied in real life. I am sure that we have future scientists, doctors, engineers etc amongst our pupils and who knows - this week may have put a little seed of interest, engagement, and passion for these subjects.

Woodside not only excels in STEM subjects but also in art -under the watchful eye of Mrs McCarthy. Mrs McCarthy is absolutely thrilled to say that we have yet another art competition winner from our school. The latest competition involved designing a poster to promote the upcoming show ‘The Jungle Book’ at the Elgiva Theatre. We had 43 pupils entering this competition, and I would like to say a huge congratulations to all the pupils as I know from the organisers that the standard of entries was particularly high. For more details (and pictures) please see our celebrating success page later on in this newsletter...

As I’m sure you are all aware, this Sunday is Mother’s Day and I hope that we will all pause and reflect on the importance of all the mothers and mother figures – present and departed and the role they play or have played in our children’s upbringing. I would like to finish my newsletter with a poem that I particularly enjoy:

Mother, by Lola Ridge

Your love was like moonlight
turning harsh things to beauty,
so that little wry souls
reflecting each other obliquely
as in cracked mirrors...
beheld in your luminous spirit
their own reflection,
transfigured as in a shining stream,
and loved you for what they are not.
You are less an image in my mind
than a luster
I see you in gleams
pale as star-light on a gray wall...
evanescent as the reflection of a white swan
shimmering in broken water.

A polite request from Mr Appleby: there are a number of packed lunch boxes/bags that have been left at school over the last few weeks. If you are missing one, please come and look through the collection which will be left in a box outside School Reception on Monday morning.

Happy St. Patrick Day to all our families with Irish connections. Hope that you will have a lovely weekend

With my warmest wishes

Dorota Milner

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
20.3.23-24.3.23	Year 6 Residential
23.3.23	Year 4 Hockey Tournament
23.3.23	Mega Maths Morning
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)
29.3.23	Author Visit - Steve Cole
30.3.23	Year 3 Dance Festival at Dr Challoner’s
30.3.23	Parent/Teacher Interviews (Day 2)
31.3.23	Break up at 1.30pm on Friday 31st March. No Hideout Zone afterschool club on last day of term. Breakfast club is still available. Return to school Monday 17th April.
25.4.23	PTA Meeting in school 8-9pm
1.5.23	Bank Holiday
5.5.23	Year 4 Tri Golf Festival at Chiltern Hills Academy
8.5.23	Additional BANK HOLIDAY- His Majesty’s coronation
9.5.23	Year 3 Tennis event at Dr Challoner’s
17.6.23	PTA Summer Fair—SAVE THE DATE
29.6.23	Sports Day (if this needs to be re-arranged due to bad weather, the reserve date will be 13.7.23)
w/c 3.7.23	Bike-ability (Yr6)
4.7.23	Transition Day
21.7.23	Break up 1.30pm
	Link to 2023/24 term dates on website

House Point Totals

	Maple	Willow	Elm	Cedar
This Week	154	277	248	232
Total	4938	5293	4573	5143
	Maple	Willow	Elm	Cedar

UNIFORM UPDATE

Thank you for all your responses to the questionnaire just before Christmas. We had 154 responses.

Currently we require children to wear a branded jumper/cardigan; branded white polo shirt in the summer; branded green PE polo shirt and branded PE jumper. Do you have any problems purchasing school branded uniform (uniform with our school badge)?

- No 45
- Sometimes (due to supplier stoc... 88
- Sometimes (due to difficulties vi... 21



We will be moving away from our current provider. We are in the process of negotiating to bring any of their current stock on site to the school to be sold via MCAS.

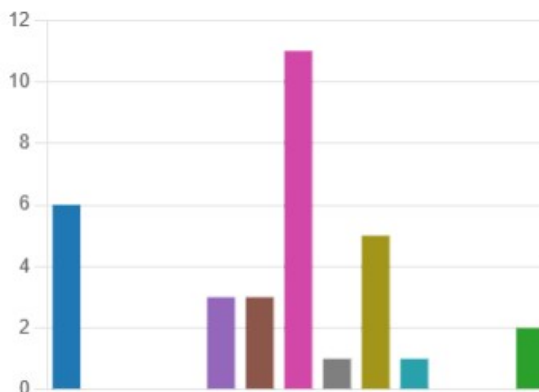
Do you have any problems purchasing non-school branded items i.e. white shirts; grey trousers/shorts; grey skirts/dresses; green summer dresses; black or green tracksuit bottoms; black shorts (for PE); green/grey tights; grey/black socks or black school shoes?

- Some items are difficult to purch... 16
- No, I am easily able to source ev... 138



Which non-branded uniform items are difficult for you to source?

- Grey trousers 6
- Grey shorts 0
- Grey skirt 0
- Grey dress 0
- Green summer dresses (checked) 3
- Black tracksuit bottoms 3
- Green tracksuit bottoms 11
- Black school shoes 1
- Green tights 5
- Grey tights 1
- Grey socks 0
- Black socks 0
- White shirts 2



We have removed the essential requirement for green tracksuit bottoms and green tights. Children can continue to wear all the existing uniform that you own but we hope these changes will make it easier to source affordable options.

Currently we have knitted jumpers/cardigans rather than jumpers/cardigans made of sweatshirt material. Knitted products are generally more expensive but we are aware that some parents prefer the look/feel of them.

We have received a recent quote for the price difference. Knitted garments are currently between £4.20 and £4.70 per item more expensive than the sweatshirt material alternative.

Given all the factors, which option would you prefer for your child:

- Keep with knitted cardigans/ju... 92
- Change to sweatshirt material ju... 62



We will keep with knitted cardigans and jumpers as per the parent/carer preference but, we have been able to source them from an alternative supplier therefore they will be cheaper than the current offering but still of good quality.

Do you think it is important that our summer uniform white polo shirts are branded with the school logo?

- Yes 55
- No 99



From the comments, the cost of the branded white polo was seen to be excessive. Our new supplier will be able to offer the polos at a cheaper price. As another alternative option available to parents/carers, we are currently trialling iron-on badges. They are in quality testing at the moment (thank you Mrs Harrison) and we will be able to offer them at a minimal (under £1) cost so that parents can "brand" supermarket/high street polos.

Currently we have a round necked green sweatshirt for PE (with the Woodside logo). There are alternatives that we could consider. Please let us know your views below:

- Keep with a green round necke... 98
- Change to a green hoodie (with ... 51
- Change to a green fleece (with I... 5



We will keep with the current round necked sweatshirt for PE. Again, these will be cheaper with our new supplier.

Currently, we have a green cotton polo shirt for PE (with the Woodside logo). There are other alternatives that we could consider. Please let us know your views below:

- Keep with green polo (with logo... 97
- Change to a sports fabric polo (... 5
- Change to a green T-shirt (with I... 52



We will keep with the current green polo shirt for PE. Again, these will be cheaper with our new supplier.

Currently to purchase one set of branded school uniform items (including with the school logo) i.e. 1x tie; 1x cardigan/jumper; 1x summer polo; 1x PE jumper; and 1x PE polo it costs around £46.52 (this will be dependent on sizes purchased). Do you feel that this is a fair price?



We are very pleased to have been able to find a quality uniform provider that is able to offer their items at a more affordable price for all parents/carers. We hope that this makes a difference for all!

With a new provider we could move to an option whereby you could order all uniform through MCAS (Bromcom My Child At School) - rather than through a 3rd party site.

We could then have all items directly delivered to school. There would be approximately one free delivery per week (subject to the overall school minimum order amounts).

We would also keep a small number of items (as stock) in school.

Would this change be of benefit to you?

With our new provider, parents/carers will be able to order items through our MCAS system. The items will then be sent home with their child. We hope that this will be easier and cheaper for parents/carers. We are also looking to sign up to a sustainability initiative for our uniform.

We are currently in the process of arranging to have uniform items from our current provider brought to Woodside. Once they arrive we will be able to make the MCAS shop "live" on the system and you will be able to order from the school directly. We hope that this will be before the end of this term.

The PTA will also continue their fantastic 2nd hand uniform sales.



This will be our new uniform policy from September 2023. Until that point we are in a transition phase between the current and new policy. Both are equally valid at this time.



Woodside Junior School Uniform

	Winter Uniform <i>Can be worn all year around but must be worn after October half term to Easter</i>	Summer Uniform <i>Not essential (as can wear winter uniform all year around) but can be worn, if preferred, between Easter and October half term</i>	PE Uniform <i>Children wear this to school on PE/Games days all year around</i>
Items with school logo (all years) – these can be purchased via the school MCAS system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green knitted V neck jumper Green knitted cardigan Woodside tie (a non-self tie version is available if required for Yr3&Yr4 only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green knitted V neck jumper Green knitted cardigan White polo shirt (optional) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green roundneck sweater Green polo shirt
Non-badged items to be purchased via supermarkets, high street stores or on-line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grey trousers Grey skirt White shirt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grey shorts White polo* (school iron on logo badges are available from the school office) <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green and white checked dress (or culotte dress version) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black or green tracksuit bottoms (not leggings) Black shorts (for underneath the tracksuit)
Socks/tights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grey or white socks Grey tights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grey or white socks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grey or white socks
Shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black school shoes (not boots or trainers) Can be lace up, buckle or Velcro providing they are school shoes. Patent shoes are discouraged as they tend to scuff more easily. Ballet pump style shoes without straps are not permitted. No more than a 1 inch heel Should not be visibly branded (e.g. VANS style shoes) Affordable shoes are available through most supermarkets and high street shops that sell uniform items. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trainers (any colour) but they should be active wear trainers rather than fashion to ensure they have a suitable non-slip sole
Jewellery, hair etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A simple watch (no internet connectivity) is permitted. Earrings are not permitted. Where earrings cannot be removed, they must be covered by tape at all times in school to avoid accidents. This should be done before your child arrives at school. Nail varnish and make up are not permitted at any time in school. Hair longer than shoulder length must be tied up. Hair cuts should be smart. The school does not permit hair shaved to the head or patterns "cut" into the hair, hair that is long in parts and very short elsewhere, spiked hair, dyed hair in non-natural colours. Fashion braiding involving beads is also not permitted. It can be very difficult to keep up with all the current trends and therefore this list is not comprehensive! If a parent/carer is unsure, please talk to the Headteacher prior to the hair cut to avoid disappointment. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All jewellery must be removed for PE and Games Any earrings that cannot be removed must be covered by tape

**The school requires the polo shirt to be branded with the school's name. We respect parents/carers choice if they would prefer to purchase plain white polo shirts therefore we have iron on school logo patches available to purchase at a small cost via MCAS.*

The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If parents/carers have any concerns regarding any aspect of our policy, the headteacher will welcome an opportunity to discuss these and will look sympathetically at requests for reasonable adjustments.

Mrs Harrison's Weekly Curriculum Update



STEM talks: This week, the children have been joined by a number of STEM Ambassadors and members of our community (including our chair of Governors) working in STEM careers. The children have had the opportunity to listen to and be inspired by their stories and take part in Q and A sessions. These sessions will continue into next week. Thank you to Mrs Webber for organising these.

We were also joined by Michelle from **Amersham in Bloom** who spoke about their work in the community which encourages all of us to make Amersham a more beautiful place to live- through planting, cleanliness and sustainability. The Great Amersham Spring Clean will take place this weekend between 9:30am and 11:00am.

Meeting points are outside St Michael's Church or the Memorial Gardens. Bags and litter pickers will be provided.

Mega Maths Day: Next week, the children will be taking part in a morning of maths. We have an outdoor maths hunt around the grounds planned, as well as a giant tangram team challenge and investigations. If your child would like to contribute to our giant coin trail (which will be donated to the PTA afterwards), please send them in with some **loose change/ coins on Thursday 23rd March**. They can bring as many or as few as they want.

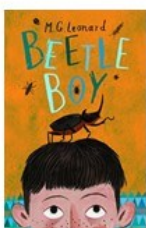
It's been **assessment week** in school this week. This is an important part of the term- enabling teachers to gain a clear understanding of how the children are doing in Reading, Writing and Maths. But other lovely activities continue alongside this. **Year 4** have read a beautiful book in their **PSHE** lessons called the **Invisible String**. We all have an invisible string that connects us to those we love. This story teaches us that we are never really alone. "People who love each other are always connected by a very special string made of love. Even though you can't see it with your eyes, you can feel it deep in your heart, and know that you are always connected to the ones you love."



The children have also been busy in Year 4 making pop-up books. Led by Mrs

Bannister (our DT lead) the children have been planning and creating their books linked to their Geography topic of mountains.

Book recommendations of the week



Beetle Boy by MG Leonard

When Darkus' dad vanishes he finds himself living next to the neighbours from hell. When things seemingly can't get any worse, a super-intelligent talking beetle comes to the rescue. Anarchic, funny, and at times completely mad – with a hint of Roald Dahl. This is a gripping storytime read-aloud that pupils will look forward to each day.



The Nothing to See Here Hotel by Steven Butler

Young Frankie, and his family who run a hotel, are plunged into frantic action when they find out a particularly awkward guest is coming to stay. Nothing is quite good enough for the goblin prince Grogbah in this laugh-out-loud and magical page-turner that's perfect for independent readers in year 3.

Celebrate SUCCESS

CELEBRATING OUR CHILDRENS TALENTS

Elgiva Theatre- The Jungle Book Art Competition Winner

Thank you to all our talented artists who submitted 43 creative entries to the Elgiva Theatre's Jungle Book Art Competition recently.

The theatre wants you to know:

"they really did an amazing job, I wish we could have gifted them all tickets, it was very hard to pick"

You all receive certificates. Well done. Enjoy some of their designs here.



From ALL the different school entries, we are thrilled to announce that Woodside's Eva Kimich (3F) is one of two overall winners.

She now receives 4 free tickets to watch The Jungle Book as her prize.

The theatre commented:

"Her design was eye-catching and extremely well thought out, we loved the composition of the snake the most, she made use of the full page"

Congratulations to Eva and enjoy the The Jungle Book performance. How exciting!

We are proud of you and all our budding artists. Thank you, as always, to Mrs McCarthy for organising this competition.

Well done to Daisy (Year 3) for her fantastic certificate celebrating gymnastic: floor and vault as well as team work.



Easter Egg Competition – from Mrs Bannister

Calling on all the budding designers. Mrs Bannister is organising our annual Easter Egg Competition. She is inviting all the pupils to design their Easter Eggs. All entries need to be brought to the school by Thursday. Please do not forget to include your child's name and class. On my part, I must add that every year we have some fantastic entries so thank you to all parents for their support.

CORONATION CROWN COMPETITION – from Mrs McCarthy

Your child can draw a crown design or make a crown

ALL entries to Mrs McCarthy or the office by FRIDAY 24th MARCH '23

If shortlisted, a physical crown will be made and presented at the final! So, be creative and good luck to all our Woodside designers.



Following on from last year's successful Jubilee Cake Competition, Buckinghamshire Council would like to invite you to enter our Coronation CROWN making competition to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and a chance to win some fantastic prizes. This is open to Primary and Secondary (up to year 9) schools.

How to Enter

1. Your child draws a design of a crown
2. Your child creates/makes a crown

Your submission should include:

- ◇ An explanation for why the crown is fit for a king
- ◇ Skills and materials used

Key Dates

- ◇ Bring your entries to Mrs McCarthy by Friday 24th March
- ◇ Final at The Gateway Offices on May 2nd 2023 in the afternoon

Get creative, use the tools and materials available to you. There will be prizes for both Primary and Secondary schools and the winning crowns will have the opportunity to be displayed with our Coronation banners touring with Buckinghamshire Libraries.

Safeguarding

Today, I would like to bring your attention to the problem that relates to the counties that are close to big cities / towns. **Your guidance is required – please exercise caution when sharing this information with your children.**

County Lines

You may have heard the term 'county lines' on the news, and especially recently with the death of a teenager called Ben, who had a stable upbringing but unfortunately became a victim of drug trafficking. Whilst the term county lines rarely applies to the primary school pupils, there are reports that children as young as seven are being exploited and tricked into dealing drugs. **Criminal networks use social media** to groom and recruit children for county lines. They may send them direct messages (known as 'DMs') or share messages to wider groups as 'stories' or 'posts'.

What does county lines mean?

County lines is a form of criminal exploitation. It is when organised criminal groups befriend children, either online or offline and then manipulate them into drug dealing. The 'lines' refer to mobile homes that are used to control a young person who is delivering drugs, often to towns outside their home county. Young people aged 14-17 are most likely to be targeted by criminal groups but as I said previously there are reports of seven-year-olds being groomed into county lines. Primary school children can be perceived as easy targets because they are less likely to get caught. It doesn't matter where children are from or what is their social background. Children from any community can be groomed into county lines. However, those who regularly skip school or have problems at home may be more at risk.

How to spot exploitation

There are several signs to look out for that may indicate someone is involved in county lines:

- repeatedly going missing from school or home and being found in other areas
- having money, new clothes or electronic devices and they can't explain how they paid for them
- getting high numbers of texts or phone calls, being secretive about who they're speaking to
- decline in school or work performance
- significant changes in emotional or physical well-being

Ways organised criminal gangs use social media

- advertising drugs through photos, emojis, and price lists
- posting statuses that show money, new drugs or when a dealer is open for business
- dealers sharing 'stories' to followers, and using social platforms to expand their network with 'suggested' friends
- tricking people with 'fast cash' scams, which is often referred to as 'squares'. Victims may end up working for little or no money, which is known as 'debt bondage'
- advertising for 'workers' or 'runners' to recruit people into county lines activity
- using hashtags linked to drugs
- using emojis as code for drug, violence and sexual activities, e.g. the snowflake emoji (for buying cocaine), 8-ball emoji (for buying an eighth of an ounce) or the rocket emoji (for purity of drugs)

What to do if you have concerns

The best advice is to trust your instincts. Even if someone isn't involved in county lines drug dealing, they may be being exploited in some other way, so it's always worth speaking out.

*You can speak to your local police by **dialling 101, or in an emergency 999.***

*If you would rather remain anonymous, you can contact the independent charity **Crimestoppers** on **0800 555 111.***

*If you notice something linked to the railways, you can report concerns to the **British Transport Police** by **texting 61016 from your mobile.** In an emergency dial 999.*

*You can also call **Childline** on **0800 1111.** Childline is private and confidential service where you can talk to specially trained counsellors about anything that is worrying you.*

*Alternatively, speak to a children and young people's service like **Catch 22.** They work with children and young people of any age to help get them out of situations they're worried about and have helped lots of children and young people involved in County Lines.*

Wellbeing

Budget

Some of the changes were aimed to help parents struggling with childcare costs and encourage the 'economically inactive' to get back to work.

- Free childcare for working parents in England is being extended from three- and four-year-olds to children aged from nine months up to their third birthday. Available for up to 30 hours a week, it will be implemented in stages by September 2025. Families on universal credit will receive childcare support up front, instead of having to claim it back later, and will see an increase in the £646 monthly limit per child to £951 for one child and £1,632 for two children. The government will also increase the funding that nurseries receive for the free hours, addressing the concerns of providers, which have insisted the money they receive per hour fails to cover costs. Meanwhile, after-hours care for school-age children will be expanded.
- Pensions allowances for higher earners will rise in an effort to discourage early retirement. The £40,000 cap on tax-free annual pension contributions — frozen for nine years — is rising to £60,000. The £1.073mn tax-free lifetime allowance on pension pots is being scrapped.
- The Chancellor added that the energy price guarantee, which caps average household bills at £2,500, will be extended at its current level from April to June.
- In measures aimed at cutting the cost of living, the fuel duty freeze and the 5p cut will be maintained for another year, saving the average driver around £100.
- Smokers will be forced to pay even more for their habit after Chancellor Jeremy Hunt raised tobacco duty in his Spring Budget.
- The price of a 20-pack is set to soar past the £14 mark, stretching the budgets of more than 6 million UK smokers a little further.
- The Government also slapped taxes on alcohol beverages with prices expected to soar. Tax on alcohol will go up by 10.1 per cent in August and in line with inflation.
- However, the duty charge on draught pints will be frozen to help the “the great British pub”, the Chancellor announced.

Please find attached [here](#) a flyer for all of Wycombe Museum's children's & family activities running through the spring holidays.

Their full events programme, plus booking for events can be found at:

<https://wycombemuseum.org.uk/events-by-wycombe-museum>