

A word from Mrs Milner



Friday 2nd December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It suddenly feels like winter, cold mornings and evenings, and only 24 days until Christmas! The school is certainly entering into a very busy time, with many events taking place during the next fortnight. Please check our calendar so you will not miss exciting events.

We are so very lucky not only to have such dedicated staff but also amazing governors, who dedicate their time to support the work we do. This Tuesday, our governors conducted a learning walk, supported by Mrs Harrison, where they witnessed some fantastic learning taking place across the afternoon. Thank you to all our staff for making our governors feel so welcomed and thank you once more to our Governing Body for their time and dedication in support of our school. It is very much appreciated.

Year 4 pupils and staff continue to rehearse for their Christmas production, and I am very much looking forward to watching the play. It is always such a joy to watch children taking part in school productions!

On Thursday Mrs Harrison conducted pupils' voice with regards to the PSHE teaching and learning. Usually, we conduct a survey amongst the pupils or ask them questions directly. Mrs Harrison conducted the 'pupil voice' in such an innovative way that it became part of the teaching process itself. Thank you, for being such a creative teacher, as well as Deputy Head. We will share our findings with parents as soon as all results are collated.

Our Year 5 pupils watched the production of Grease musical in Amersham School. As always, our pupils behaved impeccably and represented the school well. They also enjoyed watching the production very much. Thank you to Amersham School for inviting us.

Last but not last, I would like to mention our fantastic Hideout Zone. Our staff work so incredibly hard to provide a good quality wrap around care our pupils. Mrs Russo and Mrs Baldowska ensure that the children have a nutritious breakfast and an enjoyable time at our Hideout Zone to give them an excellent start to the day. Mrs Winson, Miss Green, Miss Pearce and Miss Revel provide a range of brilliant activities during the 'club hour' and beyond. Thank you, ladies, for such a fantastic community provision and for all your hard work ensuring the best care possible. We are all very grateful. I have attached a couple of photos from yesterday's Welly Wanging which certainly made me smile!



Our other extra-curricular clubs and music lessons are continuing next term, including—new next term—a hockey club run by staff from Amersham & Chiltern Hockey. We have provided links to sign up on the following pages. As always, there is financial support available for eligible families therefore please contact Mrs Nickless, School Business Manager if you would like to discuss this further.

We have also been contacted with some opportunities/offers for parents/carers:

- Christmas Tree Farm, Chesham—gift voucher to the value of £56 towards a tree - click [here](#) to enter the free raffle. We will pull out a name at random on Monday morning (5.12.22)
- Free pantomime tickets for Sleeping Beauty at the Elgiva tomorrow (3rd December) - 6.30pm performance. Call their office 01494 775 220 or email admin@workaid.org.

I would like to wish you all a very happy weekend

With my warmest wishes, Mrs Milner—Headteacher

House Point Totals

House Point Totals				
This Week	219	205	144	248
Since Start of Term	2362	2602	2173	2520
	Maple	Willow	Elm	Cedar

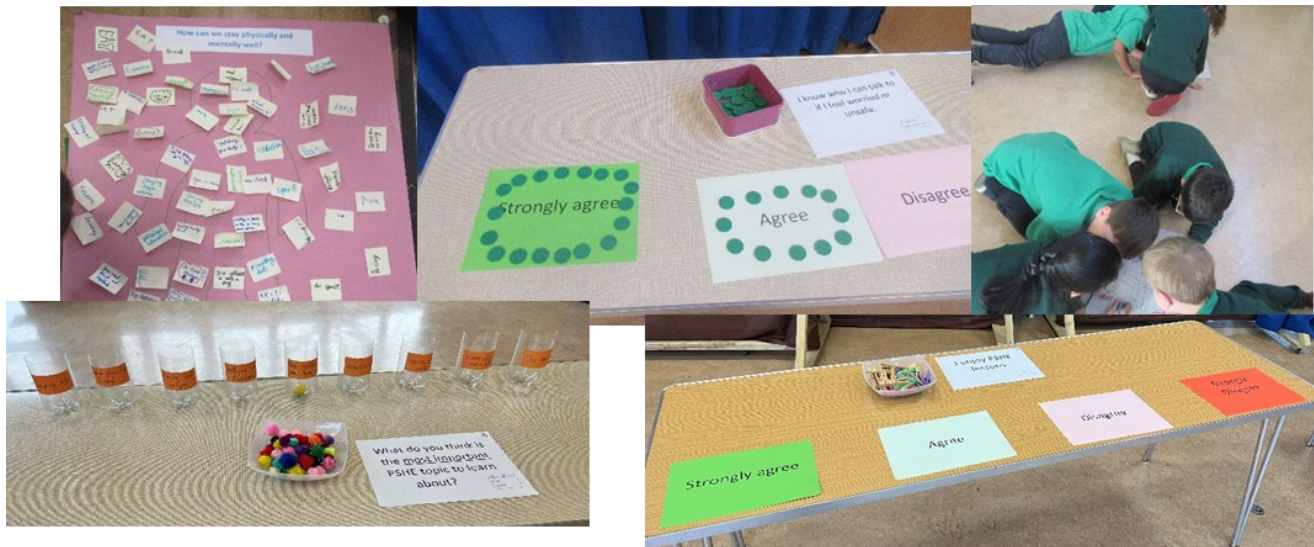
Dates for your diary

Date	Event
07.12.22—08.12.22	Chorleywood Bookshop Book Fayre in Hall at 15.15pm - 15.45pm
12.12.22	Yr3 watching St George's Nativity Play * Music concert for parents (who are studying an instrument within school time)
13.12.22	Rocksteady Concert @10am * Yr4 Christmas performance (matinee and evening performances)
14.12.22	Yr4 Ancient Greek Day * Christmas Lunch (book via Parent Pay)
15.12.22	Christmas Carols at St Michael's Church (All School)
16.12.22	Christmas Jumper Day PTA Christmas Cheer event (afterschool)
Tues 20.12.22 End of Term 1.30pm	Break up at 1.30pm on Tuesday 20th December 2022. No Hideout Zone afterschool club on last day of term. Breakfast club is still available. Return to school Thursday 5th January 2023.
5.1.23	School returns for Spring Term
11.1.23	Taekwondo after school club re-starts
12.1.23	First Touch Football after school club re-starts
16.1.23	Young Voices at the O2
21.1.23	Cross Country Event—Lowndes Park, Chesham
1.2.23	Year 4 Cross Country at The Misbourne School
7.2.23	GB Athlete Visit
9.2.23	Year 3 Mega-Fest Rugby at Dr Chaltoners
20.3.23-24.3.23	Yr6 Residential
08.05.23	Additional BANK HOLIDAY- His Majesty's coronation
17.6.23	Advance notice!! PTA Summer Fair—SAVE THE DATE

Mrs Harrison's Curriculum Update

Every year and for every subject, we carry out pupil voice surveys. This helps us as a school to determine what the children think is going well, what they enjoy, what they want more of and what they think we could do to improve. We might just do this by speaking to groups of children or carrying out surveys.

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of both years 3 and 5. We set up a number of activities and voting stations for the children to vote and tell us their thoughts in an interactive way. They then worked collaboratively on a number of tasks which gave me an overall sense of what they learning and remembering in PSHE. It was a really fun and informative day for me and I think the children enjoyed it too! I thought I'd share what your children came up with for 'Top tips for a positive relationship' and 'How can we stay physically and mentally well?' There's some good advice in there!



Top tips for a positive relationship from the year 3 and 5 Woodside children:

Be: Caring, respectful, kind, welcoming, inclusive, polite, supportive, tolerant, responsible, loving, helpful, trustworthy, patient, honest, friendly, cheerful, positive, funny, sensible, generous, safe and sweet like a tomato!

Don't: Bully, keep secrets if they are unsafe, do something if someone has said 'no'.

Do: Make eye contact when you are speaking, listen, work collaboratively, look after each other, make your friends feel good about themselves, say good things to each other, smile, give compliments.

How can we stay physically and mentally well? Advice from our year 3 and 5 pupils:

Eat healthily, exercise, do the daily mile, do good deeds, be kind to others, have a hobby, get better at your favourite hobby, drink water, keep learning, stay safe online, be thankful, play games, do sport, be grateful, take vitamins, go to school, have good relationships, stretch your body, work your brain, help people, stay safe, do something fun that you don't often do, never give up, keep trying, have enough sleep, talk about your problems, read, get outside in the fresh air, talk to trusted adults, don't bully or leave people out, have different friendship groups, don't play too many games on a screen, do things that make you happy, have calm time, challenge yourself, do something for others, have fun, laugh with friends, do sports, meditate, go walking, be positive, be honest, socialise, have rest days and listen to music!

I'm recommending this Bear Grylls set this week for pupils in the lower school, This is a great set of fiction books for children who love facts and non-fiction as the books, despite being stories, are filled with interesting information.

I'll be singing with my choir (Amersham A Cappella) at both the old Amersham and Amersham on the Hill Christmas festivities this weekend so I might see some of you there! Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Harrison





CELEBRATING OUR CHILDREN'S TALENTS

EVERY WEEK IN OUR CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY, WE ALLOW TIME TO
RECOGNIZE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CHILDREN OUTSIDE OF
SCHOOL .

Tudor

+

A special mention to all the children who have
submitted art works for the competitions this
week—you are all amazing!

*PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO LET MRS MILNER KNOW THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS
BEFORE FRIDAY MORNING SO THEY CAN BE INCLUDED IN OUR ASSEMBLY*

Safeguarding

For Parents - Setting Up Devices

With Xmas fast approaching some children will be getting new or upgraded devices, older devices may be handed to younger children. This is an ideal time to get information out to parents about the importance of setting up devices with parental controls in relation to the age of the child. Internet Matters covers all devices with very simple, easy-to-understand parental guides. Please click [here](#) for their website.

For Parents - Playstation Safety

Sony Playstation and Internet Matters have got together and created an interactive quiz for children and parents to learn together how to make the most of Playstation settings for safer gaming. You can access the interactive quiz by copying and pasting the link by clicking [here](#).

Just an important reminder

The traditional image of Christmas is incredibly optimistic and it can be wonderful, but we must remember that it certainly isn't a given for vulnerable children. Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone and at this time of year, we must be extra-vigilant and offer support where we can and be proactive where we suspect or see the signs of abuse and neglect and seek the help of the police and social services. The rights of the child come first and all children have a right to protection from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect.

Wellbeing

If you're struggling to deal with grief over Christmas, you can call the Cruse Helpline on 0808 808 1677. The Helpline is run by trained bereavement volunteers, who offer emotional support to anyone affected by grief. They will give you space to talk about your feelings and how you've been coping. Cruse volunteers are completely non-judgemental and won't share what you've told them with anyone else, unless you are in danger.

Opening hours

- Monday: 9.30am-5pm
- Tuesday: 9.30am-8pm
- Wednesday: 9.30am-8pm
- Thursday: 9.30am-8pm
- Friday: 9.30am-5pm
- Saturday : 10am-2pm
- Sunday: 10am-2pm

Clubs for the Spring Term—click on the club name for more details

Please note that children will be given an opportunity to sign up for all free clubs that are within school time—you do not need to complete any forms for these clubs. The school also offers various “drop in clubs” across lunchtimes.

Our popular wraparound care in our Hideout Zone is available for Breakfast Club and After School—booking can be made via MCAS and further details are available [here](#). Please call the office if you have any questions!

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

[Buckinghamshire Music Trust](#)
*(includes tuition in piano, wind,
strings, brass etc)*

[Rocksteady](#)

[Soundbox](#)

SPORT OPPORTUNITIES

[First Touch Football](#)

[Taekwondo](#)

[Hockey](#) *(available under the
afterschool club dropdown)*

[Netball](#) *(details are not
available at this time but will
follow on a separate email)*