A word from Mrs Milner

Friday 15th July 2022





Dear Parents,

This is my last newsletter written during this academic year and what a year it has been! I will try to highlight for you all the positive and wonderful things achieved and enjoyed by our children.

However, first things first:

It has been an incredibly busy week. Children coped incredibly well during this hot spell and I am pleased to report that largely they remained sensible and mature – drinking plenty of fluids and staying in the shade during lunchtimes. As Monday and Tuesday are going to be incredibly hot, please refer to our previous e-mail outlining to you all the necessary steps taken by the school to ensure everyone's safety. A huge thank you to Mr and Mrs Crowe for hiring and allowing us to have an air conditioning unit to keep the hall cool during Monday's Leavers Assembly and Tuesday's Woodside Got Talent Show - this means that both of these events can go ahead in a comfortable manner.

A word from Mrs Tandara

Mrs Tandara is delighted to announce we have been awarded the 'Gold School Games Mark' award for the 2021-2022 academic year. The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success. We are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including our House Captains and Sports Crew who have been fantastic ambassadors. Mrs Tandara would like to thank all staff, parents and children for all their hard work and efforts achieving this award - we couldn't have done it without you!

Well done to Mrs Tandara and what a wonderful acknowledgment of all her hard work to ensure that our children receive a good quality PE and sport provision.

Monday was a wonderful day for the children as our PTA funded a play to celebrate Woodside's 65th anniversary. The company commissioned was called 'Shakespeare in a Suitcase' and I was told that the performance of the Midsummer's Night Dream was fantastic. Unfortunately, I was not able to watch it due to the numerous commitments but the feedback from the adults and pupils was excellent. Thank you to our PTA once more for such a great gift. I also have to mention the ice-cream van, as children were treated to an ice -cream / ice lolly today.

Year 6 pupils were incredibly busy this week practising for their end of the year production of Wizard of Oz. I was privileged to watch it on Wednesday evening and was absolutely taken aback by the sheer amount talent present on the stage. A huge well done to all the pupils – regardless of the role played in the production. Boys and girls –you all contributed to the success of the play and I am sure that your families enjoyed watching you perform or help with the props. You were all brilliant and I sincerely hope that for some of you this will be the beginning of a great relationship with the performing arts. Well done!

It takes a lot of effort, hard work and patience from our staff to ensure performance of such an outstanding quality. Many thanks to all our Year 6 team, who worked so tirelessly with the children as well as Mr Bruce who designed the backdrop. However, I would like to reserve my biggest thanks for Mrs Bowers, who returned from her well –deserved retirement to help our Year 6 team with the music arrangements. Debbie –thank you for giving up your time for our school. It is very much appreciated by all of us and children, especially.

Today you will receive your child's school report. I would like to say thank you to all Woodside pupils. Children - you worked so incredibly hard during this academic year. Well done and I hope that you will now enjoy your well-deserved rest over the summer holidays. This is probably also the right time to say thank you to all our staff who worked with the children. You are a wonderful group of professionals, who always have the best interest of the children's at heart. I sincerely hope that you also have a well-deserved summer break —re-charge your batteries ready for another busy but successful year! I would also like to mention our dedicated office and facilities staff —the absolute 'backbone' of our school. I am sure you will agree that Mrs Stanton, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Nickless and Mr Appleby are doing fantastic job dealing not only with all the administrative and site tasks but also ensuring that parents and children are well looked after.

A huge thank you to you, parents, for all your support for the school and the work that we do. It is very much appreciated by all of us here. I am hoping that the next academic year will be as productive as this year's. I hope that you enjoy time spent with your children – whatever you do. (continued on next page)

Dates for your diary **Upcoming term dates** Date **Event** Close Wed 20th 1.30pm Mon 18th July Yr6 Leavers Assembly Starts 1.45pm Gates open: Term starts Tues All Yr6 parents have been invited (max of 2 attendees per child) 6th September 8.35am 2022 Rocksteady Summer Concert 11am-12pm

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Parent Teacher Association

As you are aware our PTA has worked tirelessly throughout the year. I would like, therefore, express our gratitude for all their hard work throughout this academic year. I also would like to mention our staff members, who throughout the year were very active in their support for the PTA. Thank you to Mrs Tandara, Mrs Carver and Mr Appleby – your help is very much appreciated. Unfortunately, the following members will be stepping down from the PTA at the end of this academic year: Karen Buffet as Co-Chair, Tom Dixon as Co-Chair, Paula Pereira as Secretary, Laura Sawyer as Treasurer, Eugene Pereira as Co-treasurer, Emma Taylor as Co-Treasurer and Emma Carroll. Please accept my sincere thanks for all your time given to the school. Without your support, we would have not been able to have such wonderful fundraising events.

The PTA will be looking for a new treasurer for the next academic year. Please contact the school office if you are willing to take on this very rewarding role. It will be very much appreciated. As always, please let us know if you would like to become a member of the PTA –it is such a fulfilling role and all funds raised will contribute towards our children's education as well as enjoyment during their time at Woodside.

It is probably a good time to update you on our running track. Unfortunately, and as communicated previously, the four lane oval running track was not possible to materialise due to a series of regulations relating to the use of our playing fields. The school decided then that a Daily Mile running track will be an alternative option. This project will be debated during the Planning Committee meeting at Amersham Council Offices on Tuesday. The track, unfortunately, will have limited community use but will be a real asset for our children. If the project is approved – hopefully, the work will start during the summer break. Many thanks to our PTA for donating generously towards this project. It will benefit children at Woodside – their overall fitness as well as associated well-being. As always, many thanks to all our Woodside community for your kind donations - however large or small as combined allow us to provide all the 'extras' for the children and the school. I am especially grateful for your generosity during these difficult economic times.

Volunteers

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers who have been helping us this academic year with reading, sewing, mathematics, library and trips etc. Your help and support is so very much appreciated. Some of the activities would have been impossible to run without your help so thank you once more on behalf of our pupils and staff.

Woodside Pupils

Boys and girls- you have been absolutely brilliant this year - resilient, positive, funny, sometimes frustrating, courteous and kind. You coped incredibly well with all the challenges and have been an absolute joy to have around. I hope that you all have a fabulous summer break –enjoy! If you get bored sometimes –it is always part of the summer fun and remember that September is just around the cornerJ

Well done to the ELM house for the most house points this term. Boys and girls –I promised you a reward of a Mufti Day. As the weather going to be hot on Monday and Tuesday and it is only half a day on Wednesday –I will ensure that your reward in carried over to either the first or the second week of September. Thank you for being patient but this heatwave is unexpected!

Mrs Carver

My final word goes to Mrs Carver – Jackie thank you for 16 years of hard work and dedication. You shaped minds and hearts of so many children and your legacy will stay here with us and the families. All the best for your new endeavours and all I can say that the new school and its pupils are very lucky to have you as their teacher. Keep in touch!

I would like to wish all of you a very happy and peaceful summer -wherever you are and whatever you are doing.

We are looking forward to welcoming all the children and families in September 2022.

With my warmest summer and holiday wishes

Dorota Milner

Headteacher



Best of Woodside 2021-2022

It has been a very strange year. We started full of optimism that the Covid nightmare is finally over; however, Omnicron arrived during December and compromised the plans of many families. Nevertheless, we, as a school community, have risen to the challenge and provided excellent learning and cross –curricular opportunities for the children. Below are some highlights of the year in terms of the activities offered to our pupils. All of the activities are designed to complement children's learning and bring enjoyment to their time at the school. It is important for me as the Head of the school to reflect and be proud of all the wide opportunities provided that allow our pupils to shine and enjoy their time at Woodside.

September

- First of all, I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents who supported last Saturday's events, Fun on the Field and the Cross Country event. I also know that all the families who attended our 'Fun in the Field' day had a really enjoyable time. It is so important for our wellbeing to be able to re-connect with people and the community. Woodside community raised an amazing £1,350 for the PTA, so thank you all for your generosity.
- On Friday I was privileged to be invited by one of our grandparents to the ceremony 'Raksabandhana Divas' (Promise to Protect).

October

- Year 4 had a very successful trip to Ufton Court to coincide with their topic on the Ancient Greece.
- Year 3 Harvest Assembly. I was quite emotional during our Year 3 Harvest Assembly, thinking that this particular cohort probably has not had much experience of live productions. This, I have to tell you, did not present itself as a detriment to the children's performance. They were absolutely amazing confident and talented and most importantly –so happy to be able to perform to a live audience of parents.
- Diwali Assembly I would like to wish a belated Happy Diwali to all of our families who have celebrated this important festival
- Well done to all of the Woodside children who took part in the second inter-schools cross country event in Hervines Park on Saturday 16th October.
- We had a visit from SoundBox. Two enthusiastic young men introduced our children to drumming
- Mike Mullen from BMX Academy visited the school to showcase not only his ability to perform stunts but also to talk to the children
 about the importance of resilience, perseverance and ambition.

November

- Today some of you took part in our E-safety talk for parents. I am sure you agree with me that safeguarding our pupils against any possible dangers associated with modern technology is particularly important.
- Our Year 6 pupils took part in a basketball competition in Amersham School and one of our teams achieved 1st place.
- Next week is Ant-bullying week. As a school, we will be engaging children in activities relating to combating bullying. This year's theme is 'One Kind Word' a positive reminder that Anti-Bullying Week should be all about hope, kindness and the many constructive things we can do to call out bullying when we see it and stop it in its track.
- Another exciting week has flown by. Our Year 6 pupils visited the Natural History Museum to enhance their science curriculum and learn about inheritance and evolution.
- Today we had a mufti-day to support the annual Children in Need event.
- I would like to draw your attention to our Enthuse Project led by Mrs Webber. The project will run for 2 years and is designed to improve children's outcomes in science.

December

- We live in such strange times. We now have a new variant of the virus and cases of COVID-19 generally remain quite high. We are still planning, for the time being, to go ahead with all our planned festive activities. I always felt that it is important, after two lockdowns and last year's Christmas with no festivities, that this year we should provide some events for the children and parents to enjoy.
- Our Year 4 pupils performed the Aladdin pantomime to their families. It was such a wonderful show. We had everything: scenery changes, costumes, singing, acting, jokes and hand bells. Most importantly, all of our pupils really shone fantastic acting, singing and all round performance. Well done to all our young actors we are all very proud of you.
- Parents of Rock Steady pupils are invited to a concert on Tuesday at 5 p.m. I am privileged enough to hear the children rehearsing
 and I can confirm that current rock band chart toppers need to be very afraid as the music played by the children sounds great.
- On Tuesday the PTA have organised a surprise visitor for the children. A magician will come to the school to entertain our pupils thank you once more for this generous opportunity.
- On Thursday, we are walking to St. Michael's Church to participate in our annual Christmas service.
- Please watch out for our fantastic Year 5 and Year 6 Radio Christmas presenters who will be on air between 12 and 2p.m. on Monday.
- Finally, well done and thank you for your generous donations and fund raising at our mufti day and toy/book sale recently. The children raised a huge £720.50 for Children in Need. The Poppy Appeal have also written to thank us for the very generous £108.11 raised and Chiltern Foodbank were very pleased with the huge 46.3 kg of goods donated.



Best of Woodside 2021-2022 (continued)

January

- This week your children had an opportunity to participate in E-Safety workshops, delivered by Mrs Alison Watts from Buckinghamshire County Council. I sincerely hope that you agree with me that it is our duty (both school and parents) to ensure that our children continue to stay safe online.
- On Saturday 22nd October, 26 children from Years 3 to 6 took part in the local schools' cross country competition at Lowndes Park. Well done to everyone who took part, especially as part of the race was uphill! A particular mention to the Year 4 boys' team, who gained a bronze medal.
- 51 children took part in a cross country competition at the Misbourne School, where again our pupils gave everything and represented the school with pride and determination.
- Woodside pupils have been very busy this week taking part in a variety of sporting events. We were very proud of Year 4 pupils, who, on Wednesday this week, played in a Benchball Festival at Amersham School. Children played with enthusiasm and determination. One of our Woodside teams achieved 2nd place by just one point.
- The school purchased fitness trackers (MOKI) –two sets of 60 to be shared between year groups. The aim of the fitness trackers is for our year groups to use them and have inter- house and year groups competitions around the number of steps taken during school time.
- Thank you to all children who submitted their entries for the Chiltern Art Colouring Competition 2022.

February

- Another very busy week at Woodside! Today (and please talk to your son and/or daughter) the children had an amazing opportunity to
 experience an interactive fitness workshop provided by Carl from Kidzfit. The children were taught about health and nutrition through a
 busy, fun session.
- Thursday this week, the whole school participated in an interactive presentation with Paula McMohan, a very successful Civil Engineer and STEM Ambassador. One of her missions is to talk to children across the country about the issues we face with climate change and to share ideas as to how we can all help.
- From 7-13 February 2022, we will be taking part in Children's Mental Health Week. As a school, we will be embracing the theme of 'Growing Together' and thinking about growing emotionally as well as finding ways to help each other grow. We will be creating a 'Growing Together' tree to celebrate the growth everyone has made starting at Woodside.
- We are asking children to think about 'What makes me ME?' The clothes they choose to wear on this day need to say something about them
- Year 3 pupils had a fantastic day learning about the Ancient Egypt via the workshop organised by our Year 3 team. I am sure you share my view that any 'hands on' participation in learning is very valuable to children as it brings history to life.

March

- Yesterday we celebrated 'World Book Day' –thank you to Mrs Jonwood for organ-ising a day packed full of exciting events. Thank you
 parents, as always, for being inventive and creative with your children's costumes –wonderful to see so many book characters –all in one
 place!
- Year 5 and Year 6 went on their termly school trips relating to the topics studied. Year 6 Imperial War Museum –linked to the World War II topic and Year 5 –Living Rain Forest- linked to their topic about South America and Amazonian rainforest.
- On Saturday, 5th March, 34 children represented Woodside and took part in the final local schools' cross-country event at Gayhurst School. It was a very cold morning with a muddy track but, as al-ways, it was a delight to watch the children's determination and sheer enthusiasm.
- On Tuesday 8th March, ten Year 6 children participated in a Kin-ball afternoon at Dr Challoner's High. We were introduced to this new game by their Sports' Ambassadors and then had some games with another school.
- Next week is our Science Week and children will be able to participate in many exciting science activities as well as listen to inspirational talks provided by our visitors.
- On Thursday the remaining year groups have been invited to Dr. Challoner's Grammar School to watch their performance of the Lion King.
- What beautiful week weather wise we have had perfect for our Year 6 residential trip. As I write, children are not back as yet, but I have heard from the adults that they all had a really lovely time.
- On the afternoon of Monday 28th March, a small group of Year 3 children were invited to take part in Have Fun, Be Active Festival (part of the School Games offer) at Dr Challoner's High School. The children were very enthusiastic and showed positivity and obvious enjoyment trying out all the activities.

April

- On Thursday we had a visit from Jane Barnes, the Deputy Town Mayor of Amersham. Woodside School is the first school in the area to work with Amersham Town Council to help the local recycling initiative and Amersham based charity Medictomedic.
- I am looking forward to the Rock Steady concert on Tuesday and Year 5 Easter Assembly on Wednesday. It is going to be another busy but fun week.
- We are very proud to announce that out of nearly 250 entries to the Chilterns Landscapes Art Competition, 10 out of the 30 selected winners are from Woodside School.
- This term, the Woodside Blogging Club have been busy writing a new chapter of 'The Last Sorcerer'
- We were privileged to welcome Chesham Mosque to our school to deliver an assembly about Islam.
- Woodside boys' football team played against the Little Kingshill School on Wednesday afternoon. All the boys showed commitment and dedication throughout the entire game.
- Yesterday both Mrs Stanton and I were quite amazed by one our pupil's talent. Caleb (4C) can recite, in a verse, every single London Underground station. It took him about 3 minutes but a year and half to master.

More Woodside News



Best of Woodside 2021-2022 (continued)

May

- As the football season has finally come to an end, the girls' football team played Butlers Court in their final league fixture earlier this week. It was lovely to see the girls participate with such dedication and passion throughout the game.
- Our Year 4 pupils had an opportunity to practise their golfing skills at Chiltern Hills Academy in Chesham.
- Today, Year 6 pupils are participating in a field study around Amersham. Children will be studying buildings and their use commercial and private.
- This afternoon Year 6 classes celebrated VE (Victory in Europe) Day. Our pupils as well as class teachers dressed in clothes traditional to this era, played games relating to 1940s, danced and had tea and cake in the field.
- Our Year 3 pupils participated at the Tennis Festival, which took place at Dr.Challoner's High School (girls). As always, our boys and girls represented the school well and enjoyed activities offered.
- Earlier this week our year 6 children enjoyed a visit from two local magistrates.
- Yesterday, our PTA organised a disco for all the year groups. This was the first post lock down disco for our children and I am pleased to say that it was a success —albeit noisy!
- It never amazes me how versatile, resilient and all together fantastic Woodside pupils are. Elsa (3JB), Will (5RW), Chloe (5RW) and Sadie (3FM) completed 5K Mud Raise in aid of a cancer charity.
- Congratulations to the pupils who entered Amersham in Bloom Green and Blue book collaboration. Amer-sham Town Council is delighted to announce that some of the entries are going to be published in the book.

June

- Some Year 6 pupils have been participating in 'Bikeability' training this week. The children have enjoyed improving their bike riding skills and confidence for cycling on smaller roads, with simple junctions.
- Our Year 3 pupils spent a wonderful day at the seaside this week. The accompanying adults reported that not only did the pupils love playing on the sand and paddling in shallow waters but they also talked to the life guards about sea safety and the local flora and fauna studies.
- First of all, many thanks to all of you who attended our Summer Fair. I hope that you agree that it was an enjoyable day. I am particularly pleased that the weather held up for us and we did not have to retract into the school building!
- The children are engaged in learning, which is obviously lovely to see but are also thinking about the Woodside's Got Talent competition.
- Year 6 pupils are busy practising for their end of year performance and all credit to the children for persevering in this hot weather.
- On Wednesday, at Dr Challoner's High School, 8 boys and 8 girls from years 5 and 6 represented Woodside in a School Games event called Quad Kids. Each competitor took part in a 75m sprint, a 600m run, a vortex howler throw and a standing long jump.
- Our Year 6 pupils are involved with their annual 'Mini enterprise.' This yearly event helps our pupils develop their business ideas and personal skills. It is the first step for our children to develop the life skills, knowledge and confidence that they will need to succeed in the world of work –in the future.
- On Wednesday, our Year 4 pupils visited Roman Verulamium museum as part of the Romans topic studied.

I do not know about you parents but I think I now need a little break as reading all of the above made me very tired, indeedJ What a busy, busy year!





SAFEGUARDING

Boys and girls

During the holidays it's important to be aware of where you can get help if you need to. If you're concerned about your own safety or the safety of a friend you can contact a Childline counsellor for free on 0800 1111.

Follow SMART rules:

S is for Safe: Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online, don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too.

M is for Meet: Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on

A is for accepting -Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.

R is for reliable -You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.

T is for tell -Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline – 0800 11 11 or www.childline.org.uk

Be SMART with a heart

Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.

Parents

Dear parents,

As summer is here with all the wonderful opportunities for children to play outside and explore, it is also time where potentially your child can spend more time online. IT is good time to explore with your child what exactly they are doing on line, what website they are visiting, games they are playing etc. Please make sure that your child's online environment is as safe as possible and ensure that your child knows how to use technology safely and responsibility. You can start by having a conversation with your child about what websites they like to visit online and who they are interacting with online? It's a simple and effective way to get involved with your children and their lives online. It's worth thinking about parental controls if you haven't before. They're designed to help protect children from inappropriate content they may come across online, and you can even use them to set usage times and to monitor activity (child.net.com)

Wellbeing

Psychologists and child development experts suggest that over-scheduling children during the summer is unnecessary and could ultimately keep children from discovering what truly interests them. And though our capacity for boredom may well have diminished with all the attractions of the internet, experts have been discussing the importance of doing nothing for decades. In 1993, psychoanalyst Adam Phillips wrote that the "capacity to be bored can be a developmental achievement for the child." Psychologists suggest that at the start of the summer, parents sit down with their children—at least those above the age of four—and collectively write down a list of everything their children might enjoy doing during their break. These can be basic activities, such as playing cards, reading a book, or going for a bicycle ride. They could also be more elaborate ideas such as cooking a fancy dinner, putting on a play, or practicing photography. Then, if your child comes to you throughout the summer complaining of boredom, tell them to have a look at the list. However, "There's no problem with being bored," stae psychologists "It's not a sin, is it? I think children need to learn how to be bored in order to motivate themselves to get things done. Being bored is a way to make children self-reliant." While there's a good chance children might mope around for a while and be bored, it's important to realize that this isn't wasted time.

This same theory was put forward in 1930 by philosopher Bertrand Russell, who devoted a chapter of his book 'The Conquest of Happiness' to the potential value of boredom. Imagination and capacity to cope with boredom must be learnt as a child, he wrote:

"A child develops best when, like a young plant, he is left undisturbed in the same soil. Too much travel, too much variety of impressions, are not good for the young, and cause them as they grow up to become incapable of enduring fruitful monotony."

hat's On @ combe Museum nmer Holidays

26th & 27th July, Tuesday & Wednesday Discover & Make: Mosaic Madness

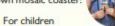
Runs 10am onwards • Tickets £4.50

Learn about High Wycombe's Roman history - make your own mosaic coaster!



Crafts





31st July, Sunday

The Trees of Wycombe Museum

Starts I I am . Free, drop in

Help us map and measure our trees, attend an art workshop, or spend time forest bathing on our motte.



(京津) Family fun day



For families



3rd & 4th Aug, Tuesday & Wednesday

Discover & Make: Quills & Seals

Runs 10am onwards • Tickets £4

Design and make your own seal matrix, and practice writing with a quill - even give making your own 'parchment' a go!



Crafts



For children



9th & 10th Aug, Tuesday & Wednesday

Discover & Make: Rocking Cave Art

Runs 10am onwards • Tickets £4 Go back in time to prehistory, and explore mankind's earliest art.



Crafts



For children



16th & 17th Aug, Tuesday & Wednesday Discover & Make: Seaside Special!

Runs 10am onwards • Tickets £4

We're bringing the seaside to High Wycombe - make and decorate your own spinning pinwheel windmill!





For children



21st Aug, Sunday

Seaside Family Fun Day

Starts I I am • Drop in, some activities charged

We're bringing the seaside inland! Bouncy castle, crafts, ice creams and more.





For families

23rd & 24th Aug, Tuesday & Wednesday

Discover & Make: We're Going on a Bug Hunt

Runs 10am onwards • Tickets £4.50

Dive into the world of creepy crawlies and make your own peg bug pet!





For children



30th & 31st Aug, Tuesday & Wednesday

Discover & Make: Saxon Treasure Hunt

Runs 10am onwards • Tickets £4.50

Make clay treasures fit for an Anglo-Saxon hoard, and explore High Wycombe's Saxon past!





For children



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- info@wycombemuseum.org
- www.wycombemuseum.org.uk
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Scan me to book

