

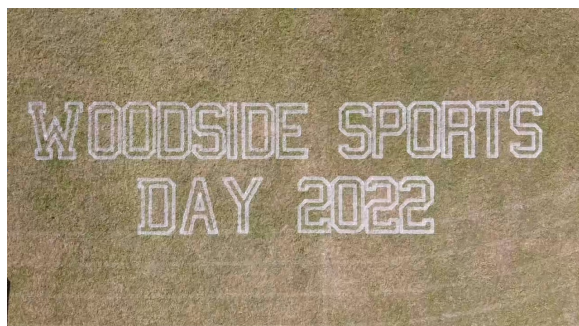
A word from Mrs Milner

Friday 8th July 2022



Dear Parents,

This is my penultimate newsletter for this academic year. Next week I will endeavour to put in a succinct form all the highlights of the academic year.



Yesterday, Thursday, was such a fantastic day. First, we had our annual Sports Day and it was lovely to be able to share this day with parents. In the afternoon our Year 6 pupils took part in their annual Mini Enterprise.

Many thanks to Mrs Tandara and our Sports Crew for organising such an enjoyable day. This year, we tried something different. Instead of 'round robin' activities,

we set up a series of races. I personally think that this arrangement worked and we are hoping to continue this in the next academic year –perhaps with some small 'tweaks.' Boys and girls- many thanks from all of our Woodside staff for taking part and showing such a great sportsmanship. Yes, we had winners because the races were competitive, but for me taking part and 'giving a go' was just as important. I absolutely loved that you clapped and cheered everyone who took part. Well done! I particularly would like to mention our Year 6 pupils, who helped our cross country runners to run to the finish line. For some children this event tried their resilience and endurance and well done to all of them –including our winners. Thank you to all our staff who helped on the day and thank you to all of the parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles who came to cheer on our pupils. I sincerely hope that you had an enjoyable morning. I also hope that the coffee van was a 'hit.' Our lovely PTA ensured that every child was able to have an ice pop to cool them down after such a busy morning – thank you.

A word from Mr Ahmed

Yesterday, Year 6 pupils were fortunate to take part in their annual Enterprise Project. Each group were instructed to devise two products that were going to be sold to the rest of the pupils. All pupils were allocated a business role –ranging from a Managing Director, Finance Director to a Marketing Manager. It was lovely to see all the children participate and take their project seriously. It is so important that children can experience a 'real life' business opportunities as this prepares them for an adult life. Who knows –we may have the next Richard Branson or captain of an industry in our midst! Thank you to all the children and parents who helped and supported the Enterprise and enabled it to be such a success.

As some of you will be thinking about the next academic year and associated uniform for the children – please refer to the school's uniform policy that is available on our [website](#). Can I just very politely remind parents that our PE uniform consists of black shorts, black or bottle green joggers and green polo shirts. Leggings or joggers with logos are not allowed.

Our Year 6 pupils took part in SATS (Statutory Assessment Task). The school's results are as follows:

Reading – 89 % of pupils achieved the Expected Standard and 32% of pupils achieved the Greater Depth.

Mathematics – 86% of pupils achieved the Expected Standard and 43% of pupils achieved the Greater Depth.

Our results are well above the national (74% reading and 71% mathematics). Well done to our Year 6 children who achieved great results despite disrupted education during the last two years. It is always important to look at the children's starting points, therefore, for me, personally, it is the progress achieved that is really important. Well done again to all of the Year 6 pupils and I know that our school gave you a solid foundation for your secondary school learning.

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
Mon 11th July	PTA 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' whole school
Wed 13th July	Yr6 Production Matinee 1.30 - 3 pm Evening 6 –7.30pm
Fri 15th July	PTA Mufti Day & Ice cream Van
Fri 15th July	PTA Raffle drawn (tickets on sale on Classlist)
Mon 18th July	Yr6 Leavers Assembly Starts 1.45pm All parents welcome
Tues 19th July	Rocksteady Summer Concert 11am-12pm

Upcoming term dates for your diary

Close Wed 20th July	1.30pm
Term starts Tues 6th September 2022	Gates open: 8.35am

From the PTA

Friday 15th July 'Wear your own clothes mufti day' Suggested donation £1 for PTA funds. The PTA are kindly providing an Ice cream Van

GET READY TO WIN BIG!!

WOODSIDE JUNIOR SCHOOL 65TH BIRTHDAY RAFFLE!

£1 a ticket, available via Classlist

Prizes include:

- £50 Pizza Express voucher
- Ronald Dahl Golden Ticket
- £50 Koya voucher
- £30 Suena voucher
- £50 Everyone Active family voucher
- £45 Wallflower Aromatherapy massage voucher
- Kings Arms 2 course dinner for 4
- £25 Pluma voucher
- £20 Temptation voucher
- Brendan O'Sullivan - wash and blow dry
- Odds Farm family ticket
- £30 Heidi & Hudson voucher
- ...more coming in everyday...!!

Winners drawn on Friday 15th July

If you are not already a member of Classlist, please go to <http://www.classlist.com> and find Woodside Junior School and join us! All proceeds will go to the Woodside PTA Fund - raising money to enhance the educational experience of our children. Any queries, please contact us via Classlist or by emailing woodside@woodsidejunior.com

More Woodside News

I enclose the results of our [parental survey](#). Many thanks again to all parents who took their time to answer our questions and write comments. Surveys are important for the schools as it gives us a 'snap poll' of your feelings. Comments are also very much appreciated as they help us to improve things further. Next week our pupils will take part in a survey and I will share our results with you next week. As the parental survey was anonymous, I cannot address worries directly with parents. However, below I will broadly answer your queries.

Parental Consultation time is too short (10 minutes) –without boring parents with all the legalities of the teachers' contracts and Pay and Working Conditions Document, schools have to fulfil their obligations with regards to class teachers directed time. 10 minutes of consultation with parents equates to 5 hours for 30 pupils. The schools also have a duty of care to class teachers with regards to their work and life balance. Most schools allow 10 minutes for parental consultations, therefore Woodside's time given to parents is no different to the vast majority of schools. Please remember that you can contact your child's teacher directly via Class DoJo if there is something you would like to discuss outside of the parental consultation meetings. We will continue consider the format of the meetings, so we can give you as much useful information as possible in the time given. Please do not forget about my open Fridays, where I am more than happy to discuss your child's progress.

Homework always attracts polarised views. Broadly speaking for every parent who disagrees with the concept of homework, there is a parent who suggests that there is not enough homework. I will discuss with our staff how we can improve things and your suggestions (e-mailed for my attention to the school office) will be welcomed.

A girl's football after school club – the school provides a vast array of lunchtime and after school clubs including Hideout Zone Club Hour for the children to participate in and we will look if we can extend our offerings further.

Mixing classes – it is our intention to mix classes twice – Year 3 entry and Year 5 entry. We did this first time last year, where all the classes were mixed. Consequently, this year is a transition year. Next year our current Year 3 pupils will be mixed at the end of Year 4 –ready to start Year 5. An apology if this was not made clear to all parents.

Electronic homework – I will speak to our staff regarding the homework to see if we need to redress the balance.

Communication – the school has many channels of communication with parents. Our weekly newsletter gives parents an opportunity keep abreast of all the events that are happening at the school. Class teachers use Dojo to communicate with parents. The PTA uses Class List App to which we encourage parents to sign up. The school uses digital means to communicate but if any parents does not have access to the internet-please let the office know and we will forward a paper copy to any individual parent who needs it. Please accept my sincere apologies if, occasionally, there was a miscommunication i.e. Sports day timings. I will also ensure that there is uniformity in communication amongst our staff.

11+ content—schools are not allowed to cover any topics / coach pupils with regards to 11+ exams. All Buckinghamshire primary schools act as 'test centres' on behalf of grammar schools.

Workshops for parents—now that the COVID restrictions have been lifted we will be running workshops for parents – watch this space during the next academic year.

Outcomes of tests – I will write to parents at the beginning of the next academic year and share with them thresholds for Working at the Expected Level and Working at the Greater Depth level.

Parents visiting classes - due to COVID restrictions we were not able to invite parents into the classrooms. However, next academic year we will ensure that parents have the opportunity to visit your children's classroom so you place their time spent at the school in a visual context.

Golden Time – our pupils have so many opportunities for all the 'extra-curricular' activities such as plays, sporting events, trips etc. This gives them opportunities to enjoy school life apart from all of the academia. The last 15 minutes on Friday class teachers spend time reading to the children, which I hope you agree is important. Children are happy with this arrangement and I personally have not heard any complaints from the children –as yet.

An AstroTurf football pitch – the cost of erecting a football pitch is around £115,000 and currently our school budget does not allow for this. We are hoping to build a Daily Mile running track, which is a less expensive option.

I sincerely hope that I addressed most of the parental suggestions. I am very happy that parents feel that they can voice their opinions – this is so important to me personally. We may not always have the answer or the answer that parents would like to hear but we do everything possible to make the children's time at Woodside as enjoyable and productive as possible.

Many thanks for all the lovely comments that parents included in the survey. This means a lot to our staff. Thank you so much for all your appreciation of our work. I printed all the comments and placed them in our staff room for the staff to read.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend. It is going to be hot ☺☺☺

With my warmest wishes to all parents

Dorota Milner