

A word from Mrs Milner

Friday 24th February 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

What an exciting week it has been. It culminated with Year 6 pupils having a fantastic time during their World War II workshop. Mrs Harrison has written to you about it in her curriculum update section of this newsletter. Below is a note from Mrs Tandara regarding Year 4 pupils taking part in a basketball tournament.

On Tuesday, a small group of year 4 children took part in a 'School Games' Basketball event at DCHS. The first part of the event involved coaching stations covering basic skills such as dribbling and passing. The second part of the event involved 4 vs 4 games against two other local schools. Based on the School Games Values of Honesty, Determination, Teamwork, Passion, Respect and Self-belief - Woodside will be going through to the final. Well done!

As a Headteacher of this school, I am particularly proud about our curriculum enrichment activities. When our pupils will look back at their school days, I am hoping that they will also remember, apart from mastering times tables or tricky spellings, our school trips, sport and art competitions, enrichment days and music -amongst others. Activities like this are known as enrichment, and are an important part of children's education, giving them new experiences, extending their learning, and making school life more fun. Enrichment activities also form your child's 'cultural capital' - the essential knowledge and experiences that children need to prepare them for their future success. I sincerely hope that you agree with me regarding the importance of the above -many thanks for your continuous support.

We had a visit today from the Rotary Club of Amersham. Louis and Stephen presented prizes to three of our pupils who received Young Artist Competition (Junior Section) Highly Recommended winners for their art competition entries, 'Sun Set and Sun Rise.'



Overall, over 30 pupils from Woodside entered the Young Artist Competition and all received certificates for their participation. Stephen and Louis thanked all the participants and commended them for their talents. Well done again.

Just to let you know that we have a vacancy for a Learning Support Assistant. The advert will be available on our website soon. If you are interested in the role and you are unable to access the application form -please contact our school office for assistance.

This half term's value is **Inquisitive**. Curiosity helps children learn - driving them to explain the unexpected and resolve uncertainty. I will write in our well being section how parents can support children's curiosity.

"Be inquisitive. Open your eyes, open your minds to things you don't necessarily know even exist. I think that's an important part of learning and growing. The more [you]'re willing to ask, the more [you]'re going to get out of it." — Jay Rinaldi

I hope that you will have a lovely weekend.

With my warmest wishes, Dorota Milner, Headteacher

House Point Totals

	Maple	Willow	Elm	Cedar
This Week	270	286	237	220
Total	4146	4366	3751	4313

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
1.3.23	Year 5 Trip to Living Rainforest
2.3.23	World Book Day (dressing up or lounge wear clothes)
4.3.22	Cross Country Event— Lowndes Park, Chesham
6.3.22	Easter Hamper Raffle Tickets go on sale via Classlist
10.3.23	After school Bingo evening! All years welcome! More info to follow
20.3.23-24.3.23	Year 6 Residential
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)
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.
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

Mrs Harrison's Weekly Curriculum Update

This week some of our pupils were lucky enough to carry out some work with Amersham in Bloom and the Town Council. The children planted the first stage of a new native hedgerow near Willow Wood. It is hoped that in years to come the hedge will provide navigation for bats and a nesting site for many species of wildlife. They really got stuck in and had a great time. Thank you to Steve and Michelle Catanach for inviting us to be a part of this.



On Thursday, Year 6 had the privilege of a visit from an expert in WW2, Dan from Portals to the Past. The children had great fun learning about the beginnings of the war, re-enacting the evacuation of Dunkirk and deciphering morse code signals as well as handling artefacts from WW2 such as currency, medals and uniform- all whilst dressed up! They also took part in a WW2 quiz, where the winning teams received prizes for speed, accuracy, and teamwork. The winners received Winston Churchill 1965 commemorative coins and pre-decimalised pennies!

The children really benefited from this hands-on experience which deepened their understanding of the events of World War II and its impact on the world. Dan, the workshop leader, made a special effort to comment several times on the excellent behaviour and knowledge of the year group. He was often blown away by their answers- especially their map and flag expertise. They also completed the task the quickest he has ever known a school to! Well done year 6 pupils! Year 6 had an excellent day and so did the teachers.



Thank you for your generosity on Break the Rules Day—
£201 has been donated to the Turkey Earthquake Appeal.

Mrs Harrison's Weekly Curriculum Update continued...

Requests and special days

World Book Day

A reminder that next Thursday 2nd March is World Book Day. Children are invited to dress up as a book character. They also have the option of wearing onesies/ loungewear. Children can also make or bake a book character, take part in a book swap and share their favourite book in school. Please see the Book Day letter from last week for more details.

Mega Maths Morning

On 23rd March, we will be having our first 'Mega Maths Morning'. I am on the lookout for any clean, plastic, transparent jars (large or small) to use as estimation jars. If you have anything suitable to fill them with (pom poms, cotton wool balls, very small toys, crayons, bouncy balls, pine cones, marbles) that you are willing to donate, these will also be very gratefully received. Children can bring these to Mrs Harrison's office. On this day, the children will be taking part in a morning of collaborative and active maths.

On this day, the children can also bring in any loose change. This could simply be a few pence. We are going to see how far around the track we can make a money trail go. Any coins that the children bring in will then be totalled up and donated to the PTA.



Science Week

The theme this year for British Science Week is '**Connections,**' so we have decided to have a Woodside theme of '**Connecting with our local community.**' The children will be introduced to a range of STEM ambassadors, who will share their experience and the journey they took to achieving their STEM career.

We are also keen to invite governors, relatives and members of our community to join us during this week to celebrate and share their experience of a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) career. So, if your job relates to any of these subjects and you are available on either Tuesday 14th or Wednesday 15th March in the afternoon for a 30 minute talk, please let the office know (FAO Mrs Webber) and we will schedule you in.

Our children would love to learn and be inspired by you.

Mrs Webber

Science Lead

Behind the scenes, our staff are always learning and developing their craft. We are so lucky at Woodside that all of our subject leads are so passionate and knowledgeable and we are always learning from each other. Children- I have to tell you that I challenged all of your teachers to a Maths hunt on Thursday after school. They donned their wellies and followed a map to eventually crack a code. We laughed, had fun and it got quite competitive! What a very special place Woodside is. No book recommendation from me this week. I'm going to see what you all bring in next week and share some of those. Have a wonderful weekend- I'm off singing. **Mrs Harrison**



FRIDAY MARCH 10TH
AFTER SCHOOL - 4.30PM

£4 PER TICKET

**INCLUDES - DRINK, SNACK,
GAME SHEETS, GAME PEN &
WINNERS PRIZES**



**TICKET SALES GO LIVE
MONDAY 27TH FEB ON
CLASSLIST**



**ALL SCHOOL YEARS EVENT
TICKET NUMBERS ARE LIMITED SO BUY
YOUR TICKET FAST TO AVOID
DISAPPOINTMENT!**



Woodside PTA
Registered Charity 296361



Safeguarding

Call the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) helpline for support and advice if you have a concern for your own or another child's safety on 0808 800 5000.

If you feel that a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999. You can also report concerns to the police on their non-emergency number, 101.

Radicalisation

Although rare, increased online activity and feelings of stress and isolation may be exploited by online groomers to target vulnerable children and young people – including extremist influences seeking to radicalise vulnerable people.

Online exploitation is often hard to recognise. Sometimes there are clear warning signs - in other cases the changes are less obvious. Although some of these traits may be quite common among teenagers, taken together they could indicate that your child may need help.

From Action Counters Terrorism (<https://actearly.uk/>)

It can be hard to know what to do if you're worried someone close is expressing extreme views or hatred, which could lead to them harming themselves or others. Working with other organisations, the police protect vulnerable people from being exploited by extremists through a Home Office programme called Prevent. Act early and tell us your concerns in confidence.

Family and friends know when something's not right. You can spot worrying behaviour at an early stage and help the person you care about get the support they may need to move away from extremism.

Sometimes the person's behaviour can be linked to other issues and is not connected to radicalisation. If you're not sure, you could talk to other friends or family members first and they may help you decide if it's the right time to seek help.

Do's and Don'ts

- Do be aware of any negative influences online and offline.
- Do keep an eye out for any changes big or small that are taking place with increasing intensity.
- Do have that conversation with the person you're worried about, even when it's hard to know where to start or what to say.
- Do trust your instincts and if you're worried seek help and advice.
- Do speak to other people you trust – like schools or community leaders about your concerns.
- Do act early and tell us, so together we can support the person you care about move away from extremism.
- Don't keep your worries to yourself. You're not alone – together with our partners we're here to help.
- Don't think you can't make a difference – you can by acting early and sharing your concerns.
- Don't leave things, if you're concerned seek help.
- Don't be afraid to contact us in confidence and tell us your concerns. You won't be wasting our time and you won't ruin lives. But you could save them.

Wellbeing

Children are naturally curious and seem to want to know everything about the world around them. Giving children the opportunity to be curious and explore their environment is important for their development and well-being. Curiosity unlocks learning for young children: it supports creative thinking and initiative, encourages children to question and try new things, and builds the excitement that comes from successful problem-solving. As noted, “Children need curiosity to continue to learn and make sense of their world from the beginning of their lives to prepare them for their entire educational journey.”

Developing curiosity helps a child to be willing and able to continually grow, learn and question what is around them. It helps to develop an imagination and sense of creativity that gives them the basic tools they need to be successful adults.

Here are some reasons to inspire curiosity in children (from <https://www.jackrabbitcare.com/blog/curiosity-may-important-skill-child-learn/>)

- **Counteracts boredom**

Healthy curiosity gives children the ability to go “un-entertained” without incident.

- **Cultivates an active mind**

If a child can imagine, he can occupy and entertain himself successfully. He is also more likely to be able to figure things out in a variety of situations. This encourages the child to be more self-sufficient. Curiosity makes a child able to solve his own problems.

- **Inspires persistence**

If you can't think of alternate ways of doing things, you will quit. A “burning curiosity” refers to an un-dismissible impulse to know why, what, how. A curious child has to know more and won't quit until they do. Curiosity helps a child to be undeterred when they have to try multiple times to succeed.

- **Counteracts self-absorption**

Curiosity also gives children drive to always be reaching for the next milestone.

- **Sets up long-term success**

Look back at history. Who were the people who had the biggest impact? They asked Why? or How can I make this better? Or How do I solve this problem? Those who ask questions and refuse to accept the status quo transform, lead, live adventurous lives, and are personally happiest.

Developing curiosity is not a from-scratch process.

Since babies are innately curious, helping them to develop this skill isn't something that has to start from scratch. It does need to be fostered, encouraged, and inspired.

How can curiosity be cultivated in children?

1. Teach them to be flexible thinkers and doers.
2. Encourage (and allow) them to make their own choices.
3. Help them feel confident and competent enough to explore.
4. Support and share in their exploration and discovery.
5. Interject novelty and challenge into their routines.
6. Leave a little leeway for curiosity to grow.