

A word from Mr Lloyd

Friday 26th January 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, our staff spent some time looking at how Woodside supports the personal development of our pupils. We mapped out all of the trips, visitors and experiences which we offer over and above the usual curriculum. We also spent time looking at how our curriculum and lessons promote resilience, independence and confidence in the Woodside children, preparing them for the next stages in their education. It was great to see the amount of experiences and activities which are available for pupils in our school, and also to hear how keen the children are to participate in these.

One of our strengths at the school is our sporting offer. Next week, we have an incredibly busy week of sporting events! On Monday, Y4 are attending a Fitness Festival at Amersham School. On Wednesday, Y6 are participating in a Benchball Festival. On Friday, Y5 are playing in a Basketball Festival, whilst 10 Y4 pupils are taking part in a Hockey Tournament at Amersham & Chalfont Hockey Club. To finish off the week, there is a Cross Country Festival at Lowndes Park in Chesham on Saturday! What a busy week! Many thanks to Mrs Tandara for helping to arrange all of these events.

In school, we have recently noticed that several children who are able to walk to school alone have been arriving with sweets. We understand that they have been visiting the local shop on the way into school to buy these. I'd like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that sweets are not allowed in school and that bringing money to school is also not permitted, as it is easily lost and very hard to prove ownership!

This week, we received a lovely letter from Dr Diane Davies, an archaeologist who specialises in the Ancient Maya time period. Her letter is included later in the newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend,

Mr Lloyd

Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
26.01.24	Year 3 trip to British Museum
29.01.24	Year 4 Fitness @ Amersham School
31.01.24	Year 6 Benchball @ Amersham School
02.02.24	Year 5 Basketball @ Amersham School
02.02.24	Year 4 Hockey Tournament
03.02.24	Cross Country Event @ Lowndes Park, Chesham
05.02.24 - 09.02.24	Children's Mental Health Week
07.02.24	Year 3 Mega Fest @ DCHS
08.02.24	Year 5/6 Swimming festival @ Chesham Prep
09.02.24	PTA Mufti Day/Express yourself day
09.02.24	Last Day of half term. School finish @ 3.15pm
19.02.24	Back to school - normal time
21.02.24	Year 4 Basketball @ DCHS
27.02.24	Year 5 Trip to the Living Rainforest
28.02.24	Year 3 Skipping event at Amersham School
01.03.24	Bags to School Collection
02.03.24	Cross Country
12.03.24	Year 4 Frisbee tournament at Amersham school
18.03.24	Year 4 Trip to Bhaktivedanta
Wk. Bg. 18.03.24	Last week of after school sports clubs
26.03.24	Rocksteady Concert 10am-12pm
27.03.24	Year 5 Easter Assembly
28.03.24	Last Day of half term. School finish @ 1.30pm No HOZ after school bookings, but breakfast Club is available.

House Point Totals

This Week	501	540	497	526
	Maple	Willow	Elm	Cedar

[Click here for the calendar of](#)

[23/24 Term Dates](#)

Please see the letter below from Dr Diane Davies, an archaeologist who specialises in the Ancient Maya time period...

Dear Mr Harvey-Mott,

Thank you so much for the letters from your class. They took a while to arrive as I now live on the tip of North Wales!

I agree with Tilly and Ollie that drought was the cause of the abandonment of Maya cities in the rainforest.

The analysis of lake sediment cores from Lake Chichancanab in the Yucatán Peninsula has confirmed that during this time period there was an extensive drought that lasted decades. The central area of the lowlands was a closed basin, with swamps and shallow lakes. The water supply was seasonal, which necessitated the construction of reservoirs or *bajos* (seasonal swamps) in order to have water throughout the year. The drought then resulted in cities being abandoned and people migrating to areas where access to water was more plentiful.

An excellent video on this analysis can be found on my website here <https://www.mayaarchaeologist.co.uk/school-resources/maya-world/maya-cities-architecture/#a>

I am very impressed with the writing and ideas Year 5 have put forth, so much so that I will ask Laura Anders, my wonderful PA, to add these letters to my website for the whole world to see! Laura will let you know when they are up there.

Thanks again for taking the time to send these.

Best wishes,
Diane

Dr Diane Davies
Director
Maya Archaeologist Ltd
www.mayaarchaeologist.co.uk

February Half Term flyers below along with links to webpages shared with the school office for your information...

- Children's & family activities running through the February Half Term at Wycombe Museum- for more details please click [here](#).
- iSEND Support line- information for Parents and Carers, for contact details please click [here](#).
- For further details on Parent/Carer Autism Online Workshops, please click [here](#).

Fun with shaving foam in the Hideout Zone!!!

