

# ENRICHMENT

## Creating special memories and enhancing learning

Day to day, school is always a busy place and sometimes it's good to take a step back and reflect on the year. This year, as always, we have had a packed enrichment programme as we believe that enrichment opportunities beyond our core curriculum are what truly make our school special. Our enrichment has been designed to give our children unforgettable memories while deepening their learning experiences and broadening their horizons.



## Forest School: Connecting with Nature

One of our most significant new initiatives this year has been the implementation of Forest School in Years 3 to 5. Through both block sessions and individual days, our children have had the opportunity to explore our woodland environment, fostering hands-on learning, risk-taking, and the development of crucial life skills including self-esteem, confidence, and independence. Each Forest School session combines adventure with practical skills development. Children have learned to light sparks with flint and steel, practiced whittling and clay sculpting, and enjoyed cooking over an open fire. The enthusiasm and engagement from the children has been exceptional, making this new addition a resounding success.

## Enrichment days: Bringing learning to life

Our enrichment days transform ordinary lessons into extraordinary experiences. Subject-specific wow days have included Greek Day, Italy Day, Viking Day, Black History celebrations, and VE Day commemorations. These carefully planned events allow our teachers to deliver creative and engaging learning opportunities that enhance our curriculum.

Whole school events have been equally impressive, with celebrations including Diwali, World Book Day, Mega Maths, and STEM days encouraging collaborative and practical learning. The year culminated with our annual tradition of Woodside's Got Talent, providing a platform for children to showcase their individual talents to their peers and the wider school community.



### Educational trips: Expanding horizons

Our refined curriculum now enables us to offer consistent, high-quality educational trips year after year. This year, pupils have visited venues including the Natural History Museum, the Living Rainforest, RAF Hendon, the Verulamium, and West Wittering beach. Our Year 6 pupils also enjoyed their residential trip to Mill on the Brue, packed with adventurous activities. Religious Education has been enriched through visits to a church, mosque, and Hindu Temple, complemented by presentations from a Humanist speaker. Our geography curriculum particularly shines through local fieldwork, surveys, and trips to Old Amersham and the River Misbourne, giving children hands-on experience of their local environment.

### Mental health and well-being: Supporting the whole child

Recognising the vital importance of mental and physical wellbeing, we have woven these themes throughout our curriculum while also dedicating specific time to their celebration. Children's Mental Health Week, World Mental Health Day, and Anti-Bullying Week have all been significant events in our calendar.

We have strengthened our partnership with the Buckinghamshire Mental Health Support Team, who have delivered valuable workshops and transition sessions to support our pupils' emotional development and resilience.

### Community connections: Learning with others

We actively seek opportunities to connect with our local community and welcome inspiring visitors. This year, our pupils have enjoyed live performances from the Amersham Band and a guitarist, and have been inspired by visiting authors, met a Paralympic athlete, and learned from local magistrates. Year 6 pupils were particularly motivated by Gary Grant, owner of The Entertainer, who inspired them to develop their own enterprise businesses.

Our community partnerships continue to flourish through our work with Amersham Town Council and Amersham in Bloom. Pupils have participated in the Big Garden Birdwatch and local woodland surveys, while The Big Community Read successfully brought together children from Henry Allen Nursery and St George's School.

## Music and drama: Celebrating creative expression

Our productions have continued to be a huge success this year. Year 3 delivered a delightful performance of "The Little Red Tractor" in the Autumn Term, while Year 4 charmed audiences with the "Silent Night" musical. Year 6 provided the year's spectacular finale with their production of "The Wizard of Oz."

Our school choir has continued to shine, with over a quarter of the school involved in the Autumn term, presenting an amazing Christmas concert and sharing their musical talents with the Age Concern lunch club.

The whole school came together for our traditional carol service, while our Year 6 choir also participated in the multi-school InConcert mass choir during the summer term—a truly rousing success.



## Clubs

Our commitment to inclusive enrichment is demonstrated through our offer of teacher-led lunchtime clubs. These free-access clubs have included cards, chess, Lego, crafts, STEM, choir, football, cricket, typing, and wellbeing activities.

## Sports: Building confidence and team spirit

Sport continues to thrive at Woodside, with children representing the school with tremendous pride. Our cross-country runners have been particularly successful, with four children qualifying to represent Buckinghamshire at the national schools' event.

Through our sports partnerships, children across all year groups have participated in diverse competitions and festivals including hockey, basketball, cricket, dodgeball, netball, fitness, yoga, rugby, and benchball. Professional coaching in basketball, cricket, netball, and football has enhanced our provision, along with hockey club matches, a skipping workshop and support from local secondary schools.

New initiatives this year included the highly successful Scooter workshop for Years 5 and 6 and our first inter-school netball matches. Bikeability also continues to be a success in the upper school.



This year's enrichment exemplifies what makes Woodside truly special. These opportunities not only create lasting memories but also develop confidence, independence, and a genuine love of learning that will serve our pupils throughout their lives.

Our commitment to enrichment reflects our belief that education should be exciting, meaningful, and transformative—preparing our children not just academically, but as well-rounded individuals ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.