



Learn, Aspire, Achieve

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2019

As we reach the end of what has been an extremely long and busy term, it's a good time to look back and reflect on all the exciting and innovative educational experiences our children have been involved in over the past few months. Back in September I told you that we were going to be making a real effort to increase our enrichment offer beyond the curriculum, and looking back over the past term, I think it's fair to say we've certainly done that, and of course, we'll continue to do so throughout the year. We've also attempted to enrich our Christmas experience this year with some fantastic decorations and professional staging to enhance our Christmas concerts and productions. A very big 'thank you' to Mr Horne, our site manager, who spent an entire weekend creating magic! We've had lots of lovely comments from parents about this, and also lots of positive comments on our recent parent questionnaire. So 'thank you' to all of those who responded; we'll share the results with you very soon.

Finally, I hope everybody has a fantastic Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all return in January, refreshed and ready to **LEARN, ASPIRE** and **ACHIEVE** on into the new year...

'So here it is, Merry Christmas...'



Sports Report

We hit a milestone event this half term: Our Year 3s played in our first ever inter-school fixture, held at our school, against Roman Hill Primary. We played several highly competitive games of Matball, which were all clearly enjoyed by the children from both schools. We are looking forward to this relationship blossoming in order to better prepare our children for future Schools Partnership run tournaments. This will also help us to become much more inclusive, allowing more children the opportunity of representing the school at a competitive level. The tournament was fantastic and our Year 3s displayed some great passing and receiving skills.



Our Year 6 football boys and girls travelled to Barnard's Meadow in a pathway event (which means winning the event gives qualification to County finals in Ipswich!). All of the children who participated in this tournament represented the school in a fantastic manner. There were 20 schools in the tournament; the boys came top in their group and they followed that up with a great performance in the semi-finals, which they won. This meant we were in the final! We had a fantastic match against Red Oak Primary but, unfortunately, we lost by the finest of margins, 3-2. The boys were incredibly resilient despite the result. Well done boys!



The girls team also played really well and finished 4th overall. This was another fantastic position to finish considering there were 20 schools involved - well done girls! Some of the girls are now in a football team outside of school, showing the extra value that PE and School Sports can offer.

Mr Hunt is holding another Year 5 and 6 Christmas sports club which the children can sign up to (the cost for the day is £15). There aren't many spaces left, so please book onto this as soon as possible, if your child is interested. The club will be on Friday 20th December.

We now have a new Instagram account for Woods Loke PE and Sports. This includes what the children do in PE on a day to day basis as well as crucial updates on tournaments and inter school competitions. Please *like* the content which is posted and give us a follow. The Instagram user name is **woods_loke_sports**. We are also running a before-school sports club in the new year. Please contact the office or Mr Hunt for more information. **(Mr Jones and Mr Hunt)**

OUR SCHOOL VISION

Our vision encapsulates what we all want Woods Loke Primary School to be, and this is the common goal that we'll all be working towards in the coming months and years...

Early Years

Reception have had a very busy half term. In phonics we have now finished learning all of our phase 2 sounds and have moved on to phase 3. The children are doing really well with their blending, segmenting and writing. In maths we have been focussing on numbers to 5, looking at 1 more and 1 less, sorting and grouping. We have had lots of different interests this half term. The children have really taken an interest in writing, especially creating story maps for familiar stories such as 'The Gruffalo' and 'The Three Little Pigs'. They have also been writing shopping lists for ingredients to make cakes. We walked to the shops to buy our ingredients then did our baking back at school, we even bought marshmallows to toast around a fire. Some children have been interested in creating their own books on a variety of animals, finding and printing the pictures they need and writing information about them. Other children have been busy making a wide range of models out of junk modelling based on their interests such as cars, robots and houses. Children are now beginning to make and label plans for their models in the construction area before building them. All of the children are now demonstrating Woods Loke Learner behaviours and are really carefully planning their own learning.



This half term in Nursery the children have been very busy engaging in lots of exciting learning experiences. A lot of children have been interested in writing their names, working hard on the letter formation. Some children transformed our home corner into a cafe serving food and drinks and writing signs and menus. The children initiated other role play areas including hairdressers, pets and a nativity stable. Earlier in the term the children took an interest in having their own campsite and we learnt how to make and light a fire. The children enjoyed having a go at lighting the fire and, once it was lit, they toasted their own marshmallows. Outside children have been constructing large bridges, challenging themselves to walk over them. Junk modelling has been popular with the children, they have been making things such as their own pets, rockets and handbags. During the last week of term some of the children will begin visiting Oulton Park Care Home where they will spend time with the residents. They will carry out activities with the residents and this will continue weekly in the new year.

Thank you all for your support this half term, especially with our Christmas Performances. We wish you a Merry Christmas and look forward to more fantastic learning in the new year.

OUR SCHOOL VISION

Our vision is for a school where everyone aspires to be the best they can be...

Years 1 and 2

Autumn term gone already! It has been a busy half term with lots of learning and quite a lot of fun, especially in the last week or two. We hope you all enjoyed the children's fantastic performances in 'Hey Ewe' as much as we did. The hard work and enthusiasm has been second to none. A big 'thank you' to children and staff, especially the Drama Club who gave that extra commitment. The Christmas party was another fun afternoon with games and just a few goodies to eat. Thank you for your donations.

As well as all of the above, there has been lots of learning going on. The development of speaking, listening and performing skills has been impressive through the play rehearsals and it is great to see the children's confidence grow. It has been a great opportunity for the children to achieve many of their objectives. Year 1 have had a geography focus with their learning being based around Africa. They have been using the book 'Handa's Hen' to inspire their writing. Also they have been looking at maps and atlases. Following their walk around the local environment, looking at different features, the children drew some very detailed maps of their own.



Migration has been the topic in Year 2, inspired by the Julia Donaldson book 'Follow the Swallow'. Many skills have been developed from this, including researching using search engines and then creating PowerPoints to share their information. Geography has also been a focus, using maps and atlases to follow the paths across continents, countries and climate zones of a variety of migrating animals. We also carried out investigations to find evidence about why plants might not germinate or grow in different climates (Well, we used the fridge!). A highlight has been Art and DT with an amazing team effort in both classes to create our own



'Great Migrations' inspired by the painting by wildlife artist Jason Morgan. Finally, we have honed DT skills with our fabulous string puppet birds.

Wishing you all a relaxing Christmas break.

OUR SCHOOL VISION

...A school where children can grow into happy, safe, confident individuals, inspired by a dynamic and innovative curriculum which celebrates diversity, creativity and curiosity...

Years 3 and 4

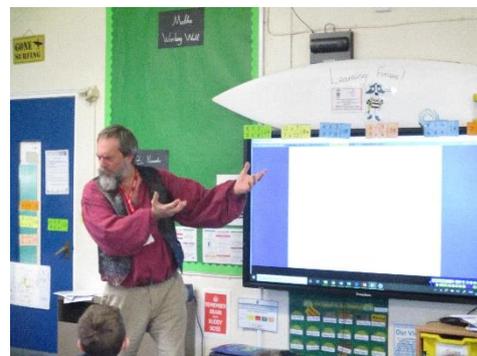
We have had a wonderful half term with lots of action packed events in years 3 and 4. Story tellers, dance workshops, share events, parties and concerts, all making school extra enjoyable and Woods Loke a great place to be.

Year 3 have taken themselves off on a journey of learning led by the children. They started the half term with a trip to the cinema to see the film 'Abominable', as this was also their focus book. The children became fascinated with the Himalayas so they started to



study the mountain range and surrounding countries. Following this, India became their main topic focus; looking at the culture, food, dance, as well as the history of the British Raj. The children have learnt about the different Indian festivals, such as Diwali. They studied the story of Rama and Sita, wrote their own versions of the story and performed their own plays. To add to the Indian learning, the children have been learning about exciting Indian dance and music. The children were treated to a fantastic Indian dance workshop where they learnt traditional dance.

Both Year 4 classes have been sharing the same topic this half term; 'The Story Teller'. We kicked off the unit of work by inviting in a professional story teller, Andy Jennings. He told enchanting stories that were vividly brought to life with energy and enthusiasm, showing the children how stories could be delivered to a high and entertaining standard. After his visit, the children then set to work to create their own



wonderful stories. First of all, they looked at the basic structure of stories, looking at texts they were familiar with. Then they studied how to create vivid descriptions of settings and character using different writing tools. To assist this stage of writing the children used their focus piece of music, 'Hall of the Mountain King', as inspiration for their settings. Once the scene was set, they then turned their focus to building suspense by withholding detail, using repetition and including ellipsis in their writing. Then creating thrilling climaxes and endings, trying to make the reader want more. The final event for the term is set to be the re-telling of these stories to both twinned Year 1 classes. So to make sure we were going to do this well, we had a second visit from our professional story teller, giving every group individualised delivery tips and ideas on how to really make their stories entertaining!

OUR SCHOOL VISION

...A school with dedicated and committed staff who work together to inspire, encourage and support all who learn here...

Years 5 and 6

In Years 5 and 6 this half term, we have been learning about The Vikings! The children began the topic with a mystery box containing several Viking artefacts. The children were history detectives and had to explore what the artefacts might have been used for and what the objects tell us about life during the Viking period.

We also began our topic by using a range of sources to learn about what life was like for the Anglo-Saxons before the Vikings arrived. Pupils learned about foods which were grown and how important farming was to their survival. The use of farm land provided the pupils with a link to understand why the Vikings first invaded in 793AD, to gain control of land in our country when the land in Scandinavia was so scarce. Next, the pupils learnt about King Alfred and why he was named 'Alfred the Great.' The children discussed the impact of his reign on the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. The pupils considered how other Kings learned from him and a timeline was created showing the main events associated with this time.



The main focus for our learning this term though, has been how the Vikings used longboats to travel to our country for their invasion. As part of our art and design technology lessons, we have learnt about how animal designs were used in early Viking artwork along with patterns including Viking knots. The children used this knowledge to design and make their own sails for a Viking longboat. Thanks to Smith Bros in Oulton Broad for their

wood donations, the children had an opportunity to construct their own Viking ship. They had to use a saw to create oars or a platform for their boats. They have also thought about how their longboats could withstand arrows by placing shields along the edges.

To complete our topic, the Year 5 and 6 pupils visited the Time and Tide Museum in Great Yarmouth. The children took part in four different workshops including packing and travelling on a longboat, looking at weapons used by the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons, brooch making and they even took part in a Viking battle with shields and axes! It was a great day out and really complimented our learning for this topic. A huge thank you to the pupils for their enthusiasm and good behaviour on the trip, to the Year 5 and 6 Staff, Office Staff and Kitchen Staff for all their help in planning and organising the trip, and to the Parents for all their support with this event.



OUR SCHOOL VISION

...A school where we work in partnership with our families, our Governors and our community to promote a life-long love of learning...

The Woodlands



We have had such a busy and exciting term. The children were able to share the experience of sparklers with sound, sight, movement and then write about their thoughts. Providing opportunities like this enabled the children to experience learning using their senses and this supported them in developing depth in their writing.

Throughout this term we have been learning about stories. We have sequenced them and found out about the parts of them. We used this to create our own story with characters, settings and plots. We then acted them out using drama, before writing them.

In maths we have been mastering skills through applying our learning in other contexts, such as using number bonds to work out how to pay for things. We have also become more confident in independently completing activities and finding the resources we need to solve problems. We have enjoyed answering questions about 2D and 3D shapes.

We have had lots of fun with the build up to the Christmas holidays. Cooking is always a big hit



and making and decorating Pudsey Bear biscuits was one of our favourite activities. If parents have any spare cooking equipment that you would like to donate to us we would be very grateful. We are in need of bowls and utensils but any donations would be wonderful - Thank you!

We are really proud of all our Woodland learners as they have challenged themselves to be the best they can. They have become resilient, confident and independent. Well done everyone!

Our team are dedicated to supporting children and their families. Please can we take this opportunity to thank you for your support and wish you all a happy Christmas break. We look forward to exciting learning adventures in the new year.



OUR SCHOOL VISION

... Learn, Aspire, Achieve

From the School Council..

Over the Summer holidays, the tree in the pond was lifted out by a crane, which was kindly provided and organised by Hope Hetherington's family. So thank you very much Hope for helping to get this to happen. The tree was then sawed up and redistributed! So the pond project team are now even more inspired to get the pond development moving, ready for the Summer term. They have been out measuring the pond to get exact measurements for materials. We have a company ready to do some landscaping, but need to raise some more money for this to happen. So following on from the success of the amazing bake sale we had in the Summer term, the pond project team will be organising another cake sale event early in the Spring term and hope very much to count on receiving your support.

On Monday 18th November, the School Council met with School Governors for a lovely afternoon tea. The Governors were very impressed with the children and lots of ideas were shared together. It is becoming an official highlight for both the Governors and the School



Council! The School Council are very pleased with the reusable bags that they have organised as a fundraiser and thank everyone who ordered one, as the money raised will, as always, go towards helping to make Woods Loke an even better place to be. (Mrs. Barratt)

Over to You...

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FORM

As part of our commitment to inform and consult with parents, we very much value your opinions and suggestions. Do you have any ideas for changes or improvements? Please feel free to let us know by using this form, or alternatively, you can always come and see me in person. After all, if we don't know about it, we can't help to make things better.

This authority is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Mrs Norman is responsible for safeguarding at Woods Loke Primary school. (Mrs Paisley and Mrs Adams are alternative DSLs)