



# Learn, Aspire, Achieve

## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2018

As the days begin to get lighter and the sun makes a welcome re-appearance, Spring is the perfect time to look forward with optimism, and here at Woods Loke we have several things to look forward to next term. Firstly, there is our imminent conversion to an Academy which is due to take place on 1<sup>st</sup> April. The process has been smooth and straightforward and our hope is that, when you return after Easter, you won't notice any difference; the school will continue to be the same as it is now and we will be free to forge our own destiny as an independent establishment. Secondly, at the end of April, we'll be celebrating Woods Loke's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Plans are already in place to make this a memorable occasion and we're hoping you'll all be able to join us for the celebrations; there will be more details coming home nearer the time. And finally, there are all those small improvements that are not always noticed immediately. So with that in mind, this newsletter contains some information about some of the recent developments we've implemented throughout the past term. Whilst continuing to look forward, it's also good to take a moment to look back at some of the things that have been achieved.

Finally, we'd like to wish everyone a peaceful and restful Easter break, and we look forward to seeing you all return in April ready to **LEARN, ASPIRE** and **ACHIEVE** on into the Summer term and beyond. Happy holidays to you all!

## Books and More Books!

Here at Woods Loke we firmly believe that reading is the most important skill a child can learn and that a love of books is vital for that skill to develop to its full potential. We are equally aware that primary school is the perfect setting to celebrate a love of books and that children should have the opportunity to access a wide range of high quality texts. As you know, we have been busy recently, expanding and revitalising our school library and now we've gone one step further. You may be aware that, sadly, Suffolk's School Library Service is due to close, depriving schools of a fantastic source of new books. However, we have been able to take advantage of this situation. Thanks to your generous support at various fundraising events, we have used our PTFA funds to purchase 2,500 brand new books for our library! Not only that, but we have also appointed an experienced and enthusiastic school librarian. Mrs Williams comes to us direct from the Schools Library Service where she ran the whole North Suffolk area. Naturally we are very excited about this opportunity and I know that Mrs Williams can't wait to get started - her first job will be to sort all those books out!

# Some Recent Developments



2,500 new books, waiting to be sorted!

The new entrance to our library



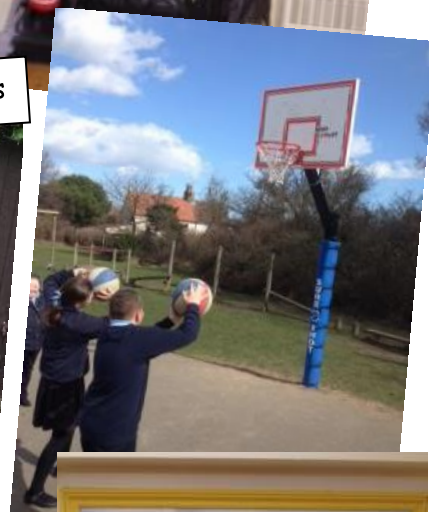
Miss Wells, our new sports leader, running a game of basketball at lunchtime



Some of our new lunchtime activities



Nursery and Reception children enjoying some of our new outdoor equipment



Our new 'Learner of the Week' displays

## 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

There has been some fantastic learning going on in Early Years this half term. We have been lucky enough to have had eggs in our department. We had many predictions from nursery about what could be inside the eggs including crocodiles, unicorns and owls! I think the children were slightly disappointed when they realised it was actually chicks hatching out! The children did some brilliant counting, including a little bit of addition, working out how many eggs had hatched and how many were left. We enjoyed observing the changes in the chicks as they grew. They have now gone to live on Mrs Emmerson's farm.



Nursery have been very busy this half term learning all about spring. We began the term by thinking about which animals come out of eggs and the children had a go at drawing what they would like to find hatch out of one. There has been a lot of role play happening over the last few weeks, with the children enjoying going camping and visiting the garden centre. We have also been focussing a lot on baby animals and the names of their young, which led us on to exploring the book 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. The children have made their own story maps and versions of the book which they have enjoyed sharing with the class at story time. We also went on a nature walk, collecting natural materials to create our own butterfly. As the weather has started to warm up we are now beginning to make the most of our new outdoor equipment which is being built by Mr Sprules. We are already starting to see an improvement in the children's gross motor skills!

Reception have also been very busy this half term, learning all about what makes a Superhero. They enjoyed sharing and discussing the books 'Superworm' and 'Super Daisy' and acting out their own superhero stories in the role play area. The children discussed how they could become superheroes and what super powers they would have and why! We have also been learning about Spring. We observed the signs of Spring around the school on our Spring walk and we learnt about baby animals, including our very own chicks! In Maths, we have learnt to compare and measure different objects and sequenced events linked to time. We have also continued to develop number skills to twenty and beyond. The children have been developing their independent writing skills by writing for a variety of purposes around the setting. We have used our knowledge of materials and techniques to create symmetrical string patterns and Mother's day and Easter cards.

A big thank you to all of the parents who attended our spring themed stay and play this half term, the children loved having the opportunity to share their learning environment with you and show you what they are capable of.

## OUR SCHOOL VISION

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

# Years 1 and 2

This half term began with all classes being science detectives using microscopes provided as a free resource to schools for a term by the Royal Microscope Society. There were lots of 'WOWs' as children looked at all sorts of materials under magnification.



Snow angels, snowmen and snow balls were the name of the game for grown-ups and children alike on our first snowy day. It was hard to know who had more fun, so much so that we had to stretch playtime just that little bit longer.

Year Two have been busy continuing their topic of 'On the Move' with the focus moving to the invention and changes in different types of transport. There has been a Papier Mache frenzy with the end result of very attractive hot air balloons and an investigation into how they work. As well this, there has been some really good team work using cross curricular skills of DT, an understanding of forces, engineering as well as artistic design. The challenge was to create the tallest bus that travelled the furthest. Thank you for all the cereal boxes as these were integral for this. It was a real opportunity for children to recognise how to test, evaluate and improve their work in a practical and fun way. The winning result was amazing and we all had great fun with a lot of sticky tape!

Year One have been very busy with their topic of Superheroes. They been enjoying the book 'Super Worm' and have produced some lovely writing based on that. There have been some great sequels to the story.

In science Year One have been investigating which materials would be the best to make waterproof superhero capes, as well as creating and then painting some fantastic new heroes. Linked with their Superheroes topic, Year One have been studying the life of real life superhero Florence Nightingale. Children took part in some role play activities to understand what conditions were like at Scutari Hospital and all of the hard work Florence and her nurses put in to improve conditions for the soldiers. The children have produced some lovely non-fiction writing on this topic and shared lots of great knowledge during our discussions; thanks to the support of parents with their homework task.

We hope everyone has a great Easter break with some warmer weather and we are looking forward to the action-packed summer term which kicks off with our trip to the Transport Museum.

## 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

Both Years 3 and 4 have had an interesting half term getting stuck into two very different topics; Dinosaurs for Year 3 and Chocolate for Year 4. Each topic has provided opportunities for creativity in the form of writing and art.

Year 3 began the half term researching dinosaurs and building on their already fantastic dinosaur knowledge. They studied the different types of dinosaurs and where they were found, as well as the fossilisation process. One key aspect to their research was the importance of separating fact from fiction and how you need to find your facts from different sources. To help build their knowledge and help their reading skills, the children did lots of work on their reading comprehension based around dinosaurs.

Year 3 have done lots of work looking at instructional texts; reading and writing about how to trap dinosaurs as well as how to make dinosaur cookies... and you can't write about dinosaur cookies without making them as well!

Catering to their creativity, the children were given the opportunity to describe their own prehistoric setting, creating some wonderful pieces of writing. They were also tasked with describing their own dinosaur! These new dinosaurs were then brought to life by being modelled into clay.



Year 4 began the half term looking at the growth and production of the Coco Bean; giving the children an insight into different countries around the world that inhabit the 'Chocolate Belt'. Coinciding with Fair Trade Fortnight, this provided a springboard to the ethical issues of trade and how the consumer can make the choice to shop with the producer in mind.

After looking at the production of the main raw materials for chocolate, we then studied the manufacturing process. The children produced informative non-fiction pieces of writing outlining the methods used to make chocolate products.



Of course you can't study chocolate without reading 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. This was used to spark the children's imaginations, helping them create wonderfully descriptive pieces of writing describing their own fantasy chocolate factories and magical chocolate bars. This writing also led to some great artwork, where the children used shading techniques to sketch their factories and use computing to create the wrappers for their bars.

## 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

Years 5 and 6 have been dancing through the decades this half term! As a topic studying Britain since 1948, we have looked at how the end of WWII changed our country. In particular, our work has included a focus on what life was like between 1950 and 2000.

Each of the decades has been a focus for our History, Art, Design/Technology, Music, Computing and English lessons. Pupils have directed their learning, choosing from themes such as famous people, famous events, fashion, music, technology, toys/games, food and homes to research what life was like during these decades. As a result of their research, the children in Years 5 and 6 have produced excellent pieces of work including information texts, adverts and art work linked to the topic. As each of the decades were studied, music from these years could be heard in our classes! Many of the pupils were surprised at how many songs they had heard before!



Hearing the music played from each decade has been the inspiration behind our 'decades' finale! To celebrate the end of our topic, Years 5 and 6 are taking part in a Decades Extravaganza on the last day of term. Each class has been given a decade to work with. The pupils and staff will be dressing in clothes from their decade and performing songs in a special concert. After the concert has taken place, each class will be dancing through the decades, having been practising dance classics such as 'Agadoo', 'Saturday Night' and 'Superman'. This promises to be a superb end to one of our favourite topics!



## 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...

# Special Educational Needs

This week it is Autism Awareness Week. Each class will be carrying out an activity linking to this event during the week. More information on this can be found on The National Autism Society website at [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)

In school, we have quite a few pupils who have a diagnosis of autism or demonstrate some traits which may be characteristic of a child with autism. Many of the strategies that we put in place for these pupils benefit many children in the class. For example, most classes use a visual timetable so that pupils can see what is happening at each stage during the day. We use a range of visual strategies with all children to remind them about positive behaviour choices when we are in school. Items such as sand timers are also useful for all pupils to see clearly how much time is left to complete an activity or to help to prepare them for a change of activity. The school also benefits from support from the County Inclusion Support Service. This service helps to support pupils with a range of difficulties, including children with a diagnosis of autism.



Mrs Paisley and Mrs Adams, from our Pastoral Support Team, have been discussing groups for next term with the SEN Team. We will be making some changes to our personal, social and emotional groups after Easter and if we feel that this would be beneficial for your child we will write to you about this.

Next term we are hoping to continue to support pupils with anxiety. The YMCA group have offered to help to start some transition work with some of our Year 6 pupils. The school nurse will also be continuing to offer the anxiety group to a small number of our pupils. Mrs Paisley and Mrs Adams will also be taking part in some training after Easter to become Mental Health Champions. This will add to their skills in school when supporting pupils with mental health difficulties.

## Online Safety

With the Easter holidays approaching, we felt that this would be a good opportunity to remind parents about the importance of online safety. Recently we have become aware of a new app called 'Fortnite' which is becoming increasingly popular with children and which has the potential to cause possible safety concerns. We would recommend that parents visit [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com) which contains a parents' guide to 'Fortnite' alongside a wealth of information, advice and tips on how to ensure children remain safe online.

### OUR SCHOOL VISION

... Learn, Aspire, Achieve

# Summer Uniform

Before the children return for the Summer term, we would like to take this opportunity to politely remind all parents about our expectations around school uniform:

- *All pupils should be in navy trousers or dresses/skirts, pale blue polo shirts and navy sweatshirts, navy socks and black school shoes. Summer dresses will be allowed for the Summer term but must be navy and white checked dresses, not playsuits*
- *Our policy states that hair should not be extreme in style or colour - this includes brightly dyed hair and shaved lines and patterns*
- *PE kits must consist of navy shorts/jogging trousers and navy PE shirts*

Also, we have an increasing number of children coming to school in trainers, which is not part of our dress code, and wearing incorrect uniform. We do not expect pupils to have all their uniform with logos, but do expect them to be of the correct colour and style.

If you have any questions regarding uniform, please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff.

## 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.

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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. Mr Crawley is responsible for safeguarding at Woods Loke Primary school. (Mrs. Marchand and Mrs. Paisley are alternative DSLs).