



Learn, Aspire, Achieve

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2017

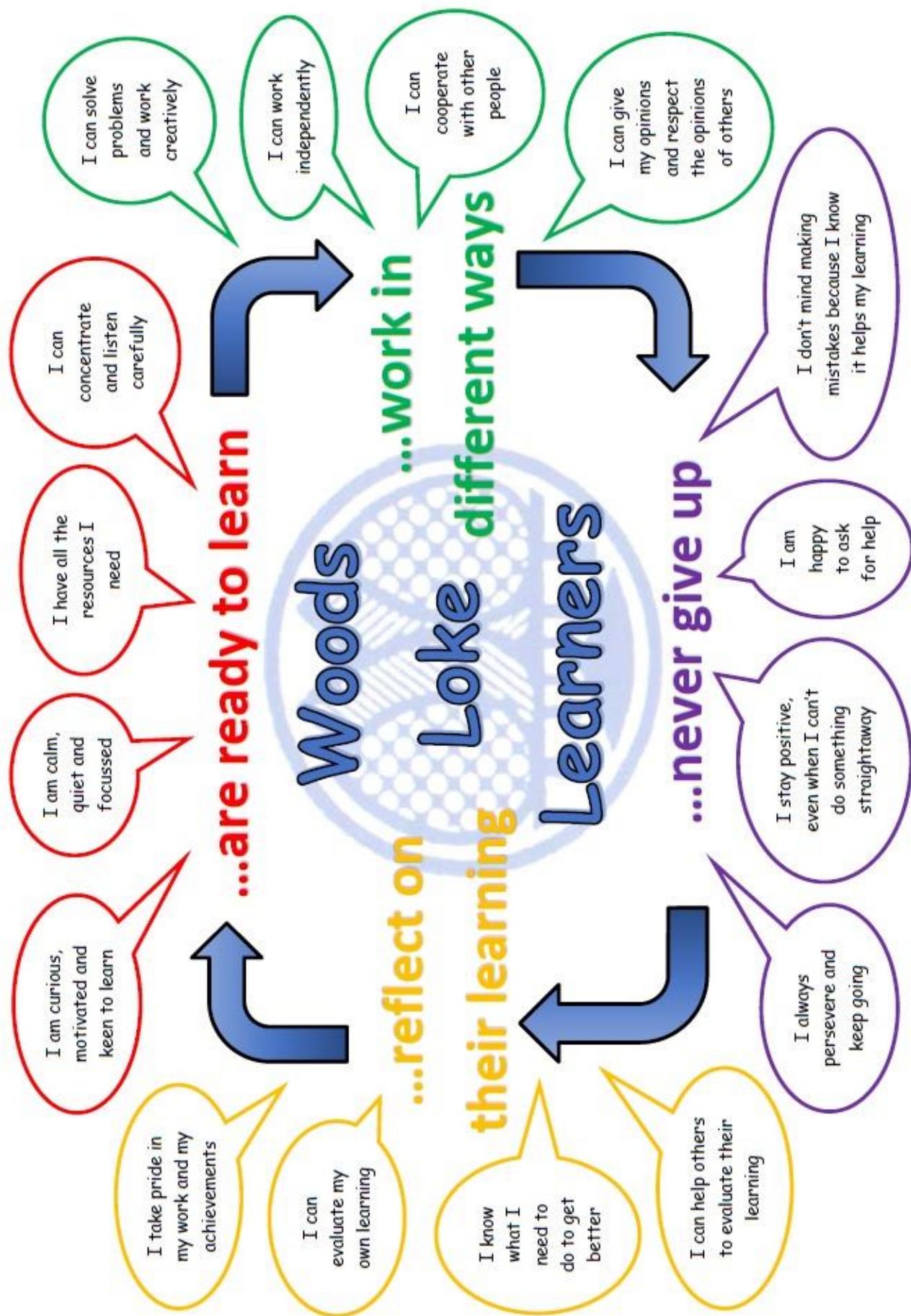
Can you believe we're halfway through the school year already?! In some respects, the time seems to have flown by, but when we look back and reflect on all the things that have happened since September, we seem to have packed an awful lot in to such a short space of time! I'm hoping you've all been able to attend parents' evenings this week and found the meetings helpful and informative. As I mentioned last term, we are very keen to engage with and listen to parents, so please come and chat to me in the playground or fill in the 'Comments and Suggestions' slip on the back of this newsletter. We have already made some changes in response to the Parent Questionnaire feedback. Several of you mentioned that our after school clubs programme was focussed mainly on sport, so this term we've launched Singing, Drama, Ukulele and Spanish clubs. We will continue to listen and respond whenever possible; after all, it's only by working together in partnership that we can ensure all our children **LEARN, ASPIRE** and **ACHIEVE** to their fullest potential.

Woods Loke Learners

As I'm sure you're aware, learning is our number one priority at Woods Loke and, as a staff team, we spend a great deal of time thinking about and developing the ways we can help our children to learn more effectively. Something we have been discussing recently is 'learning behaviours' or 'learning how to learn'. If children know the key skills and behaviours that will enable them to learn more effectively, these can then be applied to any lesson and any subject to enhance their learning. With this as our aim, as a staff team, we developed a learning cycle that was simple, yet encapsulated what good learners do: Woods Loke learners...

- ... are ready to learn
- ... work in different ways
- ... never give up
- ... reflect on their learning

We then broke down these behaviours into smaller sections, showing exactly what the children need to do and what each behaviour looks like in action. These learning behaviours have been introduced to everybody across the whole school, in lessons, in assemblies and through displays. We have included a copy of the display over the page for you to have a look at. Please spend some time talking about it with your children and help us to help everyone throughout the school to aspire to be a Woods Loke Learner!



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

Over the last half term we have been learning about the author Julia Donaldson and some of the books she has written. The children showed great interest when learning the stories 'Stick Man', 'Leaf Man' and 'The Gruffalo'. The children were keen to undertake follow-up activities linked to these books. They have produced some wonderful pieces of creative independent writing, with their letter formation and grammar skills progressing very well! We have also focused on rhyming words and creating our very own rhyming strings. In maths we have continued to develop our number recognition skills. We have also been learning about addition, positional language and 3D shapes.



We continue to strive to develop the children's curiosity and scientific problem solving skills as part of our daily practice. The children have had much joy undertaking nature walks to find their very own stick men and we have investigated a variety of materials to discover which are opaque, transparent and translucent. We have been treasure hunting, found hidden objects and discussed what they could be used for. One recent problem solving challenge was to create a bridge so that the plastic animals could escape from their small world table! The children used an array of resources to best do this, ensuring that the bridge didn't break in the middle!

The children have also been working, as a team, when cooking biscuits and experimenting in creating different mixtures on the investigation table.



During Spring 2 we will be focussing on the Traditional Tale of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and the 'Harry and the Dinosaurs' series of books by Ian Whybrow. In addition, we will also look at poetry and link this to Mother's Day. We will go on nature walks around the school to learn about, and explain, how plants grow. We will also plant seeds to observe changes. In Literacy, we will be sequencing the events of the stories and retelling parts of the stories in our own words. We will compare the different 'Harry and the Dinosaur' books, noting similarities and differences. Children will be writing their own short poem during our week of poetry. In Maths, we will continue to develop our number recognition, particularly focusing on 11-20, and start to look at doubling and halving. We will learn to measure the length of objects, and begin to use language associated with money. We will also learn about the Christian festivals of Shrove Tuesday, Mother's Day, Easter and the Hindu festival of Holi. The children will continue to work through Phase 3 phonics and build upon their segmenting and blending skills.

OUR SCHOOL VISION

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

Years 1 and 2

The Spring term started with lots of excitement with both Year 1 and Year 2 going on their trips to Norwich Castle. All the children were excellent and the staff were very proud of them. There was so much to see and do that we could have stayed even longer. Everyone received a complementary entry, so please do try and make use of this as it was really worthwhile for the children. A big thank you, as always, for your contributions and to the volunteers on the days as, without you, trips could not go ahead.



Another day of real awe and wonder was our show with Professor Brainstorm. Key Stage One saw 'MAGICAL SCIENCE' where we watched and helped in many demonstrations that appeared to be magical. However, he clearly explained the science underpinning the experiments so there was lots of learning and scientific vocabulary behind the fun! Also, a huge amount of cheering and gasps of amazement!

Our new topic 'To Infinity and Beyond' has really sparked enthusiasm with the children. Using Buzz Lightyear's catch phrase, we are finding out about people who have stepped out and explored the unknown such as the first people into space and great explores like Christopher Columbus and Scott. There has been lots of role play and hot seating, trying to imagine what it might be like to make *such small steps, but giant leaps* into the unknown as Neil Armstrong. Children have also thought about when they have, or may in the future, experience unknown things and how they can manage them.

Children have linked printing in Art with our topic and Year 2 have some really creative work on display. Year 2 have also made meteorites in the form of yummy Rock Cakes!

We are looking forward to continuing our topic, making pancakes, and warmer weather so we can get outside for PE again.



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

It's been a great start to the new year with lots of wonderful learning. The children have really taken to our new topic, 'Save Our Planet'. We began by looking at all the beautiful qualities of our natural environment and why these were worth saving. We then moved on to discussing the different threats that face the natural world. The children became very passionate about learning what they can do to help stop or reduce their impact on the environment. In addition, we have looked at sources of energy; considering the negative effects of non-renewable sources, as well as the benefits and limitations of renewable sources.

We have linked our learning through this topic by taking the children's knowledge of recycling and applying this to Art and Design Technology. The children looked at the work of HA Schult, who made 'Trash People', and Sarah-Jane van der Westhuizen. They then used the work of the famous artist as inspiration for their own recycled art.



Keeping on the recycling theme, we had a visit from FCC Environment who run the recycling centre on the South Lowestoft Industrial Estate. They were able to help the children recognise what happens to our waste and how it can be recycled and reused. FCC is running a competition for the children to submit a poster to encourage recycling.

In English, Year 3 have been learning about the structure of Haikus and Tankas and had a go at making their own. They have also enjoyed writing alternative fairy tales such as 'The Three Bad Little Pigs and the Big Nice Wolf'. Being given the opportunity to write their own, their imaginations have run wild, with the children producing such gems as little 'Little Red Riding Hood Goes to Tesco'!

Year 4 have been enjoying using 'Harry Potter & the Philosophers' Stone' and 'The BFG' as inspiration for their own writing. Being given the opportunity to write about their own fantasy setting has resulted in some amazingly imaginative pieces of work.



Tuesday the 7th February was national 'Safer Internet Day'. The children really enjoyed looking at how to use the internet safely and how to be an 'upstander' if they see friends making unkind comments. The children were also given a selection of photos to discuss; they were surprised to hear some were fake! This led to a good discussion about what is real and what is fake on the internet.

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

Year 5 and Year 6 have made a settled return to school following the Christmas break. Our current topic is called The Victorians and the children are enjoying finding out about what life was like in the past. The children have found out the differences between how the rich and poor lived and the effect Queen Victoria's reign had on the country. Children have already studied Victorian childhood, including the jobs and roles they carried out in this era. Victorian workhouses, schools and transport are being researched and then pupils are going to complete presentations based on their findings. All our art lessons are linked to Victorians too. The children are studying the work of William Morris and have created their own printing examples in his style. Our topic is culminating in a trip to an original Victorian workhouse, called Gressenhall. Here, the children will get to play detectives to solve a murder mystery as well as finding out what life was like in the workhouse.



Year 6 are particularly busy preparing for the upcoming SATs tests. In the last few weeks the children have taken their mocks, to allow them the chance to experience the formality of the test. This has given teachers a chance to analyse each pupils' paper and discover their areas of strength and weaknesses, which will then inform our planning and our discussions at Parents' Evening. Many, many booster groups are taking place outside the English and Maths lesson

too, to boost the children's skills and confidence in Maths, Reading and SPaG. Many of these booster groups will be taking place after school.

There have been many sporting achievements in year 6 this term too. Year 6 came second, out of 25 schools in the indoor athletics tournament, held at the sports centre. The children had to take part in many events including long jump, triple jump, relay races, javelin throwing and shot put. Year 6 were also the winners at a basketball tournament, held at Pakefield High School. Again, the children played brilliantly and won many games. At all these events, the children have shown great determination and brilliant sportsman/womanship.



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

Mrs Marchand and Mrs Goddard share the role of SENCO at Woods Loke Primary School and we work on the following days:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	Mrs Marchand	Mrs Marchand	Mrs Goddard	Mrs Goddard	Mrs Marchand
PM	Mrs Marchand	Mrs Goddard	Mrs Goddard	Mrs Goddard	Mrs Marchand

If you have a concern regarding Special Educational Needs, please ask to talk to your child's class teacher in the first instance. Following this discussion, we have a number of steps that may be put into place to support your child further in school. These could include:

- Putting additional strategies into place in the classroom such as additional adult support, an individual reward chart or extra visual strategies
- Arranging a further meeting to include one of the school SENCOs
- Completing some further individual assessments or observations of the pupil
- Putting into place additional intervention work, with an adult in school, to help with any difficulties
- Considering whether an IEP (Individual Education Plan) or an IBP (Individual Behaviour Plan) would be helpful
- Monitoring and assessing the progress of the pupil
- Meeting with parents to discuss progress / next steps / further difficulties
- After assessing the pupil, and providing support in school, it may be useful to consider referring the pupil to a more specialised outside agency for further support and advice. (We have a school procedure for referring pupils to outside agencies which our SENCOs can talk through if needed)
- The SENCOs are also able to provide written information to help support parents who are seeking further help from their GP or a Paediatrician. This can help to outline any difficulties that the pupil may be experiencing at school
- The Pastoral Support Worker, Mrs Paisley, is also able to offer advice and strategies regarding any difficulties your child may be experiencing at home, such as bedtime routines

You can contact Mrs Marchand, Mrs Goddard or Mrs Paisley by phoning through to the school office and requesting a meeting or phone call.

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... Learn, Aspire, Achieve

