



Education Setting of the Year... almost!

As we reach the end of another school year, it's an ideal opportunity to look back and reflect on all the successes and achievements of the past year. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we were delighted to learn that our school had been nominated as one of three finalists in Suffolk's 'Education Setting of the Year' award. Mr Sparks and I attended the awards ceremony a week ago where our school was highly praised, but, alas, we didn't win... However, to be regarded as one of the top three Primary settings in the whole of Suffolk is an achievement to be proud of, and of course, it gives us extra incentive to keep getting better; we'll aim to win it next year!

Education Setting of the Year isn't just about just one thing of course, and it certainly isn't about the building, it encompasses our school community as a whole. It's about our ethos of caring for each and every child as an individual; our encouragement and celebration of learning behaviours, designed to make every child the best learner they can be; the freedom we give teachers to teach exciting, creative and dynamic lessons, and our rich curriculum which places just as much importance on music, art and sport as it does on reading, writing and maths. And it's about academic success of course. Our strapline '**LEARN, ASPIRE, ACHIEVE**' is something we live by day to day, and our children have certainly achieved this year. Not only were our results for Early Years, Phonics and Year 2 all higher than the national average, but this year's Year 6 SATs results were fantastic - 75% of our children achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths combined, compared with the national average of 65%.

The reasons for all these successes are, of course, our wonderful children, our supportive parents, and our talented, committed and dedicated staff, each one of whom goes above and beyond the call of duty every single day. That's why we were nominated for Education Setting of the Year and that's why we'll continue to strive for excellence next year and beyond. So, 'thank you' to you all, and have a fantastic summer!



'Welcomes' and 'Farewells'

The end of an academic year is often a time to say 'goodbye' to staff who will be leaving us for pastures new, as well as welcoming some new faces who will be joining us in September, and this year is no different.

Firstly, we are sadly saying 'goodbye' to Mr Lea who is heading off on an exciting new adventure, teaching in Dubai. Year 6 will certainly miss his brilliant teaching, infectious personality and his own particular brand of humour, and it's safe to say that the staff room won't be the same next year either... We wish him all the very best for the future.



Secondly, Miss Reynolds, our Early Years teaching assistant, is setting off on the rewarding road to becoming a teacher. She starts her training in September, but she'll soon be back with us as she'll be doing one of her placements with us in Year 1.

Two new members of staff will be joining us in our Nursery next year. Miss Ebony Theaker arrives from



'The Attic' in Carlton Colville, together with Mr Harry Franklin, who is a familiar face as he's been volunteering with us for the past two years. We'd like to welcome them both to the team and we look forward to working with them in September.



Finally, we're delighted that Mrs Brooks and Mr Hunt will both be working with us full time from next year. Mrs Brooks has transformed our library this year, and will now be able to work on even more exciting ideas to promote reading across the school, as well as ensuring that the library is a bustling hive of activity every day of the week. And, as you've no doubt read in these pages, Mr Hunt has had a huge impact on the quality of sports provision that we offer our children and that can only increase as he spends each and every day with us next year.



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

Nursery have had a fantastic half term. You can really see now how far each and every one of them have come since joining us. We are so impressed with their writing this year - we have never had a year group like it! The children are keen to write about anything and everything, from shopping lists, their families, to song lyrics! As the weather has been much warmer a lot of the children have spent the majority of their time outside. They have enjoyed growing tomatoes, carrots, strawberries and runner beans. The children have ensured they have been watered and well looked after. We are now starting to enjoy tasting these different vegetables. There has also been a big interest in minibeasts, we have had many bug hunts and we have also created a bug hotel out of pallets. We are so proud of the nursery children and everything they have achieved this year. We have had a brilliant year together and hope the children have had as much fun as we have!



In Reception this half term, the children have been very busy and productive; the progress they have made this year is amazing to see! They have become independent and reflective learners, eager to take on new challenges and extend their learning further. We have enjoyed a range of stories, including 'Billy's Bucket', 'What the Ladybird Heard', 'Handa's Surprise', 'All Afloat on Noah's Boat' and 'The Rainbow Fish'. Through these stories we have learnt about rhyme, sharing, minibeasts and under the sea. The children have all developed their writing, with most now writing extended pieces independently. Our art work was linked to 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa' and the children produced their own versions using a wax resist technique. We also learnt the song 'Yellow Submarine' and had great fun singing it and creating our own submarine. In maths, we have been focussing on subtraction, doubling, halving, sharing, capacity, grouping in 2s, 5s and 10s and time. We have had a super year and wish the children all the best moving up to Year 1!

All of EYFS have enjoyed a visit to Thrigby Hall this half term. We saw tigers, crocodiles, monkeys, red pandas and many more! The children were all so well behaved and a credit to the school. We spent the day in our small groups looking at the different animals and learning facts about them, the children loved every minute of it. For most of them their favourite part was the coach! The children did so well, carrying their bags all day and walking all the way around the park, we are sure they all slept well that evening!



OUR SCHOOL VISION

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

Years 1 and 2

As we come to the end of a successful year it is good to reflect on how much progress children have made in so many areas since September. At transition meetings between this year and next year's teachers, this has been the consistent, positive message. All the children deserve to feel proud of their achievements.

Taking time to look back at this last half term of the year there has been no let-up in active and focused learning.

Year 2 concluded their Great Fire of London topic with re-enactments of the event, both as a mini play and a real burning of London! The fire brigade came to visit us to discuss fire safety and show us the efficiency of modern fire engines in extinguishing our fire in seconds, not days as in 1666!



Year 2 also went on a fantastic trip to Carlton Marshes where they took part in dyke dipping, bug hunting and orienteering, to name a few activities. The learning on the day and since in our topic work has been inspiring to see. We have been exploring habitats and food chains, as well as making our own dragonflies.

Year One have been no less busy creating 'Flanimals', writing descriptions of their creatures as well as creating really detailed clay models. As part of their work about animals, Mrs Clarke brought visitors to school. Her tortoises and two guinea pigs were a definite hit with the children and stimulated a lot of questioning and discussion.



Sports afternoon was a great success with sunshine contributing to the lovely atmosphere. I am still recovering from running the obstacle course! Again, all children gave their very best, showing excellent Woods Loke learning behaviours and sportsmanship.

We all had another great and busy couple of afternoons at our share events. There was a bit of a theme with Year 1 making habitats for their clay flanimals and Year 2 making minibeast sock puppets. Thank you for all the adult support working alongside the children.

Finally, we would like to wish Year 2 all the best as they move on to Key stage 2 and also, we look forward to welcoming our new classes as they move to Year 2 or join us from Reception.

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

Well, another year has now come to a close and children and staff are ready for a well-deserved rest. The final half term has been full of interesting things for all to get stuck into...

The start of the half term was kicked off by Sports Day. The event had a different approach to previous years with Year 3 competing in the morning and Year 4 in the afternoon. In addition, there was a greater variety of events with the 80m sprint, shotput, standing long jump, hurdles and javelin; not forgetting the inter-team tug of war tournament to top off both occasions. As children scored points for their teams in each event, the team who finished with the most points at the end was Blue Team for Year 3 and 4! Well done to all those who took part!



Year 3's new topic was based on the picture book 'Journey' by Aaron Becker. Year 3 children looked at the art work in the book and sketched in his style. Moving their work towards English skills, they then wrote what they thought may happen next at various points of the story. As well as, writing their own story as if we they had found a magic crayon. This provoked great discussion with the children thinking 'what would we draw, what would we do and where would our journey take us?' Linking this learning to their share day, Year 3 worked with parents to generate their own maps of the Journey described in Aaron Becker's books using arts and crafts to add interesting features.

Year 4 decided to take the children's learning in different directions this half term. 4JW decided they were going to make a broadcasting studio, Studio 4JW. The children were taught how we make news, leading to looking at interviewing techniques and what are good interview questions. The children then used the techniques to interview key figures around the school about their role in the Woods Loke community.

4RJ have become eco warriors this half term. To start, the children were given a basic lesson on the issues that face the environment. From here the learning was then directed by the children and their interests. They started by learning about the problems with plastic and decided to write to the government to ask for all single use plastics to be banned. Mr Javes attempted to get them to start locally, on a school level, but they wanted to take this issues straight to the top! The children then turned their attentions to recycling and reusing, as well as the issues of Palm Oil production. To cap off the topic, 4RJ visited Sizewell, learning about electricity production; they were then able to use this knowledge back in the classroom looking at low carbon alternatives for producing power.



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 6 have had a very busy half-term. Sports Day was a great success, we threw the javelin, hurdled, ran egg and spoon races, sprinted and competed in the long jump. There were also some very competitive parents' races!!

Our curriculum focus this half term has been North America. We have studied the geography of the continent, researching locations, investigating the different time zones, exploring the famous landmarks and finally comparing our home town of Lowestoft to places in North America.

In our Art work we have studied 'Pop Art', in particular the work of Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. We have also created 'other half portraits, dream catchers and clay monkeys all inspired by artists from North America.

For their end of year production, Year 6 took on the mammoth task of producing a musical - 'Grease'. Pupils signed up for the roles they were interested in, ranging from backstage crew to cheerleaders to being either Danny or Sandy! Auditions were held and then the roles were announced. Scripts were handed out and singing practices began across the year group.



The whole of the year group were involved in the production and performed to Years 4 and 5 before their parents and families were invited to see the spectacular show. In total nearly 200 adults attended the performance. It was an absolute hit! The pupils absolutely smashed it - all performing brilliantly, from the props people through to the main cast. We had so many wonderful comments from the pupils, staff, parents and grandparents who came to watch.



This is testimony to all the wonderful achievements our Year 6 pupils have made this year. Year 6 have put a tremendous amount of effort into this year, and as a celebration for all their hard work, they have had the leavers' lunch and disco. The visits to Normanston Park and the trip to Pleasurewood Hills are still to look forward to.

This has been a fantastic year for Years 5 and 6 and we feel very privileged to have been able to teach them - Thank you all for a great year and good luck in your next year group.

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...

Sports Report

This half term has been super busy, packed full of sports day fun and games! In fact, the fun and games for the children in Early Years started before the half term holiday with an event involving sack races, running, throwing and even a parents' race (I would have taken part myself but I had the wrong shoes on...)! Miss Taylor and her team were very pleased with the event; congratulations to all involved in a well-run and brilliantly supported occasion.

Next came the year 3 and 4 events. Mr Hunt and Mr Javes planned a fabulous day of sporting fun. We witnessed a dazzling array of skills on display with a wonderful range of activities on offer. The day culminated in a parents Tug-of-War game!

The next event in our sporting calendar was the Year 1 and 2 sports day events. Mrs Stone and the Year 1 and 2 staff produced a wonderful day, showing some excellent throwing and running skills by all. The weather held out nicely and the event was enjoyed by all.

The final sports day involved our Year 5 and Year 6 children who produced an afternoon of high quality sports including some fantastically competitive running races. All the children took part in different events including running, jumping and throwing. The day ran smoothly thanks to Mr Lea and Mr Hunt. With the weather holding out all afternoon we finished with a great parents' race...which was very entertaining! No injuries were reported on the day!

Congratulations to all the children who took part and a big thank you to all those wonderful parents, grandparents and other family members who came and supported them. If you have any feedback about the sports days, or the tournaments we are involved in, please talk to Mr Hunt who will be happy to listen.

Speaking of tournaments, many of our Year 5 children were fortunate to be involved in two events this half term - These being; Beach Sports and Rounders. The Beach Sports event was a big success and an event we plan to be involved in next year. 24 schools participated and we finished a fantastic 6th place overall! Well done to all the children that took part in the event.

The Rounders tournament was originally held last half term with Woods Loke in a very prominent position, having won all our games, before the weather intervened and the tournament had to be postponed. Upon playing the fixtures again, the team, led by a resilient Mr Hunt, were determined not to feel hard done by. We finished a fantastic 3rd overall, Mr Hunt was super proud of the team and how they conducted themselves throughout. He was especially proud of the efforts the team put in.

Some of our Year 6 children represented Woods Loke at Saint Felix school in a netball tournament, putting up a good fight, showing excellent communication and team working skills. Mr Hunt was really overwhelmed with the team for where they finished and cannot thank them enough for the efforts and their behaviour all afternoon. Well done!

Thank you for reading. Have an active and enjoyable summer! **(Mr Jones)**

From the School Council..

What a small group of children can achieve in one year is amazing! The School Council this year have been very active, wanting to make our School an even better place. Through various projects they have been outstanding ambassadors for the school and it has been a privilege to see their confidence and passion for Woods Loke school grow. Their final duty was an afternoon of light refreshments with the Governors where they shared their personal high lights of the year! The Chair of Governors, Mr. Humphrey, was very impressed with the School Council's efforts this year and congratulated each of them personally.

So as we say a sad farewell to the School Council and especially to Ethan Drake and Euan Curtis who leave us for high school, I look forward to meeting the next School Council in the Autumn Term and can't wait to see what they will achieve.

(Mrs. Barratt)



School Council presenting the prizes to the winners of the Woods Loke Learner story competition. The book containing all the stories is in the library for everyone to enjoy.

Looking ahead to next year...

We're looking forward to receiving lots of applications from our current Year 5 children for the exciting new positions of Head Boy and Head Girl, and student 'Woods Loke Leaders'. We'll tell you all about it in the next newsletter...

Finally, a gentle reminder about our school uniform policy. Whilst we accept that, at the very end of the year, children whose school shoes have worn out might have no option but to wear trainers for the last few days, trainers are **not** part of our school uniform and we look forward to everyone returning smart and correctly attired from September...

Have a great Summer!

We would like to wish you all a peaceful and restful summer break. We look forward to seeing you all return, refreshed and ready to learn on Wednesday 4th September...

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. Norman and Mrs. Paisley are alternative DSLs).