



Learn, Aspire, Achieve

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - MAY 2017

At a school like ours, every half term is a busy one. There are always special events and exciting things happening in every part of the school. Walking into our classrooms, you can feel that 'buzz' that comes when children are really engaged and enthused in their learning. However, it's fair to say that this half term has been busier than usual! Not only have the staff and children in Years 2 and 6 been working extra hard to prepare for and sit their end of Key Stage SATs, but we also had a visit from Ofsted who spent two days inspecting and evaluating our school. We were hoping that the official report would be published before half term so we could tell you all about it in this newsletter, but sadly that isn't the case. Therefore, we'll let you know what the inspectors had to say as soon as the report comes out, which will hopefully be very soon after half term. In the meantime, I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to all of those parents who made positive comments about the school, as well as the staff and children who worked incredibly hard to show the inspectors what our school is really like. I hope the rest of this newsletter helps to give you a flavour of some of the things that have been going on this half term and that the children return refreshed after the half term break, all ready to **LEARN, ASPIRE** and **ACHIEVE** throughout the final part of the academic year.

Heroes All!

We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to everyone who supported our recent 'Dress Up As Your Hero' day. As you know, we were fundraising alongside the Heart2Heart Norfolk charity in order to purchase a Public Access Defibrillator for our school, and I'm delighted to say that we reached our target, so a big 'well done' to all our heroes!



A Walk in the Park

Please find some information below about an exciting community event taking place in our local area during half term. It sounds like a great opportunity to get out in the fresh air, to be active and sociable, and of course, to have great fun!

Lowestoft Rising working with Sentinel Leisure Trust, Lowestoft Museums and a host of partners invite **Primary school age children** from Lowestoft, parents, carers and family members to take part in 3 days of fun activities in support of **The Suffolk Walking Festival 2017**.

Primary schools have been asked to promote **these free events** to pupils and parents/carers to come and have fun during the half term holidays using our own great facilities within our parks and countryside.

Each day will start at 10am with an organised "Golden Mile" walk around our parks arriving on Tuesday and Thursday outside our wonderful Museums in the parks. The Museums will open for a family friendly free visit to experience the exhibits and displays. Partners will be putting on fun games and activities in the Park for children of all ages to take part on.

The Wednesday event will be held at Carlton Marshes Suffolk Wildlife Trust and again starts with a 10am walk (including a range of different length walks) and arrive back at the Visitor centre. There will be pond dipping and other organised activities and again a range of fun sports and games played in a nearby field.

One Life Suffolk, East Coast Community Health Care, Lowestoft Ogogo and Premier Sports will be supporting the events with the fun activities delivered by qualified staff to make it a fun day out.

Each event will conclude around 2pm. **There is no need to book in advance just turn up at 10am** on the day to take part. We ask that children are suitably dressed for walking and fun games in the Parks and those parents/carers stay and take part in the day. Bring a picnic for lunch and suitable drinks for the day. Children who attend 2 or more of the events and obtain an attendance stamp at each event will be entered into a prize draw to win a range of fun prizes

Event details. (Prizes :- Bring this sheet with you so we can stamp it on the day)

Tuesday 30th May 10am at Nicholas Everett's park in Oulton Broad. The Meeting Point is near the pagoda on the main green close to the gates. WDC pay and display parking nearby

Wednesday 31st May 10am at Carlton Marshes nature reserve Beccles Road Lowestoft. The meeting point will be at the visitors centre. Limited Car Parking is available on site.

Thursday 1st June 10am at Sparrows Nest Park Lowestoft. The Meeting Point is by the Maritime Museum gate on Whapload Road. WDC pay and display parking nearby.



Making Lowestoft a better place in which to grow up, live, work, visit and invest

Early Years

In EYFS we have had a fabulous half-term learning all about minibeasts! In Nursery we started off the term learning about the story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. Each class have had caterpillars and have been watching these grow and change over the weeks. We now even have some butterflies! Nursery made use of their writing skills to draw story maps of the Hungry Caterpillar, once they were familiar with the story. They also learnt about 2D shapes and symmetry by creating their own butterflies. We have also learnt about the story 'The Bad Tempered Ladybird'. We focused a lot on feelings and how we feel in different situations. We have also practised counting spots on ladybirds with some of us even adding up the spots on both sides!

Nursery has started a nature workshop which is running for six weeks with Butterflies of Britain, they have had a fantastic time so far. We have learnt about all the different uses of a stick, created toad homes, made bird nests and even discovered fairies and elves living on our school field!



In Reception, we have enjoyed learning about mini-beasts. We have had an exciting time watching caterpillars turn into a chrysalis and then emerge as butterflies. We explored mini-beasts in fiction through 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and 'The Bad-Tempered Ladybird' and also looked at non-fiction texts to find information on our chosen mini-beasts. In Maths, we focused on sharing, doubling, subtraction and number recognition to 20. We have been 'bug scientists' in our role play area and explored ways to represent art in 3D.

Next half term is a very busy one. Our focus books will be 'Beauty and the Beast', '3 Little Pigs' and 'Mr Gumpy's Outing'. There will be a lot of focus on transition during this half term; Nursery will have the opportunity to spend time in their new classes and we will open up playgrounds so they have an opportunity to get used to their new environment. We will be doing a lot of practise in PE which will include; running races, hurdles and egg and spoon races in preparation for Sports Days.

In Literacy, we are going to be writing invitations, wanted posters and letters, developing our letter formation and joined writing in preparation for Year 1. We shall be focusing on capacity, weighing and halving in Maths, as well as developing our knowledge of numbers to 20 and beyond. We will also be investigating materials to discover which is the best to build a house. We will be focusing on the transition to Year 1 by going to the Year 1 playground for break times and becoming familiar with the Year 1 environment. We are looking forward to our visit to Thrigby Hall Wildlife Gardens and we are also preparing for a fun sports day!

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...

Years 1 and 2

This half term has, again, been busy especially for Year 2 children who have completed quite a few SAT papers which they all took in their stride. Throughout the year children have had lots of practise with our regular in-class assessments so nothing was much out of the ordinary, except for a few extra papers. All children deserve to feel proud of the way they tried their best and focused their attention. Well done to them all!

There have also been lots of fun and exciting learning activities taking place, such as making fruit and vegetable faces as part of our science, learning about balanced diets.

Again, we have had a team of children represent Year 2 at a sports competition. This time it was Gymnastics, with the six participants performing a programme of moves. Their lunchtime practise was well rewarded with everyone doing extremely well.

All children have enjoyed being able to use the field for PE and there have been some hotly contested rounders games taking place. We are also looking forward to our Sports Day and have been practising for this. Don't forget parents that there will be an opportunity for you to make your children proud by entering the adults race!

Our topic has generated lots of enthusiasm and children have developed a broad range of skills and learning throughout the half term.



Year 1 have been researchers using iPads and books to find out about their chosen animal to produce some excellent examples of information texts. This linked with their science work on sorting and classifying. Year 2 have been making 3D models of sea creatures to inhabit our rock pool!



Year 1 have also been keen geographers, scouring our school grounds and looking for human and physical features of the environment.

OUR SCHOOL VISION

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

Years 3 and 4

The children have been having a great time getting stuck into this term's topic, Europe. The classrooms have been filled with the sound of tapping keys and skimming of pages as they have been busy researching. The children were taught about the role of capital cities and then were tasked with the research of a particular European capital. Following this work, they broadened their learning, looking at the capital's country, including famous landmarks.

In keeping with the theme of Europe, the children have studied the work of the French artist, Claude Monet. They have studied the techniques he used and developed their use of water colours, producing some amazing pieces. The children especially found inspiration when looking at Monet's work involving Water Lilies.



We are not sending home a topic project this half term. However, if your child still wishes to do some extra research or make a model of a European landmark they are more than welcome to bring it in and it will be celebrated in a class assembly.

In English, Year 3 have been busy learning about persuasive writing. Applying their skills to persuade people to read more and take more exercise. They have also been looking back at some of the work of the author and poet, Michael Rosen. Some of the favourites have been 'No Breathing in Class' and 'Chocolate Cake'. The children are currently writing adventure stories; using the fabulous picture book 'Journey' as their inspiration.

Year 4 have been studying the skills to deliver a balanced argument. They started by debating the role of zoos in conservation against the ethical containment of animals. Developing these skills further, the children became political, studying the main political parties running up to the general election; then debating their view of the main political issues.

Year 3 had a great time entering the Lowestoft 'Quick Cricket' tournament. They had some close games but made it through to the final unbeaten. The final was incredibly close, however due to some accurate bowling, they were beaten, taking second place.

Children from Years 2 to 4 entered the Lowestoft Gymnastics competition. They worked incredibly hard, spending their lunchtimes learning their individual routines. The competition was fierce and both teams (Key Stage 1 and 2) placed third. The school would like to give a special mention to Oliver Hart and Lenny-Joe Thrower for helping the teams with their Gymnastics knowledge and great demonstrations.

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...

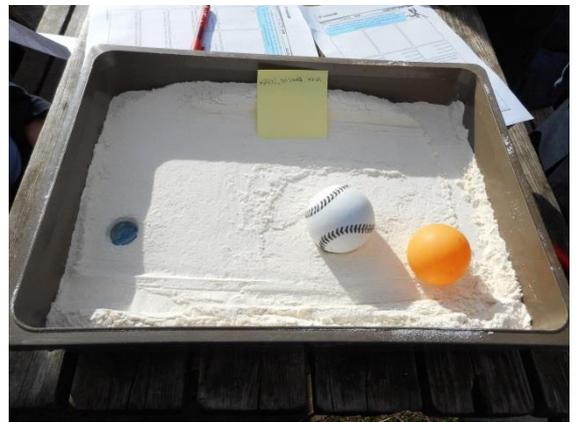
Years 5 and 6

The summer term is exceptionally busy in Year 5 and Year 6! Many trips and events are taking place as well as the Year 6 SATs and preparing to say an emotional goodbye to our amazing Year 6 pupils.

Our topic is called 'The Amazing Americas' and the children are finding out about the weather, people, terrain and famous landmarks. We have studied some famous American artists and created work in their style. We are currently focusing on the Grand Canyon and are looking forward to finding out more about South America.

This half term in Year 5 science we have been looking at forces. The Year 5 children have really enjoyed this aspect of science as it is a great opportunity for them to carry out some really cool experiments!

To help the children learn about the effects of gravity, we took different sizes of ball and dropped them into a tray of flour. This was very messy, but it enabled the children to see the dents made by the different sized objects and discover that the heavier objects made a deeper crater in the flour (and more mess!)



To find out about air resistance, Year 5 had a great time making and dropping parachutes! We discovered that the larger parachutes took longer to fall to the ground because of air resistance. Finally, we studied pulleys and gears and the children were asked to design their own set of pulleys just using string, a milk bottle and a hockey stick! The pupils did really well and we discovered that by making a simple pulley we could lift a heavy milk bottle relatively easily.

Year 5 and Year 6 have been extremely busy with sporting activities. They have attended many local tournaments including: rounders, cross-country, athletics and netball. They have represented Woods Loke Primary School exceptionally well and are a credit to our school.

Finally, the Year 6 SATs took place this half term. The breakfasts went down well, providing the children with a calm and tasty start to each day! We would like to thank the children for their hard work, determination and positive attitude towards the week. They coped amazingly and are a credit to their families.

OUR SCHOOL VISION

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

Special Educational Needs

This half term Mrs Julings has been demonstrating her reading intervention work to some of the parents of the children she works with regularly. If you have been invited to attend one of these sessions, we would appreciate your feedback comments. We plan to offer similar sessions to more parents in the near future.

After the half term break, we will begin our transition programme, supporting SEN pupils with visits to their new year group area to familiarise them with cloakrooms, toilets, activity areas and entrances and exits. All children will be given transition time in their new year groups on our school transition day, however, some pupils require a more carefully planned, more intense transition programme and our SEN and Pastoral team members will be working with specific pupils in the forthcoming weeks, to enable transitions between classes to be as smooth as possible. We are also liaising with the High schools, along with the Year 6 teachers, to ensure a smooth transition to High School is made.

Teachers will soon be reviewing Individual Education Plans and Individual Behaviour Plans for those pupils who have one, and this information will be shared with parents and the new class teacher later in the term. The current targets will be reviewed and the information will be passed on to the new teacher, to ensure appropriate support for those pupils continues.

Switch Off Day

"The eco committee recently got awarded the bronze certificate from Eco-schools and we are now hoping to achieve the silver certificate by the end of the year. The eco committee organised 'Switch Off Day' which was on Wednesday 24th May. All of the teachers and students were challenged to try use as little electricity as possible. I am sure you can take what you have learnt on switch off day and use it in your everyday life at home. Just remember any little changes you make towards saving electricity is a step in the right direction."

Louie Farman (Year 6 and Member of the Eco Committee)



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...

Over to You...

As I mentioned at the start of this newsletter, we were very pleased with the many positive comments the Ofsted inspectors received from parents. However, there were one or two of you who felt that the school hadn't responded well to your concerns and, as I have mentioned previously, this is something that we really want to get right. Therefore, please take the opportunity to have a chat with me in the playground, fill in the form below, or come and see me in school. I will *always* have time to speak to parents about any concerns they have and I will *always* listen, investigate and get back to you. Of course, we can't always promise to do what you ask, or even that you'll agree with us, but we do promise to listen, respond and explain the reasons behind any decision. I look forward to hearing from 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.

OUR SCHOOL VISION

... Learn, Aspire, Achieve

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 Mr. Axon are alternative SDPs).