



Learn, Aspire, Achieve

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - MAY 2019

Despite what has been a very short half term, we still seemed to have packed a great deal of **LEARNING**, **ASPIRING** and **ACHIEVING** into a short space of time, as this newsletter clearly demonstrates. Year 2 and Year 6 have, of course, taken their SATs and I'm pleased to report that they all went very smoothly with no stress or worry in sight. All our children were well prepared and able to do their very best without becoming over anxious - we can now look forward to the results...

We also received some fantastic news last week when we discovered that Woods Loke Primary School has been nominated as a finalist in Suffolk's 'Education Setting of the Year' award. This is a tremendous honour and is testament to the hard work and dedication of all the staff who work here. The presentation ceremony will be held on 10th July and we'll be sure to let you know how we get on!

In the meantime, I hope you all have a peaceful and restful half term break and we look forward to seeing you all in June.

We are an Active Movement School!

You may have heard your children talking recently about 'active movement' or 'standing up more' and wondered quite what they meant. Well, Active Movement is a new nationwide initiative which began in London and is now making its way across the country. Eight schools in Lowestoft have been offered free access to the programme and Woods Loke is one of those schools.

The programme is designed to bring long term health benefits to children through simple changes in habit. It isn't about PE and sport, but rather tackling our increasingly sedentary behaviour - to put it simply; it involves standing up more and sitting down less. There is a great deal of scientific evidence that suggests that too much sitting down is bad for us in many different ways, but the act of simply standing up every 20 minutes or so can counteract this. If you're interested in finding out more about the science and rationale behind this, www.activemovement.co.uk has all the details.

For us in school, this ties in very neatly with the 'Health and Well-Being' strand of our new curriculum. It isn't an addition to the curriculum or any extra work, it's simply doing things differently, such as standing up to answer a question or standing up to do the register. We have been trying this for the past few weeks and the children have been having great fun, whilst at the same time, increasing their health and well-being - the perfect combination!

Sports Update

Welcome to the Sports and PE section of the newsletter.

Inter-School Tournaments: We have attended three tournaments this term, all based in Upper Key Stage 2. We are being as inclusive as we can, trying to give as many children as possible the opportunity to represent our school. We strive for participation and inclusiveness whilst at the same time attempting to be as competitive as possible.

First up was a heavily contested Year 5 football tournament at Worlingham Primary School for both the girls and the boys. We were involved in some fantastic matches with both the boys' team and the girls' team getting through to the finals and finishing a very impressive 3rd out of 18 teams!



The next event was the Year 5 rounders tournament held at Benjamin Britten High School. After an amazing start, which saw us win the first two games, the weather intervened and the event had to be called off. It has been rearranged for the latter part of the summer term where we will carry on the good work and bring home the trophy (and make Mr Hunt a happy man!). Either way, participation and enjoyment for the children are the keys here, so we are all winners in this respect.

Year 6 netball at St Felix was the final tournament of this half term. The children involved had a fabulous time, this time the weather was perfect. Mr Hunt reports that he was very proud of the team and all of the players involved. Well done to them all!

After School Clubs: Mr Hunt reports that the after school clubs run so far have been very well attended. I have seen many of these clubs and the fun that the children have during them is second to none. The clubs will continue to run after half term, hopefully in sunny weather!

Sports days: Sports days are on the horizon! In fact, Nursery and Reception Sports Day will already have occurred as we go to print. Any feedback regarding the new way Sports Days are delivered is always welcome. Good luck to all the children taking part! **(Mr Jones)**

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 very busy, albeit short, half term. We are continuing with our phase 2 phonics and the children are really showing an interest in this. The children's writing is amazing this year - we even have some children beginning to write sentences! The children have enjoyed being able to use the grass outdoor area more this half term now the weather is improving. There has been a lot of emergency services role play, which has included the castle being on fire and children being taken to 'hospital' to be looked after. Staff have been busy working on improving our concrete playground which is nearly finished, the final touches will be added during half term, ready for the children to use when they return. The children have also been very busy practising for sports day. They have enjoyed learning all the new skills involved in the different activities.



In Reception this half term we had a mystery nest appear in the activity area. The children created some fantastic writing about what could be inside the eggs. We then had a visitor captured on our cameras, it was a dinosaur looking for the nest! The children enjoyed designing their own dinosaurs, creating a dinosaur fact file to share as a class and making fossils. The children have planted flowers, vegetables and herbs in our outside area, they have concocted many potions and loved making meals in the mud kitchen. The children discovered a snail and we created our own collages of snails just like Matisse. In Maths, we have been focusing on addition, subtraction, patterns, doubling, halving, subtraction and 3D shapes. We have also been practising a variety of sporting events in preparation for our sports day. The Reception children have been working hard to

follow the Woods Loke learning behaviours of *'ready to learn, working in different ways, never giving up and reflecting on their learning.'*

OUR SCHOOL VISION

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

Years 1 and 2

A busy half term for all with lots of creativity and activity. We started the term with Year 2 comparing 17th Century bread with their own. We had a fantastic opportunity to cook in the school kitchens to make our loaves (the smell was delicious). A big thank you to the kitchen staff who volunteered to stay on two afternoons to help us. This was as a result of us discovering that The Great Fire of London was started by a burnt loaf of bread! Children have gone on to research how London and life was different in 1666 to now, the events of the fire and how we know about it. There has been some excellent diary writing and newspaper reports from this stimulus.

Year One have been on their trip to Norwich Castle Museum to meet Florence Nightingale. It was a very enjoyable day, bringing history alive by engaging with artefacts and characters in costume and in role. The children were excellent and were complimented on their behaviour and manners. The Year 1 outside area has been transformed and is now growing a bountiful crop of vegetables and flowers (hopefully!).



Year Two are also becoming skilled cricketers, through expert, and fun, professional coaching by Peggy from the 'Chance to Shine' Cricket Charity. There are still a couple of sessions to look forward to from the 6-week course.



Finally, Year2 deserve a big congratulation for working so hard completing all of their additional assessments in the last couple of weeks. Well done!

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 short but jam packed start to the summer term, littered with a PD Day and Bank Holidays. Both years 3 and 4 have had a fantastic time following a Roman theme.

To kick off the half term with a bang, the key stage hosted a fun packed Roman day! The school became awash with togas and tunics, swords and armour; and that was just what was worn by the teachers. The key stage had a visit from Vulpus, the Roman who was able to bring history alive.

Vulpus started the day by telling the children about the rise of the Roman empire and how they moved out across Europe and into the UK. The children listened to how the Romans were welcomed by some, but did not receive such a warm greeting from others. He then went on to tell the story of Boudica and how she stood up against the Roman invaders.

The rest of the morning was occupied by a Roman quiz, games and a chance to see genuine Roman artefacts such as jewellery, pots, mosaics, not forgetting the Roman bottom wiper!



The highlight for many of the children was the re-enactment of a day at the Colosseum, seeing real weapons and armour and a gladiator battle! Staff would like to take this opportunity to thank families for contributing to the cost of this amazing day.

In the clearing of the pond area, a large amount of pottery was uncovered. Using this as a stimulus, Year 3 have centred all their work around these discoveries. They have been pretending to be archaeologists, dusting off the finds, classifying and dating them back to

Roman times. Year 3 have also written letters to the Time and Tide museum, telling them about their finds.



Year 4 used the Roman theme to focus their attention towards the doomed city of Pompeii and Mt. Vesuvius. They started off by researching volcanos and producing factual non-chronological reports. Moving on, Year 4 researched the Mt. Vesuvius eruption and made timelines of the event, before writing newspaper articles based on the disaster.



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

The pupils in Years 5 and 6 have been transformed into budding entrepreneurs this half term! We have adopted a 'Dragon's Den' style approach to our learning as the children have been learning about inventions from the past, present and future!

Our topic began with pupils celebrating the 30th anniversary of the launch of the World Wide Web. We looked at the impact the web has made on our lives and tried to imagine what life was like before this technological breakthrough! To celebrate the impact this invention has made on everyday life, we held a birthday event complete with cakes and balloons!

The second invention we studied was the telephone. We compared phone designs across centuries and looked at very early examples of mobile phones. This provoked a discussion about mobile phone designs today and the apps we may need in the future. The children then created fantastic mobile phone designs with some very interesting ideas for apps!

We continued our learning by completing research about other important British inventions such as the lawnmower, hovercraft and of course chocolate! We analysed the Top 50 British Inventions list produced by a national newspaper and compiled our own Top 5. In doing so, the children had to justify why they had chosen the products in their list and they had to record the date of the invention, inventor's name and reason for the invention as part of their chart.

The fact that many inventions are created to solve an everyday problem lead the children to designing their own invention. For the final part of this exciting topic, the Year 5 and 6 pupils embarked on a project to design a new invention to help transform people's lives. In small groups, the children identified their product and sketched a design in a bid to secure money from our key investor - Lord Somerleyton! The children then had to pitch their ideas to a panel of staff before our designs were sent off for approval.



One final and newsworthy event this half term has been the Year 6 SATS tests. We have been incredibly proud of all the hard work the children have invested during the preparation for the tests. The attitude of the pupils has been amazing and they have approached the SATS week calmly and with fantastic spirit. They know the tests are only a small part of what we do in Year 6 and yet they have worked extremely hard to practise and show what they can do! We now look forward to many exciting projects for Year 6 as they embark on their final half term at Woods Loke!

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...

...From the School Council

Monday the 3rd June is the closing date for our competition 'write a summer adventure story for a Woods Loke learner character'. Who knows what Barney Badger, Ella Squirrel, Owlberta Owl and Freddie Fox will get up to?! School Council look forward to receiving lots of stories. The winning stories will be made into a special Woods Loke story book. All children who take part will receive a certificate and prizes for the winners!

On Monday 17th June 2019 from 3.00pm in the sports hall, School Council will be holding a cake sale, with all proceeds going towards phase 2 of the 'Be Fond of Our Pond' campaign.

School Council want to make this the **biggest** cake sale in the world, so please think about bringing in any cakes/biscuits etc. on the Monday morning for us to sell!!

School Council are getting ready for phase 2 of the pond, which involves clearing the reeds and the tree from the water. We will then replace the old jetty with new pond dipping stations which will be all around the pond area. School Council would love for you to get in touch if you think you could help with materials, our wish list for phase 2 is:

Wooden decking!!!! (Mrs Barratt)

Euan, our School Council president would like to finish our news with:

'I am extremely proud of the School Council; I don't think this job could get any better!'



Play Leaders

Mr Hunt has recently set up a new Play Leader programme involving both Year 4 and 5 children.

They are a set of volunteers who organise and play games with younger children at lunchtimes. This has been very successful since its recent launch, with high levels of active children regularly participating in these great activities.



OUR SCHOOL VISION

... Learn, Aspire, Achieve

Holiday Sports Club

Mr Hunt would like to thank all those children that attended the two day sports club during the Easter holidays. They were very well attended and much enjoyed by all. More clubs will be run in the near future. Watch this space for more details...



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