



Another Successful Year

As we reach the end of another academic year, thoughts naturally turn towards the summer break. This time of year is always busy and hectic and the nature of school life is that we are continually looking ahead to what still needs to be done. However, it is always important to spend a few moments looking back to see where we've come from and what we've achieved. This time last year we were celebrating a 'GOOD' Ofsted judgement, but we certainly haven't rested on our laurels this year. Here are just some of the successes of the past 12 months...

- We introduced our new range of lunchtime activities which have given the children a much greater choice of things to do, both inside and outside.
- We appointed Miss Wells as our new sports leader
- We've developed our library throughout the year with new furniture, loads of new books and, of course, Mrs Williams our new librarian
- We've revamped our 'Woods Loke Learners' initiative with new characters and a new design, as well as incorporating conduct behaviour to create a set of standards that all of our children can aspire to achieve
- We successfully converted to an Academy without disrupting any of the great things we're doing, and celebrated the school's 50th anniversary
- We introduced termly reports to give parents a more regular update about how their children are progressing at school
- We've changed our opening time to ensure a smoother start to the school day
- Mr Sprules and Mr Sedge have done some great work enhancing the school environment with some fantastic indoor murals and lots of new outdoor play equipment for our Early Years area
- We've developed an exciting new curriculum that will launch officially in September
- And, of course, our children have enjoyed creative, engaging and challenging lessons which have resulted in another year of good SATs results

However, none of this would have been possible without our wonderful staff. A school can only ever be as good as the quality of its staff, and our school is very lucky to have staff who not only work hard and give of their best, but who also regularly go above and beyond in so many different ways. I'm sure you'll join me in thanking them for everything they do for all our children, and look forward to next year as we continue on our journey towards excellence.

'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, Mrs Goddard, our SENCO, will be leaving us to join the County Inclusive Support Service. This will involve her working with children in different schools throughout the local area, so hopefully we will continue to see her every now and then.



Mrs Moore and Mrs Thompson are also leaving us at the end of the year. Mrs Moore will be spending more time with her young family, while Mrs Thompson has secured a teaching position at Northfield St. Nicholas Primary School.



We are also saying goodbye to our caretaker, Mr Ayres, and two of our valued Teaching Assistants; Mrs Kelly and Miss Coleman, who is setting out on the path to becoming a teacher in a few years' time.



In September we will be welcoming Mrs Alison Norman who joins us a highly experienced Early Years teacher and SENCO, Mrs Rachel Orves who will be working as a Teaching Assistant, and Mr Luke Baker who will be our new IT technician.

I'm sure you'll join me in welcoming our new staff and thanking each and every one of our leavers for all their years of service; we wish them all the very best for the future.



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 has had a wonderful last half term. We have been very busy with our topic 'growing'. We began the half term looking at Van Gogh's painting 'Sunflowers', the children talked about what they already knew about sunflowers and what they wanted to know. We then researched their questions using books from the library. The children each had their own sunflower to plant, they were given the decision of where to plant their seed and then the responsibility of looking after it. We have a few shoots starting to come through, despite no rain for such a long period of time! Also this term the children have been looking at old baby photos of themselves and then drawing pictures of what they look like now. It has been lovely to hear some of their comments about how they have changed. We then moved on to what they would like to be when they grow up, we had a range of ideas including, hairdresser, policeman, tram driver and 'computer man'!

This half term the children in Reception have enjoyed the topic 'Journeys'. We learnt about the story 'Handa's Surprise' and we practiced telling the story using Makaton, which we showed our grown-ups during our class assemblies which was lots of fun! We also used our senses to investigate the different fruits in the story, the best part was eating them! We have also read the story 'Mrs Armitage on Wheels'. The children designed and labelled their own vehicles with special features and created them using a variety of junk modelling materials. The final designs were fantastic! The children have been working hard on their phase 4 phonics, focusing on letter blends, two syllable words and tricky words. In Maths, we have been learning to group objects into 2s, 5s and 10s. We have also investigated capacity, created pictograms and continued to develop our number knowledge. The children have also been talking about the journeys they have been on throughout their time in Reception and their journeys continuing into Year One.

Nursery and Reception both enjoyed a trip to Carlton Marshes. Nursery took part in activities including searching for all different types of flowers, learning the lifecycle of a butterfly and minibeast hunting. Reception enjoyed pond dipping, playing a bee game where they had to collect nectar, going on a flower hunt and a minibeast hunt. Both year groups also spent some time at Nicholas Everitt Park where they each had an I Spy sheet and had to find different objects around the park.

The children have all had a brilliant year and made so much progress; thank you for all of your continued support. We hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable summer!



OUR SCHOOL VISION

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

Years 1 and 2

WOW, this year seems to have whizzed past but we have packed so much in! The children have come a long way in their learning and development. They all deserve to feel proud of their achievements.

Class sharing assemblies were a lovely opportunity to share and demonstrate how far children have moved in their maturity and confidence.

We have had some exciting events such as Miss Carroll having a lovely little boy, Henry, and Mrs Barrett joining us. Miss McComb has also joined the team in Year 2 and they are all looking forward to their new classes in September.



The last half term has been full of exciting learning opportunities with cross curricular links. 'Shark Infested Custard' was a starting point for a science day challenge, Year 1 have been studying 'Flanimals' by Ricky Gervais and have created their own fantastic clay models. They also have studied the art work of Salvador Dali combining two animals. Their own examples were great and generated some high-quality

writing. Year 2 have also based their work on the book 'Traction Man', again with some creative writing and artwork. Our 'pet scrubbing brushes', with instructions of how to care for them, were a firm favourite, as have been the clay men. Making music from kitchen utensils was inspirational, if somewhat loud! A real example of collaboration. Thank you for donations of these.



Reflecting back on the year there were so many other things to celebrate that I thought it would be good to ask some children to share their memories.

Transition day and other additional sessions have helped to prepare everyone for the new challenges of moving on to Year 2 and Year 3. Though the start of any new adventure can be daunting, all the children have shown their teachers that with the Woods Loke Learning behaviour of 'Never Giving Up' they are ready and able to rise to the challenges and exciting opportunities ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everybody; children, for your enthusiasm, staff for your hard work and commitment, and parents for your support at home.

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

The children have had a great last half term of the year with trips, tractor visits, science and engineering experiments and lots of quality work being produced. The key stage has waved goodbye to the World War Two topic, but not before rounding it off with a fantastic trip to Flixton Air Museum. The volunteers at the museum provided an immersive experience for the children, bringing history



to life. They put on a carousel of activities that allowed the children



to see many artefacts accompanied by information delivered from passionate and knowledgeable individuals. Opportunities to fly in simulators, hold rifles, try on gas masks, sound a gas rattle, see real plane wreckage, wear parts of different WW2 uniforms (not to mention a real Spitfire pilot's helmet that served in the Battle of Britain) all added to the excitement of the day.

For the remainder of the term Years 3 and 4 went their separate ways regarding topics. Year 3 have used the two picture books 'Journey' and 'Quest' by Aaron Becker as their muse to create their own adventure stories. They have studied the books then developed individual plots, settings and character descriptions. In addition, they have made their own illustrations in the style of the books. In English, Year 4 spent a week producing adventure stories inspired by 'The Tunnel' by Anthony Browne.

Year 4 morphed the World War Two topic into studying the RAF. This topic has lent its self to different Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) learning opportunities. Activities have ranged from survival, discussing what essentials they would need if they crashed landed, to designing and making an ejection system that would save an egg if they had to eject it from a plane in an emergency.

Focusing on STEM for Science Day, the children were involved with activities around 'Shark Infested Custard'. Year 3 looked at Utonium Fluids (corn flour and water), seeing how these can be liquid and solid. In teams, Year 4 designed and built bridges to transport a Lego person carrying a heavy load over the Shark Infested Custard; some were a great success, some were built at the loss of innocent Lego people and the gain of hungry plastic sharks!

All the staff in Years 3 and 4 would like to thank all the parents, carers, nannies, grandads, aunties and uncles for all their support though the year. Have a great summer!

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 rescheduled due to bad weather, but when it went ahead it was based on the Greek pentathlon - we threw the javelin, putted the shot, ran horse races, sprinted and competed in the long jump.

It was also festival season for Year 5 & 6 this half term. As part of our topic, we have studied, researched, practiced and performed festival related activities. This culminated in the spectacular Attitude Festival - where "Attitude is Everything!" This amazing afternoon of entertainment, (as featured in the Lowestoft Journal), showcased a wide range of skills, from storytelling, dancing, art activities, musical performances, comedy and diablo tricks, all overseen by the event managers. The whole school enjoyed the festival before parents joined Year 5 and 6 for the final thirty minutes of the event.



Year 6 gave brilliant performances to parents and children in Years 3, 4 and 5 for their end of year show. The show was a combination of singing, dancing and acting, and every member of Year 6 had the opportunity to take part.

Year 6 have put a tremendous amount of effort into this year, and as a celebration for all their hard work, there is still the leavers' lunch and disco, visit to Normanston park and the trip to Pleasurewood Hills to look forward to.

Congratulations on a great year and good luck to Year 6 at High School.

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...

More Sporting Success!

Year 4 had a triumphant victory at the Lowestoft Schools Athletics tournament back in June. They faced other Year 4 teams from other schools in the area and showed they were able to shine under the pressure.

The event involved 100m sprint, 100m skipping, 100m 8-person relay, 8-person team tug of war, standing long jump and the vortex howler throw.

The event got off to a good start with both our runners blowing away the competition in the 100m sprint. This was followed by solid performances in the skipping.



While the running races were underway, our team of super strong tug of war veterans (actually it was their first time but they looked like veterans) took on their first opponents. As the whistle went to signal the first pull our intrepid Woods Loke team jolted forwards, things looked grim. However, they showed a 'never give up' attitude and hung on, slowly wearing down their opposition, securing their first victory. From here they were unstoppable, showing grit and determination; facing all other teams undefeated!

The event ended with a team relay. There were a few tense moments with some tumbled baton exchanges, but the team kept their cool, securing another victory.

The team walked away from the event as overall winners, with many also receiving several medals. They were very gracious winners, congratulating all other teams.

Another sporting success that definitely needs a mention from this term is the participation of our 8-person team into the Lowestoft Schools' Panathlon. The Primary Panathlon programme provides opportunities for 5 to 11-year olds with additional needs, to compete in competitions that build foundation skills in a range of Panathlon sports.

Our team competed fiercely with determination and that Woods Loke 'never give up' attitude. When they won events they were won graciously, and when they lost they were wonderful sports people, congratulating their competitors on their win. 'Well done' to them all! **(Mr Javes)**

'The Eco Council have spent the whole of June celebrating '30 Days Wild' which is a national initiative designed to encourage children to take part in fun and exciting activities linked to nature. These have included; making art with natural materials, mini beast hunts, planting seeds, listening walks, bark rubbing and loads of other brilliant things. The whole school have taken part and we've all really enjoyed spending 30 days being wild!'

Written by the Eco Committee - Jaiden Patnell, Amelia Oldman, Elsa Welch, Anya Haverson, Thomas Calver and Theo Brown

Looking ahead to next year...

Our flexible 8:45-8:55am opening time has proved to be overwhelmingly popular with parents, children and staff. The start of the day is now much calmer and more settled and certainly isn't as hectic as it was previously. Therefore, it will come as no surprise that this will continue from September.

Also new for September, each Phase will be hosting a series of 'welcome' meetings for parents. These will provide an opportunity for Phase Leaders to set out the expectations for each year group as well as giving you the chance to ask any questions you may have about the forthcoming year. The dates for these, along with all the other events for the school year, will be provided in September.

With the increased national focus on health and well-being, schools are being asked to play their part. Our school tuck shop has been changing its menu to provide a range of healthier options and, from September, children who bring in their own playtime snacks will **not** be allowed sugary foods like cake or chocolate.

Possibly more controversially, we are also going to ask children **not** to bring pencil cases into school next year. Unfortunately, pencil cases have proved to be quite a distraction this year with children competing to have the latest stationary and becoming upset when items are lost or broken. Therefore, the school will provide all the equipment that children require so there will be need for them to bring in anything from home.

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!

OUR SCHOOL VISION

... Learn, Aspire, Achieve

We would like to wish you all a peaceful and restful summer break. We look forward to seeing you return, refreshed and ready to learn on 6th 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. Marchand and Mrs. Paisley are alternative DSLs).