



Woodlands



NEWSLETTER

News Updates from Woodlands Primary School

READY — RESPECTFUL — SAFE

1st March 2024

LUNCH MENU: 2

TERM DATES:

Term Dates:

[https://
www.woodlands.ches
hire.sch.uk/
serve_file/21528161](https://www.woodlands.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/21528161)

**CLASS TWITTER NAMES
FROM SEPT 2023**

[@WoodlandsSquir](#)

[@WoodlandsOwls](#)

[@WoodlandsBadger](#)

[@WoodlandsFoxes](#)

[@Woodlands1AA](#)

[@23Woodlands1ES](#)

[@Woodlands2DR](#)

[@Woodlands2PB](#)

[@Woodlands3LB](#)

[@Woodlands3HH](#)

[@Woodlands4AW](#)

[@Woodlands4RO](#)

[@Woodlands34LW](#)

[@Woodlands5MG](#)

[@Woodlands5SE](#)

[@Woodlands56LT](#)

[@Woodlands6BS](#)

[@Woodlands6DM](#)

Subjects:

[@Compwoodlands](#)

[@REandWorldViews](#)

[@MUSICwoodlands](#)

**WOODLANDS
SUNBEAMS**

*Book on
Parentpay
by 8th
March*

Easter Holiday Club

Monday 8th April - Thursday 11th April

8AM - 5PM

NURSERY - PRE SCHOOL - £50

RECEPTION - YEAR 6 - £30

**INCLUDES BREAKFAST & AFTERNOON SNACK. PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR CHILD WITH A
PACKED LUNCH AND MORNING SNACK.**

SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION IF UPTAKE IS NOT SUFFICIENT - PLENTY OF NOTICE WILL BE GIVEN IF THIS IS THE CASE

"I'm wondering what to read next."

"I'm wonderin

World Book Day

Thursday 7th March 2024

Special Menu - Roald Dahl Edition

BFG Wizzbanger Sausages in a Bun

Wondercrump Wedges,
Human Beans & Scrumdiddlyumptious Sweetcorn
(Veggie option available)

OR

The Grand High Witch Ham Sandwich

Served with Witches Fingers
(Carrot and Cucumber sticks)

Bruce Bogtrotters Chocolate Cake

Served with Phizz-Whizzing Water

Reception and KS1 meals are FREE. Nursery and KS2 meals cost £2.70 and should be paid in advance online via your ParentPay account. This menu will run in place of the usual menu. There is no need to pre book as children will make their choice in class on the day.

"Don't you ever stop reading?"



Now that all of the babies have safely arrived, we'd like to say a huge **congratulations** to Mrs Dutton, Miss Smith, Mrs Barrett, Miss Skillen & Mrs O'Hara on the safe arrivals of:

17th Aug '23	<i>Aoife Poppy</i>	7lb 5oz
18th Nov '23	<i>Finlay</i>	6lb 12oz
17th Jan '24	<i>Orla Mae</i>	9lb 4oz
23rd Feb '24	<i>Rosemary Jane</i>	6lb 2oz
25th Feb '24	<i>Heidi Mae</i>	8lb 8oz

Top Tips for... MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead designs and delivers the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE
BOX

The
National
College



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety



@national_online_safety



This Week's Year Group News

EYFS

Squirrels - Welcome back to an exciting half term. This week, the children have enjoyed sharing their half term adventures. We have enjoyed playing games with the parachute and have been working on our gross motor skills by creating large shapes and movements with our bodies. The children have enjoyed singing songs and listening to lots of stories.

Well done Squirrels!

Foxes - This week, the children found a sandy boot print and a map left in our classroom. We then followed the clues which led us to a treasure box. The children made some excellent predictions about who it may belong to and where the treasure may have come from. We also found our new focus text left with the treasure box called 'The Pirates are Coming'. We are very excited to welcome in a sports coach for our outdoor PE sessions this half term and the children showed excellent listening skills during their session this week. In Maths, we have been practising to count to 5. The children have been working hard to remember to say the numbers in the correct order and to count each item only once.

Well done Foxes!

Badgers & Owls - What a lovely first week back! The children have loved sharing their news from their half term break and a big thank you as always if you have shared some pictures via email for the children. In Literacy, we have introduced our new text; 'The pirates are coming' and the children really enjoyed going on a treasure hunt to find some treasure that the pirates had left for us.

We have also looked out for signs of Spring and talked about different seasons. Perhaps you could look out for signs of Spring with your child when you are out and about?

In Maths, we have been sorting and comparing objects by size, using language such as 'tall', 'long' and 'short'.

Acorns - This week, the children in Acorns have been settling back into their routine after their wonderful half term break. We have been learning and signing a new morning song which they have really enjoyed. We have been colouring some pictures ready for St David's Day and have enjoyed singing some new nursery rhymes during our circle time. The children have enjoyed playing in our outside area on the cars and bikes as we have introduced our new topic which is Journeys.

Many thanks for your continued support.

The Reception Team

Just a reminder that next week is World Book Day (Thursday 7th March). The children are invited to come into school dressed as their favourite character from a story, but this is not compulsory - children can wear their own clothes if not. The Scholastic Book Fair will also be in school from Tuesday 5th March until Thursday 7th March, from 3.30pm in the Junior Hall. Remember that payments for the book fair will be cashless and parents will need to bring their phone (with internet connection) and have their card details available.

KS1

Year 1 - What a great first week back! We discovered bones in our classroom and discovered they belonged to a Woolly Mammoth! We wrote descriptions of them and predicted what might happen in our new story. In Maths, we have described objects as 'longer' and 'shorter' and measured them using cubes and rulers. We really enjoyed exploring fossils in History and are looking forward to the rest of our topic on Mary Anning. In Science, we applied our knowledge on materials to toys. We considered which material toys should be made out of and why.

Year 2 - It was lovely welcoming the children back to school this week and listening to their holiday news. They looked refreshed and ready for another very busy time ahead. In English this week, we have started our new book 'The Curious Case of the Missing Mammoth' by Ellie Hattie. It is a wonderful story and one the children will certainly enjoy reading. In shared reading, we have continued developing our comprehension strategies. The book we are using this term is the very funny 'Claude in the City' by Alex T. Smith. In Mathematics, we have been learning about measurement. The children have been using rulers and metre sticks to compare different heights and lengths using centimetres (cm) and metres (m).

Our topic this term is a history one and the children have started learning about fossils. As part of this history work, we will be concentrating on learning about the amazing palaeontologist, Mary Anning and the discovery of fossils on the Jurassic Coast in the early part of the 19th century.

Thank you for your continued support,

The KS1 Team

Continued overleaf.....



This Week's Year Group News

KS2

Year 3 & 4 - Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely half term break.

This week, in English we have made predictions about our new text 'The Big Blue Whale' and have written letters to Sir David Attenborough, asking him to help us find out more information about whales. In Maths, the year 3 children have continued their work on fractions, focusing on ordering and comparing unit and non-unit fractions. The year 4 children have been exploring efficiency and finding the most efficient way to solve problems. We have started our new History topic of Bronze Age to Iron Age by looking at how the discovery of bronze improved the lives of the people at the time. Our Science topic this half term is forces and magnets and we have looked at how applying a push or a pull force affects an object.

Just a reminder that next week is World Book Day (Thursday 7th March). The children are invited to come into school dressed as their favourite character from a story. The Scholastic Book Fair will also be in school from Tuesday 5th March until Thursday 7th March, from 3.30pm in the Junior Hall.

A reminder to please log in to ParentPay and ensure that you have given consent for the local area visits and our Easter Trail trip to St David's UR Church in Eastham.

Thank you for your continued support

LKS2 team

Year 5 & 6 - It has been a fantastic first week back in UKS2!

In Maths, Year 5 have been working very hard on their fractions unit. They have learned to multiply mixed number fractions by whole numbers, and they have been consolidating their understanding of finding fractions of an amount. Year 6 meanwhile, have been focusing on their unit 'converting measures'. They have worked on estimating measures as accurately as possible, as well as converting between different metric measures for length, mass and capacity.

In English, Y5/6 have been introduced to their new class text: The Selfish Giant by Oscar Wilde, and they have all made interesting predictions based on quotes and images from the text. Y6 have also focused on key skills such as using possessive apostrophes and creating expanded noun phrases linked to the text in order to write a description of a scene. Y5 meanwhile, looked carefully at the character of the Selfish Giant and created a role on the wall before writing a monologue from the Giant's point of view.

Year 5 had an exciting visit from Cheshire Phoenix on Wednesday afternoon. The children took part in a variety of 'Hoops for Health' sessions about healthy food groups and the dangers of smoking, in addition to an active basketball lesson. We were incredibly impressed with the children's behaviour and engagement in the sessions - well done Y5!

Just a reminder that next week is World Book Day (Thursday 7th March). The children are invited to come into school dressed as their favourite character from a story, but this is not compulsory - children can wear their own clothes if not. The Scholastic Book Fair will also be in school from Tuesday 5th March until Thursday 7th March, from 3.30pm in the Junior Hall. Remember that payments for the book fair will be cashless and parents will need to bring their phone (with internet connection) and have their card details available.

Thank you for your continued support.

The UKS2 Team

Have A Wonderful Weekend!

Whole School Attendance 94.89%

Reporting Children's Absence

School must be informed of children's absence on the first day by ringing 0151 329 3164 and pressing 1 to leave a message. This must be done before 9am. Please ensure you provide the child's name, class and reason for absence.

If your child is absent due to sickness or diarrhoea, they will be unable to return to school for 48hrs after their last episode. This is inline with the Public Health Agency guidance to reduce the risk of the illness spreading. Any absence not explained is registered as unauthorised.

Appointments

Parents and carers should make every effort to book routine dental and GP appointments outside of school hours. Where this is not possible, children should only be absent for the time needed for the appointment and travel to and from.

For any prebooked medical appointments copies of appointment letters can be emailed to n.brown@woodlands.cheshire.sch.uk in advance so that a note can be added to the register. The school will work with all families on an individual basis if medical absences exceed the maximum threshold.

Holidays During Term Time

Can we politely request that parents inform school of any upcoming holidays via the Leave of Absence forms which can be collected from the school offices. These forms should be completed and handed to school 4 working weeks in advance of the first day of absence.

Dates – Week Beginning 4 March 2024

Lunches Week 2

Mon 4 March	Before-school club – KS1 Judo with Judo Education 8 to 8.45am, drop off Junior Hall (book direct with Judo Education)
Mon 4 March	After-school club – KS2 Create Music Guitar Lessons 3.20-4.20pm, pick-up Junior Playground (book direct at admin@wecreatemusic.co.uk)
Mon 4 March	After-school club – Y3 & 4 Recorder 3.20-4.20pm with Miss Hughes pick-up Junior Playground
Mon 4 March	After-school club – K5 & 6 Cheerleading with Shadazzle 3.20-4.20pm pick-up Junior Playground
Tue 5 March	After-school club – Y3 & 4 Table Tennis with Vara Sports 3.20-4.20pm, pick-up Junior Playground
Tue 5 March	After-school club – Y4 Times Table Club with Miss Woodland 3.20-4.20pm, pick-up Junior Playground
Tue 5 March	Scholastics Book Fair – Junior Hall 3.20-3.45pm – (phone and bank card required)
Wed 6 March	Before-school club – Y1&2 Dance with Create Dance 8-8.45am drop off Junior Hall (club full)
Wed 6 March	After-school club – Y5 & 6 Indoor Athletics 3.20-4.20pm pick-up Junior Playground (Outdoor kit this week please)
Wed 6 March	After-school club – KS2 Create Music Guitar Lessons 3.20-4.20pm pick-up Junior Playground (book direct at admin@wecreatemusic.co.uk)
Wed 6 March	Scholastics Book Fair – Junior Hall 3.20-3.45pm – cashless (phone and bank card required)
Thu 7 March	World Book Day – Dress as your favourite book character (or own clothes if you would prefer)
Thu 7 March	Whole School World Book Day – see menu on Newsletter
Thu 7 March	After School Club – Mad Science 3.20-4.20pm pick up Infant Office or Junior Playground
Thu 7 March	Scholastics Book Fair – Junior Hall 3.20-3.45pm – cashless (phone and bank card required)
Fri 8 March	Y4 Swimming - Group B Class 4RO – don't forget to bring your kit to school

VACANCY - MIDDAY ASSISTANT

We have a vacancy for a Midday Assistant. If you or someone you know are interested in this position and would like more information, then please contact admin@woodlands.cheshire.sch.uk or speak to Sue in the Junior Office. This would be for 1.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, 38 weeks per year, working with KS2.



Woodlands Nursery/Pre-School September 2024



If you, family or friends have a child who turns 2 or 3 before the 1st September 2024, please do not hesitate to ask us about our Nursery & Pre-School provisions. Woodlands offer half day and full-time sessions up to a maximum of 30 hrs per week and you can use your 15/30hrs free childcare funding with us. You can also use our wraparound to top up your provision with Breakfast & After-School club. Holiday Clubs can be booked and paid for separately so that all your childcare needs can be met under one roof. For more information, please email or call Jann in the Infant Office on 0151 329 3164 Opt 2 or j.bell@woodlands.cheshire.sch.uk

DINNER DEBTS

Despite weekly emailed reminders and often phone calls, our dinner account is regularly in arrears. As such, we would like to once again remind all Parents & Carers whose child is not entitled to a free meal, that we do require all meals to be paid for in advance.



World Down Syndrome Day Thursday 21st March 2024



Please note that we will be raising money for Down Syndrome Cheshire on 21/03/24 but selling Gingerbread sock biscuits in honour of World Down Syndrome Day.

Sales will take place on both school sites in the playgrounds at the end of the school day. Biscuits will cost £1 each.





WORLD BOOK DAY AT WOODLANDS



World Book Day (Thursday 7th March)

To celebrate World Book Day (Thursday 7th March), we will be doing lots of fun, book-related quizzes and activities to continue to celebrate a love of reading at Woodlands. Look out on Twitter (X) for lots of photos of us celebrating this fantastic day!

In addition to the planned activities, children may wish to dress up as their favourite book character, however this is optional and does not need to cost a lot of money. Locally, there is a great initiative taking place in the local libraries in Ellesmere Port where fancy dress swaps are being held to support sourcing of World Book Day costumes and outfits. Information about the fancy dress swaps has been shared in the weekly newsletter. If children do not wish to dress up for World Book Day, they can come into school in their own clothes.

Scholastic Book Fair (Tuesday 5th, Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th March)

It is that time of year again! The Scholastic Book Fair will be making a return to Woodlands. The book fair will be run in the Junior Hall on Tuesday 5th, Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th March from 3:30pm until 4:20pm. The children will be given vouchers on Tuesday 5th March to use at the fair. Please note that this year the book fairs will be cashless this year. Information about how payments will work has been shared separately via Parentpay and in the newsletter. Please pop along if you can and support us in raising funds towards new books for our school libraries!





World Book Day

Woodlands Primary will be celebrating World Book Day on the 7th March 2024. Every child will be invited to come to school dressed with a book/character theme. More information on this will follow in the coming weeks.

With this in mind, we have been advised that our local libraries will be offering World Book Day fancy dress swaps. Please see below for a message from your local librarian:

"Do your bit to help save the environment and money this year, by donating unwanted World Book Day fancy dress costumes at Barnton, Blacon, Frodsham, Hope Farm, Lache, Little Sutton, Neston, Northwich, Sandiway and Wharton libraries. Donated costumes will be quickly checked and put out for those who need them (no donation or payment required) from Thursday 1 February to Wednesday 6 March. And, while you're there, make sure to get a library card, no ID required, or take out a book."

What a wonderful way to encourage reading and save money!!



Fancy Dress Swap

Thursday, 1 February to
Wednesday, 6 March

WORLD BOOK DAY
7 MARCH 2024

NATIONAL BOOK tokens

Libraries | Cheshire West and Chester

BETTER BEHAVIOUR PARENT GROUP – DROP IN SESSION



The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) in Ellesmere Port continues to offer this evidence based intervention in a small group setting for parents of Primary aged children who want to encourage better behaviour at home. The group runs for 7 weekly sessions.



We have arranged a drop in day for interested parents to attend – on **MONDAY 18TH MARCH 2024!** There will be a 1 HOUR TASTER SESSION about the group, followed by time for questions.

The same taster session will run twice - at 09.30am and then again at 2pm so please attend whichever session suits you best.

We hope to run the next group after the Easter break at Kingsley Resource Centre each Wednesday morning 09.30am – 11.30am. This will run from Weds 1st May – 26th June 2024 – these dates include breaks for half term etc. *The taster session looks at; What is Challenging Behaviour? Understanding Children's Behaviour, Factors Impacting Child Behaviour & What Happens in a Group Session.*

MONDAY 18TH MARCH 2024 @ KINGSLEY RESOURCE CENTRE (CORONATION ROAD, ELLESMERE PORT, CH65 9AA – by the Fire Station)

Please come along, we would love to meet you! It is a great chance to learn more about the group & ask any questions you may have.



NHS
Cheshire and Wirral
Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

ANXIETY PARENT OFFER – A DROP IN SESSION!



The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) in Ellesmere Port continues to offer evidence based interventions in a small group setting or online for parents of children of primary age who are experiencing anxiety.



Small changes,
big differences.



OSI

Online Support
and Intervention
for Child Anxiety

We have arranged a drop in day for interested parents to attend – on **FRIDAY 22ND MARCH 2024!** There will be a 1 HOUR INFORMATION SESSION about the MHST offer, followed by time for questions.

The same information session will run twice
- at 09.30am and again at 2pm - please
attend whichever session suits you best.

We hope to run the next parent group after the Easter break at Kingsley Resource Centre – dates and times to be arranged.

The information session looks at; What is anxiety? Why parent work? What Happens in a Group Session? What is our current offer for parents - including TripleP Fear-Less and our online offer (OSI – Online Support & Intervention for Child Anxiety)?


FRIDAY 22ND MARCH 2024 @ KINGSLEY RESOURCE CENTRE (CORONATION ROAD, ELLESMERE PORT, CH65 9AA – by the Fire Station / Cherry Bank)

Please come along, we would love to meet you! It is a great chance to learn more about our anxiety parent work offer & ask any questions you may have.



NHS

Cheshire and Wirral
Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust



WORLD BOOK DAY

7 MARCH 2024

Cheshire West and Chester Libraries

Visit your local library to exchange
your voucher for a £1 book.



It's free to join the Library and
there's no late fees for Under
13s. Libraries may not have the
books until World Book Day
itself.



cwaclibrary
cwaclibraries

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Libraries





WORLD BOOK DAY Quiz

**One lucky winner per library will win a
selection of £1 World Book Day books**

1. What is Winne the Pooh's favourite food? H _____
2. What position does Harry play on the Quidditch team in J.K Rowling's *Harry Potter* book series? S _____
3. In *The Cat in the Hat*, what type of pet does Sally have? F _____
4. In *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, what's Wimpy Kid's real name? _____
Heffley.
5. What did the Caterpillar eat that made him feel better, in Eric Carle's 1969 children's book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*? A Green _____

**Done that? Great. Now fill in your contact details below and we'll be in touch,
after World Book Day, to let you know if you've won the books.**

**Please return this completed answer sheet to the library before
the end of Saturday 9 March, 1pm.**

Your name _____

Contact email and/or phone number _____

Relatives of Cheshire West and Chester Libraries staff cannot apply.



cwaclibrary
cwaclibraries

Libraries



Cheshire West
and Chester



Sunday 4th March

HOPE FARM METHODIST

MONTHLY LEGO CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY
of each month
4.00pm until 6.00pm

For children, accompanied by an adult,
in Reception and up to Year 6

FREE ENTRY – donations welcome

Building fun! • Challenges!
Stories • Hot food • Drinks

For any further information, contact Rev. John Yaxley
Phone: 0796 1046 366
Email: johnandlizyaxley@gmail.com

Hope Farm Methodist Church
Hope Farm Road, Great Sutton
Ellesmere Port CH66 2LF



The Methodist Church





Changes to Childcare Choices from April 2024

Childcare Choices: Get the help that fits your family, so you can juggle work and life

Thousands of families could be saving money on their childcare costs. But some simply don't know what support they might be eligible for.

The Childcare Choices website brings together all the existing childcare offers in one place, so parents can get the help that fits their family. This could be through Tax-Free Childcare, 30 Hours Childcare, or Universal Credit Childcare. Some families might be eligible to use more than one childcare schemes together and get the most out of it. Visit the site at <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> to check your eligibility and see if you can benefit from additional support.

And from this year even more help is on the way:

From **April 2024**, eligible working parents in England with children aged 2 will have access to 15 hours childcare.

From **September 2024**, the 15 hours childcare offer will be expanded to eligible working parents in England with children between 9 and 23 months old.

From **September 2025**, eligible working parents in England with children between 9 months up to school age will have access to 30 hours childcare.

If you are eligible, you need to apply for your funding at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working>.

You do not need to apply if you are only claiming the standard 15hrs from the term after your child's 3rd birthday. This is automatically in place for all children of that age.

Support is also expanding for primary-school aged children – from September 2024, parents are expected to see an expansion in the availability of childcare in their local area before and after school, between 8am and 6pm, also known as '**wraparound care**'.

Don't miss out on getting the support you are entitled to. Visit the Childcare Choices website shown above to check what offer you might be eligible for and sign up to our newsletter to get the latest updates about the childcare support expansion.

We would also encourage parents to sign up to the Childcare Choices newsletter to receive updates about the changes coming from April 2024.

More information on wider financial support is available on the Help for Households website and leaflet at:

<https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/campaign-toolkit/>
