

Another busy week, here at Woodlands!

Following on from the successful visit on Friday from Steel, we started the week off with a gladiator themed lunch on Monday which went down a treat with the children!

Alongside the Y4 MTC (multiplication tables check) that were completed this week with Paul, Mrs Williams has started the statutory phonic screening check with our Y1 children. The children in Y1 have been working so hard with their phonics and the screening check outcomes will re-affirm what we already know about the children. The check will also hopefully reassure parents that what we already have in place for your children, in terms of phonics support and interventions, will continue and will enable each child to become confident, early readers

On Monday, after only 4 training sessions Mrs Williams made the decision to throw the gauntlet down for our newly formed netball team to take on Childer Thornton's 'A' team! After hands in and a war cry of 'WOODIES' on three, the team took to court but soon Woodies were 8-4 down by the end of the first half. With all to play for and their team mates roaring them the final whistle went and the score was 9-9! Player of the match for Woodies (chosen by Childer) was awarded to 'sure shot' Elin and 'Coaches' player for Woodies was awarded to 'Ninja' Niamh. Overall, a fantastic example of a team working together and for each other! Well done – onwards and upwards for our team!

This week saw some of our staff attending training courses, including myself! I have joined a national attendance hub and, whilst we are still expected and duty bound to be consistent in our approach to attendance, and uphold statutory attendance law, I am hoping to bring some new ideas/changes to how we manage attendance at Woodlands during the next academic year – watch this space!

Miss Woodland attended maths training on Monday – as an early career teacher it was great for Miss Woodland to share best practice with other colleagues and to learn about the different types of questioning that can be used in maths. She observed a Y2, Y5 and Y6 class, with a focus on mathematical language, context, structure and images. Not wanting to miss out, our maths leads, Miss Roberts and Mrs Webster also attended additional maths training, returning to school full of further ideas, strategies and resources to share with staff.

Miss Skillen attended WELLCOMM training – this is a toolkit that we already use in school, particularly in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), to assess and support children's speech and language development with staff planning appropriate interventions to support a child's SALT development and progress.

Tuesday saw all of the children dressed smartly in their uniforms and proudly standing side by side their class mates – yes, it was the annual class photo day! Look out for the proofs (if you haven't already had them yet) of the photos – they are truly a magical keepsake of your child's time year-on-year at Woodlands.

In other news, I wasn't quick enough to buy any donuts; the Y6 donut sale, aimed to raise funds to support the Y6 leaver events, was a huge success and by the time I got over to the junior playground there very few left! Thank you to those that bought donuts!

Mrs Morphet and Mrs Cotton spent a lovely day on Wednesday at the Passion for Learning Careers Carnival at Cheshire View, Chester with children from our school who attend enrichment club. Lots of local businesses and professionals showcased the work that they do with a wide range of exciting activities and experiences. The children had a full day to visit the stands and they found out about the many careers that will be available to them in their own communities in the

future. Mrs Morphet and Mrs Cotton reported that all of the children were superbly behaved and a great day out was had by all!

Our Y5 children visited Whitby High School and spent time in the drama department; their second visit this half term. The staff reported that the children have been learning a variety of drama techniques based on Bugsy Malone – we may have some budding actors!

Congratulations need to go to Mr Bowles as on Thursday he undertook a rigorous online assessment – the culmination of his HLTA training. He now has to wait for a few weeks to find out the outcome of his assessment – I have no doubt that it will be a positive outcome – fingers are crossed! A big thank you also to our other, amazing, resident HLTA's who supported Mr Bowles with this, in particular Mrs Cummins, his mentor.

Earlier today, we hosted the Mental Health Support team (MHST) on site who worked with some of our Y5 children on how to 'Master your Mind'. Master your Mind is a 6-week programme that teaches children self-help techniques to cope with worries and anxiety- invaluable life skills, I am sure you will agree.

A reminder that next week we enter the realm of sports days! Weather permitting, we aim to run sports days on the following days:

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 9.30am-10.30am: Reception (infant site)

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 9.30am-10.30am – Foxes and older Squirrels children (infant site)

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2.45PM – Acorns Sports and Games Stay and Play session (infant site)

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 9.30am-10.30am – Y5/6 (junior site)

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2.45PM – 1KS Sports and Games Stay and Play session (infant site)

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 9.30-10.30am – Y3/4 (junior site)

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 9.30am-10.30am – Y1/2 (junior site)

Can I please ask that the children have a water bottle in school on sports days, that sun cream is applied should it be hot and a (named) hat provided if it is sunny. Can I please ask that parents refrain from taking photos'/videos due to the fact that we have children that do not have permission to have photos taken and are therefore vulnerable if their images are taken and shared widely. Staff will endeavour to capture the event and upload photos to Tapestry or See-Saw. As an aside, we will provide chairs for parents to sit on but they are in limited supply so you may wish to bring your own outdoor chairs / picnic blankets!

If sports days are cancelled due to inclement weather/unsafe conditions, the reserve dates have been set for exactly the same time and day the following week.

Have a lovely weekend everyone and let's hope the rain holds off and the sun shines all of next week for our sports days – one can only hope!

Mrs Liversey