

Woodchester Endowed Church of England (VA) Primary School News

Our church school community seeks to inspire children and adults to love, learn and flourish together so we may become everything God has created us to be.

Christian Value—FRIENDSHIP

Friday 8th September 2023

'Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many' (1 Corinthians 12; 14-16)

Dear Parents and Carers,

There is so much news to share in our first newsletter of the school year. We hope that you had a lovely summer holidays, even if the weather at the time was not quite what we expected—it has made up for it this week! It has been so lovely to open our school doors once again and welcome our children back to school. They all look very smart and all of the staff have reported that everyone has settled in to their new classes really well. The children have clearly enjoyed being back together again which has been lovely to see both in the classrooms and during breaktimes.

Firstly, Mrs Pennington and I would like to welcome **all** of our new pupils and their families to our school community. We hope that you feel welcome and part of our school very quickly. In addition, we have been popping into Ash class this week and we are both very impressed by our new reception children as they learn new routines, make new friendships and explore their new surroundings with confidence. Thank you to all of our Year 1 Ash children who are showing kindness and friendship as they support our new reception children. I would also like to thank all of the Year 6 Willow children who are looking after their reception buddies at playtimes—well done everyone.

We also welcome Mrs Coombs to our team of fantastic staff. Mrs Coombs is the class teacher for Hawthorn and I know that she is looking forward to meeting everyone as she settles in to Woodchester. I am sure that the children in Hawthorn Class will enjoy showing Mrs Coombs where everything is as they all settle in together.

Whilst we welcome our new families, we also send our best wishes to all of our summer leavers as they start the next phase of their education in Year 7. They will be much missed but will, I am sure, enjoy all that secondary school has to offer.

Mrs Pennington and I would also like to thank all those who have wished us well as we embark on the new co-headship arrangement. We will continue to work closely to ensure the smooth running of our amazing school. We can be contacted at any time on the new

co-head@woodchester.gloucs.sch.uk email.

Attendance this week has been fantastic with children promptly in the playground, beaming and enthusiastic, ready to start their day at 8:45am. Being prompt and on time means that your child has a great start to the day and does not miss the learning that takes place during registration time.

The entire Woodchester team are really looking forward to working with our wonderful community this school year for the benefit of our families and children so that we may all flourish together.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Loomes, Mrs Pennington and Peggy



A Warm September Welcome from the Governors

Governors would like to join our Co-heads in welcoming back pupils, parents, carers and staff. As is so often the case, we have all watched the sun come out and temperatures rise as the children return. We hope you were all able to enjoy a relaxing break despite the weather and have returned feeling refreshed and full of energy for the new year. We offer a particularly warm welcome to any new pupils and to our Reception children, hoping that they settle quickly, make friends and enjoy their learning. We are delighted that Mrs Coombs, the new teacher in Hawthorn class, is now working with us and wish her every happiness and success, hoping she soon feels a part of our school and village community.

While we are sad to report that our school dog, Peggy, will in future only be available for consultation on three days a week, we are looking forward to the new Co-headship arrangement, in place from the beginning of September. We have every confidence that Mrs Loomes and Mrs Pennington will work together very successfully but ask for your cooperation in supporting them, particularly as we all get used to the new arrangement. Mrs Loomes has drawn your attention to the new joint co-head email to be used for any matter to be dealt with by the headteacher. The two Heads hold equal responsibility for school leadership and will deal with matters according to the day on which they arise, Mrs Pennington and Peggy in post from Monday to Wednesday and Mrs Loomes leading the school on Thursdays and Fridays. Our two heads are in daily communication with each other as the new model is established.

The Governors have already received a list of planned meetings for the year and will be meeting for the first Full Governing Body meeting on Monday, September 25th. As Chair, I would like to thank them all for the work they undertook last year, much of it unseen, and for the support I have received. While we have had some success in recruiting Foundation Governors (appointed by the church), we continue to look for active Christians, of any denomination, who might be willing to serve the school and the community. I would be happy to speak to anyone who would like to know more. There will also be an opportunity shortly for the election of a new parent governor – more details to follow.

Sally Bull
(Chair of Governors)

Saturday 9th September—Tea and Cake at St.Mary's Church, Woodchester

St.Mary's Church warmly welcome you to enjoy tea and cake on the Church Green on **Saturday 9th September from 2:30 until 4:30**. Please do come and join us for cake, chat, sunshine and fundraising for St.Mary's.



RAAC

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces will be vacated.

All schools in Gloucestershire have been assessed for the risk of RAAC by our building colleagues at Gloucestershire County Council. The view is that it is highly unlikely for any RAAC to be present at Woodchester. We are expecting a site inspection to take place within the next few weeks and will provide an update once this has happened.

We understand that parents may want to understand more about the support to educational settings to manage RAAC safely. You can read more through the article published by the DfE on the Education Hub.

OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING

You may recall that we started on a journey to improve children's playtimes through the use of OPAL at our school last school year.

Huge thanks must go to Kath, one of our midday supervisors and TAs, and her husband who have come in over the summer and provided us with a lovely mud kitchen and drawing facilities for our children to enjoy. The children are already having fun as you can see from the end result!



FOWES (Friends of Woodchester Endowed School)

As a school, we are incredibly lucky to be supported by such an enthusiastic and passionate FOWES team who are committed to raising funds for our school. Every penny raised is to benefit and enhance the children's school experience and environment.

Despite it being the start of the school year, our FOWES members have been actively fundraising with uniform sales and ice cream sales in the playground this week. It has been lovely to see such support already.

We would like to start the school year by thanking all of our FOWES members for all their hardwork and support last year. In particular, we would like to give a huge thank you to the outgoing chairperson, Rachael Merrett, who will be stepping down in October.

PTA AGM

The PTA will be holding their **Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 19th October**, so please do go along if you feel you could offer your time or support to FOWES in order to benefit our school community. The PTA is a friendly way to meet fellow parents and support the school.

Bags2school

The PTA has arranged the first Bags2School collection for Friday 6th October. This is the perfect time to sort through wardrobes and get rid of clothes that you no longer want or need. We can also take shoes that are tied together. We politely ask that no bedclothes, duvets or pillows are included. The school will receive funding for every kilogram of clothes donated.



Earlybirds Breakfast Club at Woodchester School

Earlybirds have places available

Mon-Thurs From 7:30 onwards

Contact Laura or Donna

woodchesterearlybirds@gmail.com



DATES FOR THIS TERM

07.09.23—Visitor Willow Class
07.09.23—Viney Hill Parents' Meeting 5pm
11.09.23—Reception children stay for lunch (until 1:15pm)
18.09.23—Reception children attend full time
20.09.23—Viney Hill Residential Y6 (3 days)
20.09.23—Messy Church 3:30pm
25.09.23—Bikeability Week—Year 6
03.10.23—Tempest Photographs
04.10.23—Experience Harvest Workshop (children only)
06.10.23—Bags2School event
11.10.23—Harvest Service (St Mary's 9:30am) all welcome
16.10.23—Governor Focus Fortnight begin
19.10.23—New Reception 2024 Open Morning and Year 6 Tours 9:15-11:15am
25.10.23—Messy Church 3:30pm
27.10.23—Final day of Term 1

Half Term Holiday—30.10.23—03.11.23 (inclusive)

06.11.23—Term 2 begins
06.11.23—Parents' Evening

GLURBS - a new language app!

We use Language Angels to teach French in school. The Language Angels team have just released a new app for children and families. A message from GLURBS:

- Glurbs is completely FREE.
- Glurbs is available to all children – even those in schools not using Language Angels.
- Glurbs is completely safe and secure. Children cannot communicate with or contact any other users.
- Glurbs is completely app based for children to use at home and outside of school.
- Same high quality language learning methodology, materials, images and audio as we use in Language Angels.
- Glurbs will continue to grow over the coming weeks and months as we add new planets, lessons and games.
- Children can download the Glurbs app from Apple App Store or the Google Play Store

GLURBS
THE FUN AND UNIQUE WAY TO LEARN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE
Ages 4-12

- Fun, interactive lessons
- Consolidating challenges
- Exciting reward games
- Create and customise your own character
- No previous language skills necessary
- Plenty of extra learning resources available
- Complements the language teaching taking place in your school

Download for **FREE** today!

@glurbsgame

Twitter, Instagram, Facebook icons

Google Play, App Store logos

French classes for children!

Fun, friendly and educational French classes for children using the brilliantly structured and well-established La Jolie Ronde language learning programme are back at Woodchester Primary School for the Autumn Term!



The children will be transported into a fun world of French language, geography and culture and learn through songs, rhymes, games, role play, food tasting and stories, all with the help of my glamorous assistant, François the frog. Look what we got upto last term.....

For further information or to book your place, please get in touch with me on 07967 712350 or juliettecarpenter@gmail.com



"xxx came home just buzzing about your class... telling me all her new words... she was so full of excitement for it all, you're such an amazing teacher!! Thank you for inspiring that enthusiasm in her- amazing 🇫🇷❤️👏"

"xxx has yet again absolutely loved French and has already asked to sign up next term! Thanks for all your hard work and infinite passion to create the most amazing sessions "



La Jolie Ronde
Happy Language Learning