

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 29th September 2023

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Goodness me, it is hard to believe that we have already reached the end of week 4 of our new school year. None of us are sure where the month of September has gone but Autumn is definitely in the air. The children have enjoyed playing outside, however, we do ask that you send your child to school with a coat as the weather turns.

We hope that you enjoy reading what some of our children have been up to recently; our school feels like a lovely hive of activity with children enjoying their learning. As we write this letter, our Reception children continue to show how well they have adapted to new routines. After a week of coming for the morning, the children had another week where they enjoyed lunch before becoming fully fledged members of our school and staying all day. It is so lovely to see them enjoying their lunches, playing with their friends and becoming more confident in moving around our school. Thank you also to our older children who continue to nurture and support them during playtimes.

Whilst we enjoy getting to know our new children, we are also looking to the future and would like to invite parents of 24/25 reception children to an open morning on **Thursday 19th October from 9:15** onwards. Please do share with anyone who you think may be interested and encourage them to visit our wonderful school.

As a school we are always very aware of our place in the village community and we do ask all our parents to be considerate to the village residents when dropping off and picking up from school. The pavements outside of our school can be congested at the start and end of the day so we do ask that you are mindful in where you park and respect our neighbours as well as consider everyone's safety. We never mind if you are a few minutes late because you have been unable to park safely.

Have a lovely, enjoyable weekend,

Mrs Loomes, Mrs Pennington and Peggy

TEMPEST PHOTOS—Tuesday 3rd October

Tempest photographers are coming into school next Tuesday. They will be taking a variety of different photographs. This will include photographs of individual children and school siblings together.

If you are a family with a preschool child and you would like a photograph with their siblings then you may bring them to the school hall at 8:45am for a group photograph.

Thank you



T4U SHOEBOX APPEAL 2023

Please see the message below from Liz who organises Messy Church. Liz is also a passionate supporter of the T4U Shoebox Appeal and works alongside a number of local primary schools on this project. Liz will be coming into school in a couple of week's time to tell us more about the shoeboxes and she will provide some leaflets with further information about what sorts of things to put in the boxes.

Here is Liz's message:



Dear Parents and Children

It is that time of year again when we start to fill shoeboxes for children who live in extreme poverty in Eastern Europe. Each shoebox will be given to a vulnerable child or family, through schools, nurseries, hospitals and orphanages. For many of the children this will be their only Christmas present.

This year the boxes will be heading to Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania.

Woodchester School has in the past supported T4U and are planning to do so again this year. Leaflets explaining what to do will be given to each child. If finding and covering a shoebox is not possible there will be flat pack boxes at 50p each available from the office. You can find out more by going online to 'teams4u.com'

The filled boxes need to be back in school by **Tuesday 7th November** at the latest please. The boxes then go to a warehouse in Evesham where they are sorted and packed into larger boxes before travelling to their destination. Volunteers from T4U fly out to meet the boxes and distribute them. Thank you to everyone for your kindness. Liz

HOUSE LEADERSHIP

Here at Woodchester, we really encourage our children to be part of our school community by volunteering for opportunities. We have four houses, named after local mills, and each child is allocated to a house on their arrival. The houses are Griffin (green), Merrett (yellow), Rooksmoor (red) and Egypt (blue).



Earlier this month, Year 6 children were invited to speak in front of their houses and explain why they would make a good house captain. The children were amazing and it was a very difficult voting process—congratulations to all who put their names forward. The house leadership teams for this school year are:

Griffin House Captain—Declan; Griffin Vice House Captain — Torsten

Rooksmoor House Captain—Spencer; Rooksmoor Vice House Captain—Harrison

Egypt House Captain—Charlie; Egypt Vice House Captain—Iylan

Merrett House Captain—Iska; Merrett Vice House Captain—Juno

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The children have also been very busy voting for their class councillors who will represent them on the school council. This is a very important role as the school council works with Mrs Loomes and Mrs Pennington on matters such as playground equipment, charity fundraising and issues that the children want to raise. Our school councillors are as follows:

Ash Class—Kyle and Grace

Beech Class—Connor and Willow

Hawthorn Class—Ellie and Toby

Juniper Class—Giorgia and Max

Willow Class—Arlo and Alice



Mrs Loomes and Mrs Pennington are looking forward to working with the school council this year. We know that they will have lots of ideas to contribute and will represent their classes very well.

LOST PROPERTY PLEA!

Whilst it is only the end of week 4 of our new school year, we seem to have gathered a large amount of jumpers, cardigans and the odd school coat as well! Children are well known for putting items down and then forgetting to pick them back up again. Whilst we endeavour to reunite lost jumpers and cardigans with their owners—this really is only possible when the item is named.



We currently have a lot of items which have no name—some which are very clearly brand new; or some that have been bought through the FOWES uniform sales and still have the names of the previous owners.

Whilst we do appreciate it can be time consuming to name school uniform, it really does help us reunite lost items with their owners. Name tags; permanent pens on labels and waterproof name stamps are all good ways to write your child's name on a label. We do appreciate your support with this and hopefully it will help you too!

Earlybirds Breakfast Club at Woodchester School

Earlybirds have places available

Mon-Thurs From 7:30 onwards

Contact Laura or Donna

woodchesterearlybirds@gmail.com



FOWES (Friends of Woodchester Endowed School)

**FRIDAY
6TH
OCTOBER**

Bags2School

collection

Please donate any clothes or shoes
(tied together) to help raise money
for our school

Please drop off in the school car park
before 9am

FOWES AGM

FOWES 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. Parents are very welcome to attend all FOWES meetings and share their thoughts, ideas and suggestions which helps inform decision making. FOWES is a friendly way to meet fellow parents and support the school.

Bags2school

FOWES 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.

Self-Care September 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1 Find time for self-care. It's not selfish, it's essential	2 Notice the things you do well, however small	3 Let go of self-criticism and speak to yourself kindly
4 Plan a fun or relaxing activity and make time for it	5 Forgive yourself when things go wrong. Everyone makes mistakes	6 Focus on the basics: eat well, exercise and go to bed on time	7 Give yourself permission to say 'no'	8 Be willing to share how you feel and ask for help when needed	9 Aim to be good enough, rather than perfect	10 When you find things hard, remember it's ok not to be ok
11 Make time to do something you really enjoy	12 Get active outside and give your mind and body a natural boost	13 Be as kind to yourself as you would to a loved one	14 If you're busy, allow yourself to pause and take a break	15 Find a caring, calming phrase to use when you feel low	16 Leave positive messages for yourself to see regularly	17 No plans day. Make time to slow down and be kind to yourself
18 Ask a trusted friend to tell you what strengths they see in you	19 Notice what you are feeling, without any judgement	20 Enjoy photos from a time with happy memories	21 Don't compare how you feel inside to how others appear outside	22 Take your time. Make space to just breathe and be still	23 Let go of other people's expectations of you	24 Accept yourself and remember that you are worthy of love
	25 Avoid saying 'I should' and make time to do nothing	26 Find a new way to use one of your strengths or talents	27 Free up time by cancelling any unnecessary plans	28 Choose to see your mistakes as steps to help you learn	29 Write down three things you appreciate about yourself	30 Remind yourself that you are enough, just as you are

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

DATES FOR THIS TERM

03.10.23—Tempest Photographs (pre-school siblings 8:45am)
06.10.23—Bags2School event FOWES
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
19.10.23—FOWES Annual General Meeting
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)

02.11.22—Stroud Book Festival begins
06.11.23—Term 2 begins
06.11.23—Parents' Evening
08.11.23—Willow Class Swimming/ Parents' Evening
29.11.23—Messy Church
05.12.23—Infant Nativity
06.12.23—Infant Nativity
18.12.23—KS2 Carol Service
20.12.23—Last day of Term 2 (1:45pm finish)

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!

QR codes for Google Play and App Store.

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Twitter, Instagram, Facebook icons.

Willow Class Visitor



Willow Class were lucky enough to have a visit from Dr Liam of Cambridge University a few weeks ago to talk about the importance of geography and how it can play a part in justice and human rights of a country. Dr Liam asked the children lots of questions about countries, justice and what they thought were the key global issues. He will be taking all their answers and publishing some of

them in a journal talking about children and how geography helps understanding global politics.

Harrison said "It was really good to meet a real geographer—he asked us lots of questions." Thank you to Dr Liam for visiting us in Woodchester and we look forward to reading the finished article.

Willow Class Viney Hill

At the start of the school year, we have a tradition of taking the Year 6 children away for a few days to Viney Hill in the heart of the Forest of Dean. There, the children work on their resilience, independence and team working skills ready for the challenges of Year 6 and all that entails. This year has been no exception and last week an intrepid band of explorers, and the Willow Class adults set off on a rather wet morning.

Whilst it may have been slightly soggy, rain did not stop play and Willow Class got to enjoy all sorts of activities—from tunnelling to climbing, map reading to team working games, building giant towers of crates whilst standing on them and a night walk through the forest. The children also got to enjoy a disco round the campfire and some rather imaginative story telling. Huge thanks to Mrs Loomes, Mrs Megson and Mrs Adams for taking the children away and for creating some special memories.

