

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 13th October 2023

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow—hasn't the weather turned autumnal this week after weeks of gloriously sunny weather and above average temperatures? It's now definitely time to dig out the coats and the wellies as we experience more of the weather we are used to in October. We do endeavour to get the children out in all weathers, so please do make sure your child comes to school with a warm, waterproof coat so that they can enjoy playtimes with their friends.

This week, we were lucky enough to welcome Liz Hale into school to talk about the fabulous work T4U does in supporting vulnerable children in Europe as part of the great Christmas Shoebox appeal. Please read on for more information on how you can help.

Woodchester School is incredibly lucky to be so well supported by all of our FOWES team and our parents through the wide variety of fundraising events that are organised throughout the year. Our FOWES team are on the hunt for new members and so if you think you could help by donating time (no matter how small) or expertise, then do come along to the **FOWES AGM next Thursday 19th October at 7:30pm here at school.**

Finally, a quick reminder that we welcome parents of 2024/25 Reception children to the school as part of our open morning on **Thursday 19th October from 9:15am until 11:15am.** We are really looking forward to meeting our pupils of the future so please do spread the word.

Have a lovely, peaceful weekend.

Mrs Loomes, Mrs Pennington and Peggy

PARKING IN THE VILLAGE



We are very aware that parking during school drop off and pick up is challenging—particularly at this time of year when the village green is no longer available. We do ask that you park considerately for both residents and other road users.

Earlier this week, a resident of Paul's Rise contacted school to complain about inconsiderate parking which made it extremely difficult for a car to pass down the road.

The resident was particularly concerned that so little space was left between cars parked on opposite sides of the road that it would have been impossible for an emergency vehicle to get through.

We also do ask that you keep the yellow hazard lines clear so that children may cross safely. We do understand if you are a few minutes late due to parking issues.

T4U SHOEBOX APPEAL 2023

Earlier this week, Liz came in to school to speak to the children about the T4U shoebox appeal. Liz explained how the shoeboxes we donate are given to children who live in extreme poverty. This year the boxes will be heading to Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania. 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.



You can find out more by going online to 'teams4u.com'

Woodchester School has in the past supported T4U and will be doing so again this year. Liz showed us just how much can fit into a shoebox and gave us all ideas about what we could put inside. Leaflets explaining what to do have been sent home with each child. If finding and covering a shoebox is not possible there will be flat pack boxes at 50p each available from the office.

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.

On behalf of Liz and the T4U team, we thank you in advance for your generosity.

MESSY CHURCH 25th OCTOBER—LIGHT PARTY!

3:20—4:45pm

We are really looking forward to our Light Party which will be held in church on Wednesday 25th October, straight after school. We look forward to activities including: scratch art masks, decorating pumpkins, glow in the dark hoopla game, making and eating pizza, doughnuts on a string and lots more.

Young people will need to bring an adult with them please.

Booking is not required—just come when you can.

We look forward to seeing you. Liz Hale and the Messy Church team.

liz@johnhale.plus.com



HARVEST SERVICE THIS WEEK

On Wednesday of this week, the whole school and a large number of parents came together to support our annual harvest service in St. Mary's Church. Our wonderful house captains read Psalm 104— Praise to God who made the Earth—before each class shared their own harvest celebration.



We always have a lot of 'thank yous' to say after our service so hopefully we have included everyone! Thank you to all of our classes for such wonderful contributions to our service, particularly those who kept going when we suffered an IT glitch! You sang and recited your hearts out—we are all very proud of you. Thank you to Reverend Francis for your reflections and prayer. Thank you, as always, to our staff who have worked with the children to perfect their contributions. Thank you also to all of our wonderful volunteers who provided the tea and coffee before the service—what a lovely way to welcome our congregation. Finally, a huge thank you to all those who made donations ahead of the service. Through your generosity, we were able to fill six crates at Stroud Foodbank which will be shared with members of our community who may need a little helping hand at this time.



BEECH CLASS EXPLORING WOODCHESTER

Recently, our intrepid band of explorers from Beech Class were lucky enough to have wonderful weather as they set off to study our village. As part of their geography learning, the class wanted to know more about the human and physical features in our local area. Beech class had already used a map to plan their route and so knew what they wanted to see and where they wanted to go. Everyone worked really well as a team and had a thoroughly enjoyable trip. We also got to test out the new playground that our eco-council were responsible for planning.

Mrs Jordan and Mrs Wilkins



WILLOW CLASS GET ON THEIR BIKES

It has been all go in Willow Class recently! Hot on the heels of their return from Viney Hill, the class climbed onto their bikes as they took part in the government's national cycle training programme. The purpose of the programme is for children to learn practical skills and to understand how to cycle on today's roads.

The week started with some bike familiarization and control sessions in the playground before the children headed out through the village on their bikes. It has been lovely to see them as they grow in confidence although a few complained about the hills on their way back to school. Thank you Willow Class for being enthusiastic and polite students. Thank you also to Marie-Louise, Bernard and the rest of the Bikeability team who supported Willow Class with their cycling.



CHILDREN'S BOOKS NEEDED!

We are on the lookout for any good quality children's books, children's newspapers or children's magazines for our children to read at lunchtimes whilst outside.

Please send them in to school with your child and we will make good use of them.

Thank you

STROUD BOOK FESTIVAL



Stroud Book Festival takes place from 8th—12th November and more information can be found here—<https://stroudbookfestival.org.uk/>. We are lucky enough that four of our classes will be participating either in person or virtually with author events—more on that to come.

For anyone who loves Horrible Histories, the festival will be celebrating 30 years of HH with the illustrator Martin Brown who will be running a family event on Saturday 11th November. Please visit the festival website for more information.

VIRTUAL BOOK FAIR—NOVEMBER

Following the excitement of the Stroud Book Festival, we will be running our own virtual book fair from Wednesday 22nd November until Wednesday 29th November. Books for Bugs has a great range of books for £2.99, which include picture books, chapter books, non-fiction books and a whole lot more.



In addition, for every 5 books purchased during the week, our school will get a free book. More information will be sent out closer to the time.

FOWES AGM THURSDAY 19th OCTOBER 7:30

We're a really active enthusiastic, friendly group of parents with the aim to raise as much money as possible whilst having fun and creating wonderful memories for our children.

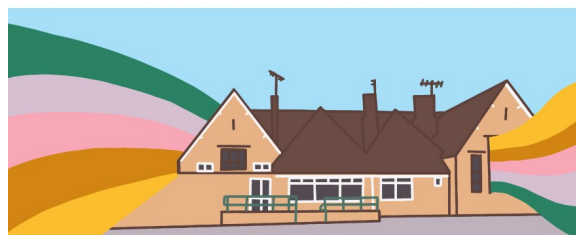
Every penny raised is to benefit and enhance the children's school experience and environment. In the last two years, FOWES have:

- Bought books for school to support literacy learning
- Purchased new science equipment such as magnifiers and microscopes
- Funded a whole school trip
- Upgraded our forest school area making it more accessible for children

All families are automatically members of FOWES when their child joins our school. The Committee hold open PTA meetings, anyone can come along, find out what FOWES are planning, share ideas and get involved. However, the committee are currently looking for new members including a Chair and Treasurer. If you are able to spare any time to help, then please do come along to the PTA AGM on Thursday 19th October at 7:30pm. The meeting will take place in school.

A warm welcome awaits you!

FRIENDS OF WOODCHESTER ENDOWED SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION



RECEPTION 2024/25 OPEN MORNING THURSDAY 19th OCTOBER

If your child is starting reception year in September 2024, then please come along to our whole school open morning on Thursday 19th October from 9:15 until 11:15.



There will be an opportunity for fantastic tours led by our Y6 children, a chance to visit classrooms and get a feel for the school, meet our wonderful teachers and have a chat with our supportive Governors and PTA representatives over a cup of tea. Please do let anyone who may be interested know.

DATES FOR THIS TERM

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 7:30pm School

25.10.23—Messy Church Light Party 3:30pm

27.10.23—Final day of Term 1 (3:15pm finish)

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)

HOLIDAY CAMPS WITH ATLAS

If you are looking for holiday childcare, then visit <https://atlascamps.co.uk/camps/> for more information. Our friends at Atlas are running a number of camps in the Stroud area—including Bussage, Leonard Stanley, Nailsworth, Cashes Green, St. Matthews, and Wycliffe.

