

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 27th October 2023

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow—it is hard to believe that we have reached the end of our first term of the school year. Our reception children, new pupils, new staff and new families have settled in so well and now almost feel like part of the furniture!

Whilst we have reached the end of our first term, there has been much to celebrate over the last few weeks with some fantastic learning. Hawthorn and Juniper classes have been learning to cook like stone age man; Ash and Beech classes have been learning about the importance of Hanukah and Shabbat as part of their work on Judaism; whilst Willow Class have been investigating fungi both on our school grounds and in the surrounding area.

As the weather turns more towards Autumn we are noticing that a number of children are coming to school without any coats. We do ask that you send your child to school with a coat suitable for the season as we do go out as much as we can. Please remember to name coats so that they can be returned when they have been left outside on a fence post!

We would also like to remind people about sensible parking around the village. We are very mindful of our place in the community and the need to ensure that our neighbours are not inconvenienced by poor parking. This week we have had a number of parents either parking on the yellow hazard lines or blocking the road whilst dropping their child off— please note that yellow hazard lines need to be kept clear at all times. Please do park sensibly and mindfully. We never mind if you are late because you have been unable to park.

We hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing half term—fingers crossed for a few dry days; we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 6th November at 8:45 ready for the new term.

Mrs Loomes, Mrs Pennington and Peggy

PICTURE NEWS AT HOME

During the last few years we have subscribed to a resource called 'Picture News'. Through class worship and school displays, children can explore and reflect on current affairs. It enhances our curriculum and develops children's awareness of the world, giving them opportunities to reflect, develop resilience and demonstrate respect, understanding and tolerance.

We have added a page to our website so parents can see the themes and questions explored during the term, including:

- What can we learn from the Lionesses?
- How important is space exploration?
- What can we learn from new adventures?
- Sycamore Gap—How can we remember things that were important to us?



We hope you enjoy learning more about Picture News. https://www.woodchesterprimary.co.uk/children/picture_news.html

Half-term holiday wishes from the Governors

It has been a very long half term and children and staff are more than ready for a well-earned break. We send good wishes to all our children, parents and staff and look forward to seeing you back again, safe and well, in early November. As I write, I am sitting in my kitchen amongst preparations (pizza-themed) for our Messy Church Light Party. I am hoping to see many of you there, enjoying an end of term celebration in our lovely church. We hope to see many of you again at the combined Stay and Play and Cake Bar event planned for November 10th – more details to follow after half-term.

We were delighted to welcome Rachael Merrett, our new Parent Governor, to our postponed Full Governing Body this week. For the first time any of us can remember, we had two strong candidates and therefore had to hold an election. Thank you to both of our candidates for expressing a willingness to take on a responsible and time-consuming role. Thank you also to those of you who voted and your support for Michael Cribbens and Rachael. Many of you already know Rachael, as Mum to her daughter in Beech and as the Chair of our lively FOWES group, a role she has now passed on to a new volunteer. Her knowledge and links will be invaluable as she takes on her new role and she retains a strong link with the PTA as their Treasurer.

We are pleased to report that we have been approached by two candidates for the vacant Foundation Governor positions and are hopeful that by the spring we may have a full governing body in place. Foundation Governors have to be approved by the local church council and by the Gloucester Diocese, a process which takes some time.

The postponement of the FGB has delayed our scheduled meetings with subject leaders but many of these are now planned or underway. Each governor is linked to a subject area and talks twice a year to the subject lead. We hope to follow up our discussions about achievements and plans for the year with some visits to lessons and, where helpful, some conversations with pupils, an activity governors particularly enjoy.

Mrs Sally Bull and the Governors

REMINDER - T4U SHOEBOX APPEAL 2023

As you may recall, earlier this month 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. You can find out more by going online to 'teams4u.com'



Slowly, but steadily our pile of shoe boxes is growing. If you are able to support this worthwhile cause then please do send your filled shoe box in to school with a label saying whether your box is for a girl or boy and the age.

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.

STONE AGE BAKE OFF—HAWTHORN AND JUNIPER

Earlier this term, Hawthorn and Juniper Class had fun making Stone Age bread! As part of our History topic about the Stone Age, we have been learning about what life was like for people living during this period of history.

We have been thinking in particular about what life was like during Neolithic times and finding out about the famous village of Skara Brae. Skara Brae is one of the best-preserved Neolithic settlements in Western Europe. In lessons, we have been analysing artefacts discovered at this site and using these to help us understand how Neolithic people lived and what they ate.

A big thank you to Mrs Boulton and Mrs Cook for all of their help with the baking process.

Bon Appetit!

Miss Smith and Mrs Coombs



NEWS FROM FOWES

The FOWES annual general meeting took place in school last Thursday evening and thank you to everyone who came along to lend their support. Rachael, our chair, and her super enthusiastic team have been amazing over the last couple of years and on behalf of everyone connected with Woodchester School, we would like to thank them all for the substantial amount of money raised and also for all the fantastic events they have organised for our community to enjoy.

Rachael has now stepped down as Chair, however, Julia, who has a child in Reception, has stepped forward to be our new chair. Again, we thank her for being willing to take on this important role and we know that she will be ably supported by the committee and wider parent, staff and governor body during the year ahead.

It has been a very busy week for our FOWES team, no sooner had the AGM finished than everyone was dusting off their dancing shoes in preparation for the discos that took place on the following evening. A huge thank you to all the helpers who made it such a great event and raised over £400 for the school. The children absolutely loved the glow in the dark theme and even some of the adults got in on the act!

FRIENDS OF WOODCHESTER ENDOWED SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION



A FUN VISIT TO TALK ABOUT FUNGI!



Earlier this week, Willow Class welcomed Madeleine - a budding mycologist (someone who knows about mushrooms), for the afternoon. Madeleine shared her passion and local knowledge about mushrooms as a great way to finish our topic on living things. The children really enjoyed our impromptu visit to the churchyard to see more examples of fabulous fungi.

If you have a passion for anything related to Science, Computing, Geography, History, Art or in fact anything that you think the children would like to hear about then please do get in touch. We promise an audience who will ask lots of questions in return!

GIRLS' FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

On Wednesday morning, Mrs Pennington, Mrs Penney and a group of twelve girls from Key Stage 2 made their way to a very soggy and muddy Oldends Lane Playing Field in Stonehouse to take part in this special football event for girls. The damp conditions did not dampen the enthusiasm of over 165 girls who gathered to develop their football skills before putting them into practice during a series of round robin matches.

The main objective of the morning was to introduce and encourage girls to enjoy playing as part of a team and to have fun. There was a fantastic, inclusive and encouraging atmosphere with all players made to feel very welcome whether or not they had previous experience. Our team was composed of girls from Year 3, 4 and 5 and they made us very proud with their positivity, resilience and willingness to have a go!

Huge congratulations and thanks to our wonderful Woodchester girls for their hard work, team spirit and determination. You were all amazing!

Our Girls' Football Team

Izzy, Ruby, Bea, Sophie, Amelia, Edith, Oliva, Ronnie, Iris Oviyaa, Poppy and Daisy



DATES FOR THIS TERM

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

Half Term Holiday—30.10.23—03.11.23 (inclusive)

06.11.23—Term 2 begins

06.11.23—Parents' Evening

08.11.23—KS2 Sports Hall Athletics/Willow Class Swimming/ Parents' Evening

09.11.23—Hawthorn and Juniper Book Festival visit

10.11.23—Beech Book Festival visit

10.11.23—FOWES and Governor Stay and Play Cake Bar

20.11.23—Flu Vaccines

24.11.23—Lantern making for Stroud Goodwill

29.11.23—Messy Church

01.12.23—Stroud Goodwill

05.12.23—Infant Nativity

06.12.23—Infant Nativity

17.12.23—The Carol Bus Rides

18.12.23—KS2 Carol Service

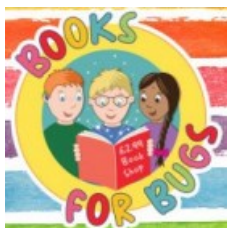
20.12.23—Last day of Term 2 (1:45pm finish)

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

A quick reminder that when we return from half term, we will be celebrating Stroud Book Festival with several class trips to meet authors.

We are still on the hunt for good quality children's books, children's newspapers and children's magazines for children to read outside at lunchtimes. Please do send them in to school where they will be much used!

Don't forget that we will also be holding our own virtual book fair later in November. More information coming soon!



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MUSIC

Five Valleys Music Centre

Archway School, Stroud
Saturdays: 09.30 - 12.30

Open day
Saturday 12th
November
9.30 - 12.30

Music sessions for all
young musicians from
beginner to advanced

Join now!
01452 427242
gloucestershiremusic.co.uk
glosmusic@gloucestershire.gov.uk

*Make music,
make memories*

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