

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—THANKFULNESS

Friday 1st December 2023

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Brrr—what a chilly week this has been! Winter is definitely upon us and it is good to see everyone wearing coats as they enjoy time outside in the playgrounds. We are very fortunate to have lovely outdoor spaces to enjoy here at Woodchester; we certainly try to make the best of them.

With support from FOWES, school has invested heavily in Forest School during the last few years; not only in training four staff to become fully fledged Forest School Leaders but also in improving the area, e.g. new fences, stairs, a canopy and pond. We are incredibly lucky to have such a fantastic outside learning environment for our children and for three afternoons each week it becomes a wonderful and exciting place to learn. As you can imagine, it isn't an easy place to look after or maintain and without the dedicated group of individual parents and staff who gave up part of their Saturday to help maintain Forest School, we would most definitely struggle. On behalf of everyone in school, huge thanks to everyone who helped and made such a difference. You are all stars and we are extremely grateful!

Our school does not flourish without the support of our wider community; be that through listening to readers, volunteering on trips, talking to children about a specific topic or area of expertise or even running after school clubs. Previously we have had parents talk about their jobs including—a chocolatier, nurse, wildlife expert, moth expert, midwife and a dental hygienist. We've had some of our more mature community members come and talk about what holidays used to be like, what the village was like and the Queen's coronation in 1953! Children always love to learn more from 'real' people so if you could come and talk to the children on something you think would be interesting, please do let your class teacher know.

As we mention frequently in our newsletter, we are very mindful about being responsible, caring members of our village community. We therefore respectfully ask our parents and carers to park responsibly when picking up or dropping off at school. As per the Highway Code, the yellow hazard lines outside school are not for parking and must be kept clear at all times. In addition, the school car park is for staff only. The main access to both the school office and Woodchester Playgroup is through the car park. We have had several near misses this week on both the hazard lines and in the car park. We never mind if you are late due to being unable to park, particularly during these winter months whilst the village green is out of action.

Finally, we are looking forward to our infant nativity production **Lights, Camel, Action** on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. Tickets have been issued, costumes prepared, songs have been rehearsed—all that remains is for us to sit back, relax and enjoy the show!

Have a lovely, restful weekend.

Mrs Loomes, Mrs Pennington and Peggy



KEY STAGE 2 SMALL SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

This was a very quick paced, exciting competitive event and we took two teams of footballers. The festival was split into lower Key Stage 2 and upper Key Stage 2 and began with each team playing four matches each in the group stage. This then led to semi finals and finals depending on the position of the team at the end of the group stage.

Our teams played with courage and skill and although competitive their remained encouraging of one another and respectful of their opponents. Mrs Boulton, Mr Fitzakerley and I were extremely proud of them all. The morning was intense and the teams remained focused with both teams doing very well indeed.

Particular congratulations go to our Year 3 and 4 players who came top of their group, won their semi final match and entered the final, trying to become the champions. The final was extremely hard fought and competitive with neither side scoring until less than one minute before the whistle. Although disappointed to be so close to a triumphant end, our footballers should be extremely proud of this fantastic achievement.

Huge thanks to Mrs Boulton and Mr Fitzakerley for all their hard work, support and great coaching and congratulations to all our wonderful footballers.



EASYFUNDRAISING FOR SCHOOL

We have had an EasyFundraising account for school now for many years and we have just received a donation. A huge thank you to everyone supporting us. Please raise free donations for us with your Black Friday and Christmas shopping. Over 8,000 brands including M&S, Argos, John Lewis and Tesco will donate to us for free!

Sign up here: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/woodchesterprimaryschool/?utm_medium=email

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A banner for EasyFundraising. On the left, a maroon background with the EasyFundraising logo and the text 'Help us to raise free funds as you shop this Christmas'. Below this is a yellow button that says 'Sign up' and a small illustration of a gift box. On the right, a yellow background with logos for John Lewis, Boots, Argos, NCT on the High St., M&S, Tesco, Amazon.co.uk, and '8,000+ online brands'.

WOODCHESTER SCHOOL VISIT STROUD BOOK FESTIVAL



Beech Class:

We set off for Stroud Book Festival and were very excited to meet Tom Percival as we had read one of his books in class already. He told us about how he became an author and showed us how he illustrates his book. We even got to draw our own illustrations!

Afterwards we got to meet Tom and some of us had a book signed by him, with Connor saying 'I loved getting my new book because it's a really good book!' Bella was impressed because 'I really liked seeing Tom and it was great when he sang a song for us!' Whilst David said 'Tom signed our books and he even drew in them too.'

Hawthorn and Juniper Classes:

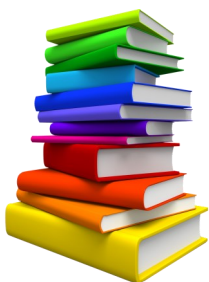
In celebration of Stroud Book Festival, Hawthorn and Juniper Class took part in an exciting poetry event at Stroud Sub Rooms. Alongside other local school, we listened to the brilliant Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho perform and discuss his work on stage. We learnt all about how to write a successful poem, how to engage audiences through words and even had a go at creating a group poem with other schools.

Joseph Coelho read us some poems from his most recent poetry book 'Poetry Prompts' and some of us were even lucky enough to meet him in person and ask him questions.

We had a fantastic morning immersing ourselves in poetry and have been trying out our new ideas in the classroom. We are very proud of the way the children embraced this opportunity to learn more about poetry writing. There are certainly some future poets among us!

Thank you to all of our parents and carers for your support.

Mrs Jordan, Miss Smith and Mrs Coombs



VIRTUAL BOOK FAIR

A huge thank you to all those parents who supported our book fair this week. We really do appreciate all of your support. We would also like to say a huge thank you to the Selsley School Trust for the generous donation of £100, allowing us to purchase some new and much-needed books for our library. Our children enjoy reading, and will love settling down with some of our new purchases!

GOODWILL LANTERN MAKING

As the children reliably inform us on a regular basis, Christmas is only twenty-something sleeps away now. One of the traditions that parents enjoy supporting at Christmas is the Stroud Goodwill evening, this Friday 1st December.

Last Friday, in preparation for the evening, Angela and her family led our Woodchester families through the steps of making lanterns with an under the sea theme. We had fish, jellyfish, whales and even a heart belonging to the Little Mermaid. It was so lovely to see everyone working together to create their marvellous lanterns and we are looking forward to seeing the fully finished results. A huge thank you to Angela and family for running the workshops and sourcing the materials. In addition, a massive thank you to Stuart for the mini lights to go into the lanterns.



DATES

01.12.23— Christmas Coat Hanger Competition opens; Stroud Goodwill Evening

05.12.23—Infant Nativity 1:45pm

06.12.23—Infant Nativity 5:30pm

08.12.23—Lunch with Friends (church)

14.12.23—Whole School Pantomime Trip

17.12.23—The Carol Bus Rides 3pm—6pm Kings Stanley Village Hall

18.12.23—KS2 Carol Service 6pm

20.12.23—School Christmas Lunch; Willow Swimming; Last day of Term 2 (3:15pm finish)

21.12.23—STAFF INSET and 22.12.23—STAFF INSET

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Monday 25th December 2023—Friday 7th January 2024 (inclusive)

08.01.24—Term begins

10.01.24— Swimming (Juniper Class)

12.01.24—Young Voices Trip to Birmingham

17.01.24—Messy Church 3:30pm

22.01.23—Y5 Parents' Meeting re Viney Hill Residential 5pm

09.02.24—Term 3 Ends (3:15pm finish)

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 12th February 2024—Friday 16th January 2024 (inclusive)

19.02.24—Term 4 Begins

THANK YOU WOODCHESTER SHOP AND POST OFFICE

We are lucky in the village to have a wonderful local shop and post office, which is frequented by many of our families and staff throughout the week. The shop is staffed entirely by volunteers whilst the Post Office is run by Post Mistress Pauline.

Last week, whilst popping in to post a parcel, we were handed a rather exciting envelope containing a generous donation of £300 for the school. This was very unexpected and we would like to say a huge thank you to Pauline and the team at the Village Post Office for their generous donation as well as all they do for the village.



GIRLS' SPORT WORKSHOP



Iska, Charlotte, Alice, Juno, Arabella, Robin, Iris, Willow, Issy, Bo, Bella, Amelia, Sky, Ella, Bells, Millie, Ella and Lola took part in a 'Girls Active Workshop' led by Mr Jeffrey from Atlas Sports. This is part of an initiative to discover and understand more about girls' attitude to sport and ways of being active. Mr Jeffrey spent about an hour discussing sport with the girls and finding out what they thought. The girls had some great ideas to share about how sport could be improved and made more accessible for girls.

We look forward to receiving the results of this survey shortly and reviewing their thoughts and ideas.

PCSO VISIT WILLOW CLASS

Last Thursday, Willow Class had a rather important visitor as part of Gloucestershire Constabulary's Schoolbeat programme. PC Hannah came to talk to the children about the importance of staying safe, not giving in to peer pressure and understanding the harm that drugs and other illegal substances can do.

PC Hannah was very impressed with the knowledge, the behaviour and the mature way in which Willow Class talked about some of the issues facing young people today. Charlotte said "It was really good to talk to someone who understands what it is like for us." PC Hannah will be back in the spring to talk about staying safe online.



Christmas Coat Hanger Competition

Decorate a clothes hanger to win a great prize

The Coat Hanger Competition is back! Entries welcome from Friday 1st Dec. There will be prizes for KS1 & 2 winners. The winners will be announced at the end of term.

£1 entry

FRIENDS OF WOODCHESTER ENDOWED PRIMARY PRESENTS JINGLE & BELL BUS

HOTDOGS & MULLED WINE

17 MERRY XMAS SANTA SPECIAL

UNDER 2'S ON LAPS GO FREE

ALL ABOARD THE JINGLE BELL BUS!
A SING-ALONG BUS RIDE FOR ALL THE FAMILY

17 DECEMBER 2023
KING'S STANLEY VILLAGE HALL
PLEASE SCAN QR CODE FOR DETAILS

3-6PM TIME SLOTS
TICKETS £3.25 PP PRE-BOOK ONLY