

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– Compassion

Friday 26th January 2024

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have had a good couple of weeks. School has been busy with lots going on.

Thank you to the Year 5 parents who were able to attend the Viney Hill information evening on Monday. We always look forward to taking the Year 6 children on residential in September and it is a fantastic experience. If you have any questions, either now or in the future, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We have had two very different but important trips take place during the last fortnight. Willow Class attended a special Christingle service at Gloucester Cathedral and a choir of children from Key Stage 2 went to the Young Voices concert in Birmingham. Throughout both trips, the children were great ambassadors for Woodchester and made us very proud.

Today, the Eco Committee organised our very first Eco Day! Thank you to Mrs Jordan and everyone for making it such a success. Don't forget that you can continue counting garden birds over the weekend. Poppy, our Forest Green Rovers ambassador, would also like to let everyone know about FGR's 'Green Football Weekend' - please see the newsletter for more details.

This afternoon, every child has received a Parents' Questionnaire form from the Governors. This follows a similar format to the OFSTED questionnaire to parents. Please feel free to share any additional comments or ideas on the bottom or reverse of the questionnaire form and we look forward to receiving them. Your responses will be considered by governors and shared with parents in the near future.

Finally, there are two Parents' Evenings planned for immediately after the half term holiday. Appointments can be booked through Teams in same way as appointments were booked last term. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher if you need any help in doing this. Children will bring home a mid year report on the last day of this half term.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Loomes, Mrs Pennington and Peggy

FOREST GREEN ROVERS—GREEN FOOTBALL WEEKEND

I would like to tell you about a new campaign called the Green Football Weekend. It's all about greening up the world of football and takes place from 18th January 2023.

The campaign is aimed at clubs, players and fans and it's focus this year is food. FGR want to share messages about plant based food, it's role in human health and the climate crisis.

A key part of the campaign is a competition for fans, whereby fans are asked to score green goals for their team in the 'Green Football Cup' - a competition that spans the Premier League and the EFL, including our own Forest Green Rovers. Scoring goals is as simple as undertaking a pledge or action, like eating a plant based meal, or planning one using the AI recipe generator or switching to a green energy provider. Just do or pledge to do something and you score a goal for FGR. You can score as many goals as you want until the 7th of Feb.

You can find all the details here greenfootballweekend.com

Let's help FGR to the top of the Green Football Cup.



By Poppy FGR Ambassador

A FOND FAREWELL

We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful team of people working at our school and it is always sad when someone moves on. This week, after many years of service, the school said goodbye and good luck to Mrs Kath Clark. Kath has worked and volunteered at Woodchester School for more years than many of us can remember, as well as having grandchildren at our school. From listening to readers, to accompanying trips, to sewing for the Y6 production to regularly supporting Forest School sessions; her contribution to our school community has been immeasurable. Most recently, Kath has been an integrable part of both the lunchtime staff (supervising our children during the most important part of day) and as a 1:1 teaching assistant in class.

We were lucky enough that Kath was able to return to school this week so that we could celebrate and thank her for all her support over the years. We are sure you will join us in thanking Kath and wishing her all the best for the future. Kath—thank you for all you have done. You will be missed.



LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR

Woodchester School has a vacancy for a midday lunchtime supervisor. This role will involve preparing the hall for lunch, supervising children in the hall and then supervising children outside.

Please contact the school office if interested.



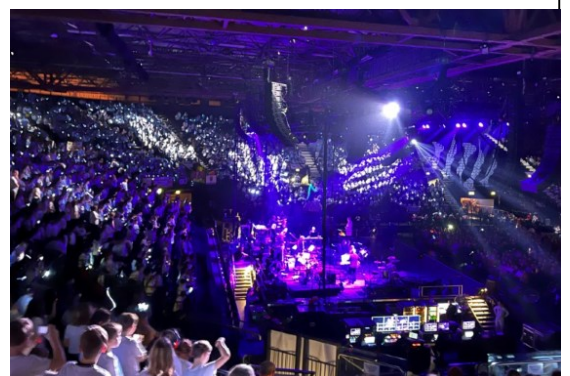
YOUNG VOICES 2024

Last Friday, 40 very excited children and 6 enthusiastic staff members set off to the NEC in Birmingham to sing their hearts out. Young Voices is the largest children's choir in the world and each year put on a series of concerts at large venues. The Woodchester choir, under the direction of Mrs Latham, had been practising regularly since September to learn the songs, perfect the dance moves and get ready for numbers such as the 'Matilda Mash-up'!



After lunch, they gathered for a rehearsal along with nearly 5000 other children where the whole choir came together for the first time. Once a quick tea had been eaten, the doors opened for the audience of nearly 8000 friends and families to find their seats. The Woodchester choir were fantastic—they sang their hearts out, boogied and showed themselves to be fabulous Woodchester ambassadors. They kept going all the way back to Woodchester on the coach!

A huge thank you to all those friends and families who have supported our Young Voices choir, listened to the music as they practised or who journeyed up the M5 for the evening. An even bigger thank you to all the staff, Mrs Latham, Mrs Lusty, Mrs Penney, Mrs Adams, Mrs Turk and Mrs Loomes, for giving up their time to rehearse and support our children at the concert.



DATES

06.02.24—Internet Safety Day

06.02.24—FOWES meeting for parents and friends (details to follow)

09.02.24—Term 3 Ends (3:15pm finish) and Mid-Year reports out

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

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

19.02.24—Term 4 Begins

19.02.24—Parents' Evening

20.02.24—Parents' Evening

21.02.24—Cross Country Competition

21.02.24—Messy Church

23.02.24—FOWES Disco (details to follow)

28.02.24—Final Juniper Swimming Session

06.03.24—Swimming (Hawthorn Class)

07.03.24—Whole School Workshops and Assembly—Thames Water Workshop

07.03.24—Country Dancing Festival 6pm

20.03.24—Easter Service (whole school—St Mary's Church, Woodchester) 9:30am

20.03.24—World Maths Day

21.03.24—PCSO Visit—Year 6

22.03.24—Final Day of Easter Term (3:15pm)

EASTER HOLIDAY

**Monday 25th March 2024—Friday 5th April
2024 (inclusive)**



08.04.24—First Day of Summer Term

06.05.24—May Day

13.05.24—Key Stage 2 SATS Week begins

15.05.24—Messy Church 3:20pm

24.05.24—Final Day of Half Term (3:15pm)

CHRISTINGLE CATHEDRAL SERVICE

On Monday 15th January, Willow Class travelled with Mrs Pennington and Mrs Adams to Gloucester Cathedral. They had spent part of the morning making a Christingle to take to the special Christingle service which had been organised for children in the Diocese of Gloucester.

During the service, which was led by Bishop Rachael, we considered the symbolism of the Christingles and we were invited to think about children all over the world who may have challenges and difficulties to overcome. We presented a donation to 'The Children's Society' to help them continue their fantastic work protecting and helping children.

Gloucester Cathedral is such a wonderful building, inspiring thought and reflection, and a particularly poignant part of the service was when the whole congregation stood in two giant circles around the Cathedral. As we fell into silence and looked at the flickering candle light shining on top of our own Christingle, it was an opportunity for personal and private reflection.

Throughout the trip, our children showed interest, enthusiasm and demonstrated lots of respect. They made myself and Mrs Adams very proud indeed.



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