

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— Courage

Friday 14th June 2024

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Whilst we may be in the Summer term, we are not quite sure where Summer has gone! Despite the inclement weather, the children are enjoying playing on the school field, PE lessons such as Athletics and Rounders are taking place and FOWES are in the midst of planning the Lion Hunt—more on that shortly.

As is traditional in the Summer term, Woodchester has a Sports Day and this year it is planned for **Thursday 20th June**—although this is weather dependent. On the day, your child will be taking part in a house team with events starting at 9:15. Children will take part in round robin activities until approximately 11:30, when the races will be run on the school field. Parents are welcome to come along and support their child by attending the round robin events, or cheering them on in the races. We then warmly invite you to bring a picnic lunch and enjoy it on the school field before school starts again as normal at 1:15pm. Sadly, we cannot guarantee the weather and will send out messages if we have to cancel the event. Please note that school dinners will still be available for those children who require it.

Our FOWES team are in the midst of Lion Hunt planning and will, very shortly, be asking for volunteers to sign up for timeslots during the day. Please do keep an eye out for messages from your class parent representatives who will shortly be sending out more information. We are keeping our fingers crossed that the sun does make an appearance on **Sunday 30th** for our lions!

Finally, our wonderful gardening volunteer group will be undertaking work on the school site on Saturday 22nd June. Please do let us know if you are able to spend an hour or so helping out—we really appreciate all offers of help.

Have a lovely, restful weekend.

Kind regards,

Mrs Loomes, Mrs Pennington and Peggy



Y6 LEAVERS SERVICE

On Tuesday, Willow Class and their adults headed to Gloucester Cathedral for a very special service with hundreds of other Y6 leavers from primary schools throughout the Diocese of Gloucester.

The service is an opportunity for the children to commemorate and celebrate their time in primary school before thinking about their next steps. Arlo and Spencer read their own prayer about being thankful for primary school whilst thinking about those who do not have the privilege of an education. At the start of the service, Charlie and Ellis carried the school banner into the cathedral and took part in the opening procession. The children then listened to Bob Hartman, Storyteller, speak about moving on. The service finished with the children singing a familiar iSing Pop song, whilst Arabella took part in the candle procession.

Mrs Pennington, Mrs Loomes, Mrs Megson and Mrs Adams were so proud of all of our children who represented the school beautifully and showed respectful behaviour throughout the day. Sadly, we all agreed it made the end of primary school all the more real!



ORCHESTRA IN THE AFTERNOON

We had to be super organised as seventeen of our instrumentalists travelled to The King's School, Gloucester on the very first day of the new half term to take part in 'Orchestra in the Afternoon'. Musicians from six schools in Gloucestershire attended amounting to almost 140 children!

During the afternoon, the children rehearsed three pieces of music in sectionals before returning to the large school hall to rehearse them together. Our instrumentalists contributed to the woodwind and brass sections of the orchestra. They played for three different conductors, all professional musicians and teachers. This required fantastic focus and concentration, excellent listening and the ability to follow many instructions. The conductors focused on ensuring the pieces of music were played with attention to dynamics and with rhythmic precision.

This was a fantastic opportunity to play as part of a 140 piece orchestra! Learning to count empty bars of music when your instrument isn't playing is a new skill which demands accuracy and a degree of confidence.

Mrs Tye and I were so proud of all our instrumentalists who had been learning for various periods of time. Not only were they a pleasure to take but they worked very hard indeed and it was also lovely to see them interacting and making new friends with children from other schools during the break.

We are so lucky to have Mrs Tye teaching in Woodchester. Each Thursday, she gives up her time at lunchtime to nurture the school band, sharing her love and passion for music and gently encouraging and building confidence in our children. Her preparation for this event enabled our musicians to take part so successfully.

The afternoon concluded with a performance of three contrasting pieces to a large audience of parents and adults. The 'Orchestra in the Afternoon' played brilliantly and we were very proud of them all. Congratulations on your performances.

Mrs Pennington



BEECH CLASS VISIT GREYSTONES FARM

Last Friday, Beech Class arrived in school excited to travel to Greystones Farm in Bouton on the Water. During the summer term, the children had been learning about 'Habitats' and this was the perfect place to explore and learn about meadow and pond habitats. Greystones Farm is managed by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and our activity leaders were Roz and Margaret who worked so hard throughout the day sharing their knowledge.

As children explored the centre and the surrounding meadows, they learned more about how important the sense of smell, hearing and sight are to the animals and creatures who inhabit the meadow, using their own senses help them appreciate this. They created potions by collecting and crushing local plant life and the different smells they produced was amazing. They created tiny artwork from the local vegetation which really enabled them to appreciate the variety of colours, shades and tones of the natural vegetation.

The class sat under a huge old oak tree and closed their eyes and listened. It was such a peaceful, beautiful place but we came to realise from the sounds of nature all around us, that it was filled with lots of busy wildlife.

Later in the day, Roz talked in depth about how animals were adapted for their environment but she was also very impressed by the knowledge children from Beech Class shared and the fantastic scientific vocabulary they possessed! She even took us down to the newly created pond (we were the very first school to be able to visit this) and let us experience inside a recreated Bronze Age Round House—what a treat!

Thank you to Mrs Wilkins, Mrs Adams and Elaine and Ian who accompanied the trip and to Roz and Margaret from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. They looked after Beech Class brilliantly throughout the day, ensuring not only was the day very enjoyable, but that it was also an opportunity for fantastic learning to take place. Thank you to Beech Class children for being so enthusiastic, polite and engaged throughout the day and representing our school so well.

Mrs Pennington

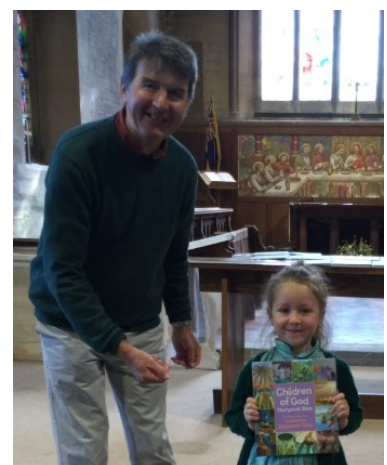
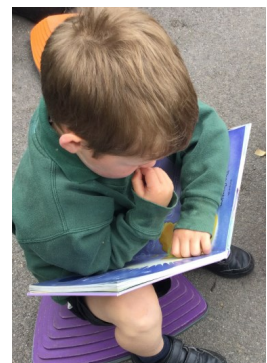


ASH CLASS VISIT CHURCH

We are one of over four thousand Church of England schools in England serving the local community. Here in North Woodchester, we are extremely fortunate to have a very strong and vibrant relationship with our village and church community. Our Clergy, our Foundation Governors and members of the church community work together to engage with and support school in so many different ways and they help to enrich and deepen our sense of community.

Last Friday morning, Ash Class went to visit St.,Mary's Church to be presented with a gift from the church—a copy of 'The Children of God Storybook Bible' retold by Desmond Tutu. This Bible is designed to be a global Children's Bible, created by the talents and inspiration of many people around the world. The stories are retold by Desmond Tutu and reflect his wisdom, compassion and sense of humour.

A huge thank you to Andrew for presenting the Bibles; Diana for inscribing the Bibles and the church community for the gift of the Bibles. As you can see, we have really enjoyed receiving them!



SUMMER 2 DATES

17.06.24 Woodchester Science Week
19.06.24 Messy Church
20.06.24 Sports Day & Family Picnic Lunch (Weather Dependent)
26.06.24 New Reception Parents' Meeting 6pm
27.06.24 New Reception Taster Morning
05.07.24 New Reception Taster Morning & Meet My New Class sessions
08.07.24 Y6 Performance
09.07.24 Y6 Performance
11.07.24 Whole School Vision Day
14.07.24 Musical Tea Afternoon
15.07.24 Willow Class Trip
17.07.24 Leavers Service (9:30) at St.Marys Woodchester—All Welcome
19.07.24 End of term

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

02.09.24 INSET STAFF ONLY
03.09.24 Years 1—6 Return to school
04.09.24 Reception children start



KS2 SEWING CLUB

Who needs the Great British Sewing Bee, when we have our own sewing club at Woodchester! On Thursdays after school, a group of KS2 girls can be found designing and embroidering their own sampler using a variety of stitches. Mrs Megson, Mrs Harris and Mrs Loomes are on hand to undo tangles, advise on stitches and wield the scissors whilst everyone stitches and chats. It is lovely to hear how much the children are enjoying the club.

