

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 19th July 2024

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the school year draws to a close it is rewarding for us to stop and take a moment to reflect on all that has been accomplished within this school year. There is much to celebrate and so much of what has been achieved is due to the efforts of our whole community with our school of wonderful, caring and vibrant children. Thank you so much to all our parents and carers, to our dedicated FOWES team and our church community for all that you do to support our school.

Throughout the year, our governing body, all volunteers, give up their time and expertise to guide and support our journey. Mrs Bull and her team are immensely dedicated and enthusiastic and we are grateful for the role they do.

As co-headteachers, we are surrounded by an amazing team of teachers, teaching assistants, administrators and MDSAs and we are extremely grateful for their incredible support, their flexibility, understanding and love of what they do. Their commitment and dedication in helping and caring for our children is inspiring.

Congratulations to all of our children for everything they have achieved and contributed this year. We look forward to welcoming them back in September. To our Year 6 children, you have been fantastic role models and we wish you well in the next stages of your education.

On behalf of the Woodchester School community, we wish you a happy, relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Kind regards,

Mrs Loomes, Mrs Pennington and Peggy



AUTUMN DATES

02.09.24 INSET STAFF ONLY

03.09.24 Years 1—6 Return to school

04.09.24 Reception children start 08:45—12:15

09.09.24 Y6 Parents Viney Hill and Welcome to Y6 Meeting 5pm

09.09.24 Reception children 08:45—13:15

16.09.24 Reception children 08:45—15:15





GOODBYE AND THANK YOU MRS PENNINGTON

On the last day of the school year, the Governors, staff, children and wider school family bid a fond farewell to Mrs Pennington (and not forgetting Peggy either). For the last nearly seven years, Mrs Pennington has been the beating heart of our school.

Thank you to everyone for joining us in celebrating Mrs Pennington and all that she has done for us as a school, colleague and most importantly, friend. She will be much missed but we hope that she and Peggy pop in occasionally for a visit.



END OF TERM WISHES FROM THE GOVERNORS

Governors would like to send all our children in Willow Class our very best wishes for happy and successful futures as they move on to the next stage of their journey. Those of us lucky enough to enjoy their musical production last week will have memories of their talent, their team spirit and their sense of fun.

Sadly we have another major thank you to share as we say goodbye to Mrs Pennington, our Co-headteacher, who has been with us for nearly seven years. Parents, children and staff have witnessed her commitment, creativity and compassion. She leaves the school a strong and happy community and safe in the hands of Mrs Loomes to whom we extend every good wish as she takes over this challenging role. It is impossible to sum up here all that Mrs Pennington has brought to the school through her leadership: Ofsted Outstanding verdicts, while received with relief and delight, do not say it all. Our school vision comes much closer to summing up the kind of community, work ethic and relationships she has encouraged, always leading by example. We wish her peace, good health and a plethora of exciting new opportunities in her retirement.

A huge thank you goes to all our staff and supporters as they lead the last few exciting activities of a busy year. We thank the teachers, teaching assistants, our music teachers, mid-day assistants, cleaners, Open the Book Team and volunteers for the opportunities and support they provide each day. We thank FOWES, our hardworking PTA, for lively events, their contribution to a sense of community and their vital donations to school funds. And we should not forget you, the parents and carers, who support your children and the school to be the best they can be. I would also like to say thank you to my dedicated team of governors, often working behind the scenes, who give up hours of time to monitor, attend school events, participate in fundraising, prepare for and attend meetings and volunteer for working parties.

We would like to wish all our families a happy, safe and relaxing summer break, with or without the sunshine. We look forward the children's return in September, hoping they will be refreshed and ready to learn, to take on new challenges and to make new friends.

Sally Bull

Chair of Governors



THE WOODCHESTER LION HUNT

Thank you, FOWES

Governors were delighted to be part of the hugely successful Lion Hunt Event, selling lots of tea and cake in the hall. Our St Mary's church family joined in too, contributing generously with home-baked cakes for sale and generous donations in their own satellite cake event after the Sunday service. The weather was much more in our favour this year (last year we watched as icing melted and cakes slid slideways) and we sold almost everything, collecting substantial funds from our customers.

This was our flourishing community in action. Children worked alongside parents, grandparents and staff on a range of stalls. Parents provided games, speaker systems and a bar. Local businesses supported us through sponsorship of the lovely lions, lurking round the village, a local brass band played. Children showed off their country dancing skills. Worshippers at St Mary's ate cake and sent a team to deliver leftovers and takings. Neighbours dropped in to join in with the fun. Ex-pupils joined us to renew memories and reconnect. The village was alive with voices as family groups enjoyed the lion trail.

This event would not happen without the hard work and organisation of our lovely FOWES team and we want to send a huge thank you to them all. With a very tight budget and ever-rising demands on our funds, we know how vital their contributions are. Many parents, carers, friend and staff gave up their Sunday to make the event a success but many more hours have gone into the planning that a handful of loyal workers undertake. A special thank you must go to them and to our Co-head, Lynn Pennington, present from opening to closing on Sunday and busy throughout.



FOWES FUNDRAISING

FOWES would like to say a huge thank you for all of the support that has been given to our events this year. We have had a very successful year with a total of £3374 being raised at our recent Lion Hunt. This is as a result of sponsorship, the Lion Hunt itself, a generous donation from Renishaw and the hard work of FOWES and our supporters.

We will be holding our FOWES AGM in the new school year and would like to invite all to attend. More details will be sent out in September.

ROBIN AND THE SHERWOOD HOODIES

In a small village, not far from Woodchester, a group of intrepid adventurers—or should that say budding young actors fought for justice whilst robbing from the rich to give to the poor. Yes—you've read that correctly. Year 6 acted, sung and danced their way through the re-telling of Robin Hood—ably assisted by Hawthorn and Juniper classes. There were jokes, props and even Alan Rickman made an appearance!

A huge well done to all of those who performed on the stage—we hope you leave us with many memories of performing to your friends and families. We must also say a massive thank you to all of those who helped behind the scenes with props, costumes, lights, tickets, programmes, editing the script as well as those who helped on the night.

Thank you all, from the KS2 team.



Y6 LEAVERS SERVICE

On Wednesday, Mrs Pennington delivered her seventh, and last leavers' service for our current Year 6 class. This is always an emotional service where the children get to reflect upon their time at Woodchester, to thank those who have helped them during their time with us and to say farewell to the school community.

As in previous years, this year our Year 6 children were lucky enough to receive a generous donation of books from the St.Loes, Seys and Bridges Trust which were presented by Mr Andrew Pemberton. The Year 6 children were also lucky enough to receive a book, written by a local resident, from the PCC which was presented by Mrs Sally Bull. Willow class would like to say thank you to both organisations for the kind and generous gift.

Willow Class would also like to say thank you to the school band under the direction of Mrs Tye for their beautiful playing at the start of the service—just the way to get things going!

We wish all of our leavers good luck as they move on to the next stage of their education. Thank you for your contributions to our wonderful school and we will miss you all!



DISTRICT SPORTS

District Sports has been an important date in the sporting calendar for many years now and although it is now no longer held in the evening, it is still enjoyed by many children. Two weeks ago, Mrs Pennington, Mrs Cook and Mrs Boulton took a team to take part in throwing, jumping and running competitions. We have to pay particular attention to the rules about which events children can take part in so we can only take a small number of representatives from Year 3 to Year 6.

The children had a great team spirit and enjoyed the morning, cheering on their friends. We had a number of children get through the finals and although our team was not placed in the overall medal positions they made us all very proud.

Thank you to all the children involved for doing their absolute best, for their competitive spirit and for making the most of the opportunity they had been given. Thank you also to Mrs Cook and Mrs Boulton who clocked up many steps whilst escorting children from the different events!

Our Team—Ruby, Bea, Daisy, Sophie W, Talia, Oviyaa, Alice, Iska, Ellie, Charlotte, Poppy W, Clara, Poppy G, Giorgia, Iris, Max, Thomas Mc, Vinnie, Dominic, Toby M, Rory, Leo, Torsten, Iylan, Xavier, Charlie E, Toby K, Ellis, Noah



MUSIC EXAMS

Here at Woodchester, we are incredibly proud of musicians. Children play an array of instruments from drum to guitar to clarinet, trombone and other wind instruments. This would not be possible without our visiting music teachers, parents support and most importantly the efforts of the children themselves.

Just a few weeks ago, a number of children sat Grade 1 and Grade 2 music exams which tested their musicality, playing and ability to be accompanied by a pianist. A huge well done to all of our musicians who have, today, received their certificates. Well done everyone! We are very proud of you!



EASY FUNDRAISING

If you are making purchases on the internet, you might like to consider making your purchase through the Woodchester C of E School easyfundraising link. About 7000 retailers have signed up to this. All you need to do is to use this link : <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/>

You sign up, selecting Woodchester C of E school as the recipient of any donations from participating retailers. The school will receive a small percentage of the cost of your purchase at no extra cost to you. It is, as the name suggests, a very easy way of collecting funds for the school. You just need to remember to make your purchase through this site.