

Woodlands Weekly



Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe

office@woodlands.kent.sch.uk

www.woodlands.kent.sch.uk

20th March 2026

Newsletter No. 24

Sun, glorious sun! What a lovely week it has been, both inside and outside the school.

Year R has loved being outside this week. They have built trails, ordered numbers, made slides, listened to stories and taken part in a variety of physical activities. They really enjoyed exploring the book, 'Harry and the Dinosaurs', and wrote about where they would like to take a bucket of dinosaurs.

This week in maths, **Year 1** has been learning about part-whole models and how numbers can be partitioned into tens and ones. The children used Dienes (coloured sticks) to physically build numbers and then separate them into tens and ones. After building the numbers, the children recorded how many tens and ones they could see. They worked extremely hard and showed great confidence when explaining their thinking. Well done, Year 1!



Year 2 has been beginning to build their own chairs out of paper for their DT topic 'Structures'. They have learnt why the structure needs to be strong and stable and how to achieve this. With only masking tape and paper, they have discovered that cylinders are the strongest and can hold the most weight. In 2 Yew, one group managed to balance 60 books on a group of cylinders!

To start off British Science Week, **Year 3** were visited by Idris (not Elba!) the scientist. They dissected strawberries to extract their DNA. It was messy but fun! To continue with the theme of science, year 3 also conducted a science experiment together to see if they could clean dirty water. Lots of perseverance was needed as the ideas did not always work first time. Eventually clean water was dripping through. Ask the children if the water was actually clean though.



Year 4 enjoyed a trip to Hever Castle last Thursday that linked very well to their topic all about the Tudors. They enjoyed a tour of the castle followed by a birds of prey display. Children discovered many facts about birds of prey that included:

- Owls can't turn their heads 360 degrees. They can only turn 270 degrees. They have to turn their heads to see because their eyes are fixed.
- Owls are short sighted.
- Owls have hollow feathers
- Not all birds of prey nest in trees

This week, **Year 5** children have enjoyed participating in a poetry workshop run by Kit Weston. They enjoyed examining a variety of seaside objects that have prepared them for their upcoming unit of English, free verse poetry. The children explored how words can be carefully selected to give a poem a desired tone. Finally, the children returned to class to begin planning elements of their poems, taking inspiration from the objects they observed, as well as their personal knowledge about the seaside. They will continue to explore the use of metaphors and personification in poetry, and will finish the week writing their own free verse poems.



On Thursday 6th March, two **Year 6s** went to the Tonbridge & Malling Council Chambers to take part in the mayor's debate along with children from other schools. It was interesting to see how and where the council hold their debates. The children enjoyed using the microphones where you pushed a button to speak. The subjects debated included:

Should we have Grammar Schools and the 11+ Test?

Should parents be allowed to take their children on holiday during term time?

Should all primary school children wear school uniform?

The votes on all were a definite yes after the children had discussed the pro and cons of all. It was lovely to hear the children expressing their opinions confidently, listening to the ideas of others and then either building on what others had said or countering the argument with valid points.

The results of the debates are as follows:

Question	Yes	No	Ab-stained
Should we have Grammar Schools and the 11+ Test?	39	8	2
Should parents be allowed to take their children on holiday during term time?	37	12	0
Should all primary school children wear school uniform?	27	17	5



On Wednesday 11th March, the Senior Choir took part in The Tonbridge Lions Junior Choir Concert. They were one of six schools to take part, each singing two songs of their choice and then joining together at the end to sing a finale together. Thirteen members of the Senior Choir were able to attend this event and they all represented the school superbly. They sang brilliantly, with several people saying that although they were the smallest choir, they were the best! Mrs Richards was so proud of every single member of the choir, and they should be extremely proud of themselves too! Thank you, Mrs Richards, for your superb leadership.

Thank you to all of our staff for making the learning so incredibly interesting – a special mention to Mrs Joyce for organising Science Week. The week is ending with Mr Holloway running the Rome marathon for charity and with Mr Taylor and Mr Holliday being gunged for Comic Relief – photos to follow!

A final thank you to all those who attended Family Bingo last Friday and to the PTA for organising. It is such a lovely event and helps to raise those much-needed funds. Keep an eye out for future events, including our first PTA music festival.

Have a great weekend.

Vicki Lonie

Headteacher

Sporting update:

Netball:

On Tuesday, ten children from Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in a netball tournament at Weald of Kent Grammar School, looking to build upon their success from the previous week. Even though the competition was much tougher this time round, the children had a fantastic time and represented the Woodland's spirit by battling hard until the very last game. A big thank you to Sophie Curtis and Lucy Rich for coaching the team, they have really benefitted from your knowledge and experience of netball.

Hockey:

On Wednesday, eight children from Year 5 and 6 took part in a hockey tournament at Hawkenbury Recreation Ground. For many of the children, it was their first time playing hockey in a competitive setting and, as a team, they acclimatised very quickly to the game by winning their first game with Isabelle R getting the only goal of the game. Their next two games both ended with narrow defeats and were unlucky not to score a goal or two of their own. In their final game, Woodlands secured a 2 – 1 victory with Isabelle getting her second goal of the day and Oliver R securing the winning goal. It was great to see so many new faces take part in a sporting event and I hope you will come back and try other sports in the future.

Football:

This term, Woodlands Football Team returned to league action after missing out on qualifying for 'The Avenue to Angels' Tournament Finals Day by one point. In their first of two matches played, Slade were the opposition and it was great to see that the boys were keen to put to bed their disappointment of aforementioned tournament. They put in an excellent first half with a goal apiece from Josh R-F and Rocco D to put Woodlands 2 – 0 at halftime. Woodlands continued to dominate the game with the opposition not threatening Henry L in the Woodland's goal. Reggie M bundled in the third goal for Woodlands from a corner and Josh R-F got his second of the game with a superb strike from twenty yards out. If truth be told, Woodlands should've scored a lot more than four, but getting back to winning ways was just what the doctor ordered.

Goal scorers: Josh R-F x2, Rocco D and Reggie M

Player of the match: Ethan G

Their second match of this term saw the team play against Hildenborough, who were sitting second in the league table behind Woodlands. With by far the biggest match of the season so far, it was important that Woodlands were in control of the game from the first whistle and they dominated the first five minutes. They got their reward for their impressive start when some great build-up play saw Rocco D smash the ball into the back of the net to get the opening goal. Hildenborough looked shell-shocked and immediately from the kick-off, Joe A pounced on a loose pass and dribbled passed their defender and doubled Woodlands' lead. The rest of the first half became a battle with both teams coming close to scoring but the score remained 2 – 0 to Woodlands. The same message was relayed at half time about starting on the front foot. However, Hildenborough started better in the second half and after a loose clearance, the Hildenborough's centre midfielder scored a superb goal from 20 yards out, which Henry L could do nothing about. In previous games, when Woodlands had conceded a goal, they would struggle to regain their composure and looked likely to concede again. This time, Woodlands showed great fortitude and responded in the best possible way with Rocco D restoring their two-goal cushion. A few minutes later, a well-worked goal down the left hand side of the pitch saw Josh R-F grab his fourth goal of his league campaign. The final five minutes were played out quite comfortably and when the full-time whistle blew, Woodlands had secured their fourth consecutive victory and left them top of the table by six points.

Goal scorers: Rocco Dx2, Joe A and Josh R-F

Player of the Match: Joe A

Please support Amelie in 6 Ash next week:

BLUE TIDE BRACELETS
PRICES: There will be a special raffle for 2 surprise boxes. raffle ticket: 20p
necklace: £1.00, 3 for £2.00
Bracelets: 50p
Phone Keyring: £1.25, 2 for £1.50
Keyring: 50p
ring: 50p All jewellery is handmade
Sets: £1.25
(sets are a pair so you can pick 2 things in a set.)
The money is going towards the dog trust.

Tonbridge Methodist Church

Spring Fair

Please go along and support Tonbridge Methodist Church Spring Fair on Saturday 25th April at 10am-12 noon. There will be lots of stalls, selling cakes, jewellery, pre-loved items, books and much, much more.

They would be very grateful for donations of any children's books.

If you have donations, please bring them to the Acorn Office for us to pass on.

Thank you



British Science Week – Curiosity, what's your question?

The children have been budding scientists this week, unleashing their natural curiosity and trying to answer their varied question through scientific investigation. Watch out for next week's newsletter for further information on how they got on.

REMINDER – Poster Competition

Don't forget, all children are invited to design a poster for British Science Week addressing the following question:

What are children and young people's vision for a good/positive childhood?

The poster must be on A4 or A3 paper, using any materials of the children's choosing (No 3D models please).

All entries to be submitted to Mrs Joyce by Friday 27th March. Please add full name, age and class to the back of the poster.



SIGN UP NOW - SIGN UP NOW - SIGN UP NOW

NEW **3V3 INFLATABLE PITCH!!**

WEDNESDAY 8TH • THURSDAY 9TH APRIL 9AM - 3PM
WEDNESDAY 15TH • THURSDAY 16TH APRIL

AGES 4-13

EASTER SOCCER SCHOOL €22 PER DAY €40 TWO DAYS €75 FOUR DAYS

HUGH CHRISTIE SCHOOL
3G PITCH
TONBRIDGE
KENT
TN10 4PU

LC COACHING

CALL LEE - 07837 996183

Princess Christians Farm

Come and meet our baby animals!

We will have lambs and kids for you to meet on the day along with all the other amazing animals on site.

There will be fun activities on the day including crazy golf and our interactive rocket experience, along with the opportunity to purchase handmade crafts and enjoy refreshments in Munchkins Café.

All-inclusive Tickets -Adults £12, Children (2yrs-16yrs) £8 each, under 2's free.

Buy tickets online at <https://buytickets.at/kasbah/2051836>



Guitar Lessons

Tom Williams has a space to start guitar lessons after the Easter break!

Acoustic/electric, rock/pop, total beginners very welcome. Please contact Tom directly on [07736051082/](tel:07736051082)
tomwilliamsmusic@hotmail.com



WhatsApp



It has come to our attention that some class what's app groups have been targeted by people trying to sell things.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that what's app is social media and group admins are encouraged to review privacy settings and remove people that they do not know.

Term Dates

2025/2026

Term 1: 01/09/2025 - 17/10/2025

Term 2: 03/11/2025 - 19/12/2025

Term 3: 05/01/2026—13/02/2026

Term 4: 23/02/2026 - 02/04/2026

Term 5: 20/04/2026 - 22/05/2026

Term 6: 01/06/2026 - 21/07/2026

2026/2027

Term 1: 01/09/2026 - 16/10/2026

Term 2: 02/11/2026 - 18/12/2026

Term 3: 04/01/2027 - 12/02/2027

Term 4: 22/02/2027 - 25/03/2027

Term 5: 12/04/2027 - 28/05/2027

Term 6: 07/06/2027 - 21/07/2027

Diary Dates

2025/26

27th Apr SATS + Devon parent meeting, 6pm

05th May NO CLUBS

01st Jun Safety in Action Trip

05th Jun KS1 Summer Disco

12th Jun KS2 Summer Disco

16th Jun NO CLUBS

22nd Jun - 26th Jun Year 6 Residential

27th Jun Summer Fair

15th Jul Year 6 performance, 1.30pm

16th Jul Year 6 performance, 7pm

20th Jul Year 6 Leavers Assemblies

Ash, 9.15am

Aspen, 10.45am

Hawthorn, 2.30pm

20th Jul Year 6 Leavers party, 4pm

New dates/times in blue

BBC

We have been asked to share this flyer.

Please research if this is something you would be interested in.

This is not endorsed by the school.

Is your child finding it hard to make friends?

The award-winning makers of The Dog House are casting for a brand-new BBC series about friendship.

We are looking for **children aged 5 to 8** from all over the UK who need a little help navigating the world of friendship. Over three days, a team of child psychologists will help them build the social skills and confidence to make real, lasting connections with other kids.

If you'd like to help your child make a new friend (with no pressure to take part), please apply at:

bemyfriend.tv