

Woodlands Weekly



Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe

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www.woodlands.kent.sch.uk

25th September 2026

Newsletter No. 4

We continue our focus on RESPECT this term. We are exploring how we show respect in different parts of the school day and life in general. Most pupils do this without hesitation and are extremely careful and polite. Sadly, not all pupils are showing this important value. There is work to do on respectful behaviour in the lunch hall from Years 3 and 4 and the children also need to show respect for our neighbours Roselands and their property and new fences.

The big day finally came....**Year R** had their first splash in the stream. There was much excitement, many soggy socks and a lot of giggling when the children ventured into the water. They loved seeing how high they could jump from the bridge and chasing each other up and down the stream. They predicted what would float and what would sink from a variety of items they found in the woods and then experimented to see if their predictions were right.

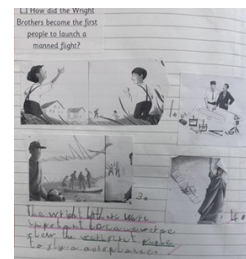
They had not one, but two visitors this week. The amazing Gareth P Jones came to visit the children to read and sing some books he had written. The children loved joining in, making chicken noises, and egg noises – you had to be there! Thank you to Mrs Brown for organising this for us. Dr Guy also visited Year R. He talked to the children about what a doctor does and showed them his doctor instruments. The children loved using his stethoscope to listen to his chest. He told them three things they need to do stay healthy - wash hands after using the toilet, eat healthy food and do plenty of exercise.



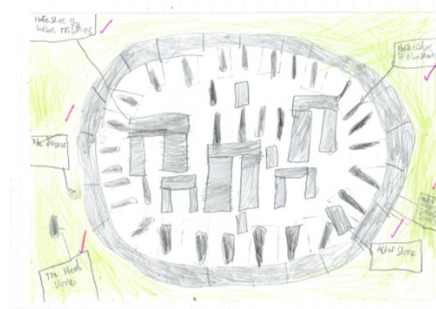
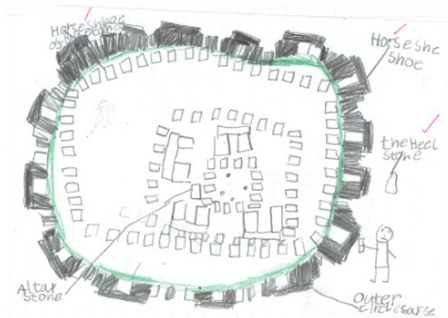
Year 1 has been learning all about trees this term. This week, the children focused on bark and the important job it does in protecting the trunk from harsh weather and insects. The children enjoyed going outside to create bark rubbings, carefully observing the different textures and patterns they could see. They have also been building their scientific vocabulary by learning the terms **deciduous** and **evergreen** and beginning to identify different types of trees. Year 1 had a fantastic time exploring nature and developing their understanding of the world around them.



Year 2 pupils have loved starting their history topic 'Up in the Air' this term! This week, they learnt all about the Wright Brothers and their journey to building the first aeroplane. After reading the story 'Taking Flight', they discussed the challenges that the brothers faced and how they had to persevere to reach their success. The children then ordered parts of the story and explained why they thought the Wright Brothers were important.



Year 3 became history detectives as they explored the mystery of Stonehenge. They discussed how the monument may have been built, where the enormous stones came from and different theories about why it was created. The children drew and labelled a model of Stonehenge before deciding which theory they found most convincing.



Year 4 children have begun an exciting new English unit on **suspense stories**. The children have been exploring how authors create tension and keep readers guessing by using powerful descriptions, mysterious settings and carefully chosen vocabulary. Through reading and discussing a range of suspenseful texts, pupils have identified techniques such as cliff-hangers, short sentences and sensory details that build anticipation and make stories engaging. They have enjoyed analysing how writers create an atmosphere of mystery and excitement. Over the coming weeks, the children will use these techniques to plan and write their own suspense stories. We are looking forward to seeing their creativity shine as they develop intriguing characters, mysterious settings and gripping plots that will keep their readers on the edge of their seats!

This week, **Year 5** children have enjoyed commencing their computing topic for the term. They will be creating a video game using Scratch software where they create their own ruleset, controls and point system. The children enjoyed testing a variety of simple video games, making notes on the features, positives and areas for development of each game. They worked together to strategise and collaborate in order to be successful. There was even a throwback to the original two-player tennis game, which the children enjoyed competing against their partner.

Year 6 pupils have had another busy week: in RE, they have been discussing whether it is better to express religion through arts and architecture or charity and generosity. Staff were overwhelmed with what the children produced. This week, they explored art from the Christian faith and the children created their own artwork based on bible quotes. Their artwork was thoughtful and reflected the quotes that they were given. Next week, they are going to be looking at Islamic art.



Thank you to Mrs Brown for organising the Autumn Read this term, to staff who stayed to share their favourite story selections and to the PTA for organising hot chocolate. Overall, the pupil and parent turn-out was poor which is a shame, but I was pleased to see those who did attend enjoying getting lost in the world of literature.

We certainly all enjoyed meeting the author that day and listening to him talk about how he comes up with his ideas – he also sang some very amusing songs about his books!

I hope you have a great weekend. We'll see you on the other side!

Best wishes,

Vicki Lonie

Headteacher



A couple of requests from me this week...

Firstly, thank you to all of those parents who have started to contact teachers via the forms on the website. Direct emails to teachers or members of the leadership team will not be responded to unless pre-arranged by the member of staff. A reminder on this that we are not an emergency service – staff are not on call 24/7 – they will usually respond within 48 hours to your form. We often have an ‘urgent’ communication either by phone or form that in the grand scheme of things is not urgent, so

please try to see the issue in context and give us time to respond.

Secondly, if your child does face a challenge, please continue to send them to school so that we can support them in overcoming it. Keeping your child off gives them the message that we should hide from life’s challenges and this is not a helpful life lesson to learn. We will always be here to help them through.

Request from the Children’s Commissioner

The Big Future is asking children and young people about their lives, their experiences and their hopes for the future. I will be using what they tell me to build a national picture of what matters to children today and to ensure their views are heard by Government.

The survey takes just a few minutes to complete and can be accessed here: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

Dame Rachel de Souza

Children’s Commissioner for England

Attendance Matters



Our whole school attendance is sitting at 97.4% this week. We are delighted with this positive early start to the academic year and thank all families for their support in ensuring children attend school regularly and arrive on time. Attendance is a key factor in children's academic progress, wellbeing and sense of belonging within the school community. We now need to continue building on this excellent start by maintaining high attendance levels throughout the term.

For those that are struggling with attendance, both children and families, our key goal is to work with you to reduce barriers and improve attendance.

If you are arriving late into school, you may see myself or Mrs Stone in Acorn office reception, as we have a big push this term to make sure every child is in school on time. Every missed minute counts.

A reminder that if your child is unwell, please let the school office know as early as possible. If it is a cold or headache, then we do encourage you to dose them up and send them in. Here is the NHS guidance for when to keep a child off school, [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#). For all other occasions, we encourage families to plan appointments and activities outside of school hours wherever possible.

Each week, we celebrate the class that is our weekly attendance winner in each key stage celebration assembly. The new ‘bee-themed’ certificates are going down well! We have also introduced a new year group own clothes day - ‘In to WIN!’ – the year group that ends the term on the highest attendance percentage will win an own clothes day. There will be a winning year group in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Thank you for working in partnership with us to give every child the best opportunity to learn, achieve and thrive. Let's keep up the great work!

Mrs Adams

KS2 Science Ambassadors

This year, we are introducing the role of Science Ambassador to KS2. The children found out about this exciting opportunity in assembly last week. Every class will have a representative who will work closely with me to look at science across KS2, with a view to making it even better. The ambassadors will also play a key role in their own classes, helping teachers to set up investigations, monitoring equipment and supporting their classmates in science.

To be eligible for this role, children must have a passion for science and a desire to share this with others.

If your child would like to apply to be their class Science Ambassador, they should write a letter to me explaining the following -

- Why they love science so much (what, or who, has inspired them?)
- Why they think they would make a good Science Ambassador.

All letters should be submitted to class teachers by **Monday 28th September 2026**.

Many thanks,

Mrs Joyce

Science Lead.

Drumming workshop

Last week, all children from Year R through to Year 6 enjoyed taking part in drumming workshops. Rich, from Rich Rhythms, brought his Djembe, African Drums, and taught the children different rhythms and how to play them together, using an African rhythmic signal to know when to start together and stop together! The older children learnt two different rhythms, with half the class playing one rhythm whilst the rest played a second rhythm.

Here are some photos from some of the sessions.



Christmas card competition

Tom Tugendhat (MP) is holding his annual Christmas card competition.

To enter, drawings must be on A4 (portrait or landscape). Their card must be Christmas themed and with their name on the front so it can be printed on the card.

The winning four designs will receive 100 blank copies of their own card, a special prize and an invitation to meet Tom Tugendhat and have a tour of the Houses of Parliament with their parents.

Any designs must be submitted to either Miss Castle or the office by Monday 12th October.



Superstar Corner

Congratulations to Mr. Taylor for completing the Hospice in the Weald 10K last Sunday with his friend James.

Mr. Taylor completed it in a time of 50 minutes and 12 seconds.



Clubs

All children must be collected from an after school club by an adult. The exception is Year 6 in the summer term only.

Piano Lessons

Would you like your child to learn piano? Mrs Jones has space for new pupils (KS2) on Fridays. For all information please contact Kent Music by using this link:

[Kent Music - Your musical journey starts here.](#)

All students need to have a piano or keyboard (preferably touch-sensitive) to practise on at home.



Guitar Lessons

Tom Williams has ONE space left.

Acoustic/electric, rock/pop, total beginners very welcome.

Please contact Tom directly on [07736051082](tel:07736051082) / tomwilliamsmusic@hotmail.com



Diary Dates

2026/27

29th Sep	Year 1 Bedgebury Trip
30th Sep	Flu Vaccinations
02nd Oct	Individual and sibling photos
5th Oct	Harvest Celebrations, including 9.30am for KS1 at the Methodist church.
6th Oct	Parent Consultations
7th Oct	Parent Consultations for some of R Beech
8th Oct	Parent Consultations
12th Nov	Year 5– Carroty Wood
14th Nov	Fireworks, gates open at 4.30
28th Dec	Christmas Fair
22nd Jan	Quiz Night
29th Jan	KS2 Disco
5th Feb	KS1 Disco
14th May	KS2 Disco
21st May	KS1 Disco
5th Mar	Bingo
12th Mar	Break the rules day

New dates/times in blue

Term Dates

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

OCTOBER HALF TERM HOLIDAY CAMP
NEW VENUE
WOODLANDS PRIMARY

WEEK 01: 19TH - 23RD OCT '26
MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMPS INCLUDING SPECIALIST ACTIVITIES LIKE:
CHESS & STRATEGY LAB, CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TOURNAMENT,
ESCAPE ROOM MADNESS, NERF GUN QUEST, MINI OLYMPICS

WEEK 02: 26TH - 30TH OCT '26
MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMPS INCLUDING SPECIALIST ACTIVITIES LIKE:
ROBO LAB, FOOTGOLF FANATICS, ZOMBIE NERF, NEXTGEN STEM,
HALLOWEEN FACE PAINTING FACTORY

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WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER
THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER
AGES 4-13

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- ✓ MAKE NEW FRIENDS
- ✓ ACHIEVE YOUR POTENTIAL

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AGES 4+ BEGINNERS WELCOME!

RUTH CABLE FAMILY CONCERT

with SEVENOAKS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Sunday 11th October 2026 at 4pm ~ Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks

Around the World on The Amazing Magic Carpet!



Join us for our annual sell-out family concert which features tales of magic and adventure from around the world!

Narrated by David Leonard | Conducted by Darrell Davison

Other pieces include favourites like the Toreador's March by Bizet, Arabian Dance by Tchaikovsky and Rodeo by Copland.

Tickets direct from the Stag Box Office
£11 each or £10 for four or more
01732 450175 | www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk
www.sevenoakssymphonyorchestra.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 10570





EM FORSTER THEATRE

AN INTERACTIVE MURDER MYSTERY SHOW

Calling all trainee detectives!

Join us for an award-winning board-game style theatre show from the creators of *I Believe in Unicorns*.

"Better than a good game of Cluedo." Orfeus age 9

Your skills are needed to solve a thrilling murder mystery. Team up with super sleuth Danyah Miller to navigate through secrets and surprises in this brain-teasing adventure. We'll examine evidence, inspect video footage, and interrogate suspects, every clue bringing us closer to the truth. Can we crack the case together?

As with every good game, the ending is not always the same...

Expect intrigue, mischief and a sprinkle of magic. Get involved... Get it solved!

WINNER! BEST FAMILY ARTS ACTIVITY!
FANTASTIC FOR FAMILIES AWARDS 2025

"Lots of juicy intrigue... leaves the audience abuzz."
The Guardian

"A great hour of performance and audience interaction that will have the kids enthralled."
Everything Theatre

"Children become trainee detectives in this wonderfully engaging murder mystery."
Time Well Spent

CLICK HERE TO WATCH TRAILER

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SUITABLE FOR EVERYONE AGED 7-107 YEARS | Running time 70 minutes, no interval

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