



NEWSLETTER

Woodlands
Primary School

News Updates from Woodlands Primary School
READY — RESPECTFUL — SAFE

16th Feb 2024

LUNCH MENU: 1

TERM DATES:

Term Dates:
https://www.woodlands.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/21528161

**CLASS TWITTER NAMES
FROM SEPT 2023**

[@WoodlandsSquir](#)

[@WoodlandsOwls](#)

[@WoodlandsBadger](#)

[@WoodlandsFoxes](#)

[@Woodlands1AA](#)

[@23Woodlands1E5](#)

[@Woodlands2DR](#)

[@Woodlands2PB](#)

[@Woodlands3LB](#)

[@Woodlands3HH](#)

[@Woodlands4AW](#)

[@Woodlands4RO](#)

[@Woodlands34LW](#)

[@Woodlands5MG](#)

[@Woodlands5SE](#)

[@Woodlands56LT](#)

[@Woodlands6BS](#)

[@Woodlands6DM](#)

Subjects:

[@Compwoodlands](#)

[@REandWorldViews](#)

[@MUSICwoodlands](#)

INTERNET SAFETY

Internet Matters have produced some help, advice and videos on how to keep under 5's safe online. Please see this website:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/0-5/online-safety-video-guides-early-years/>

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalonline-safety.com](https://www.nationalonline-safety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

for young people

You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

7

NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nifty around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though: they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming toward them, which is clearly dangerous.

DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting your phone down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos: this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Rutherford is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing Internet use and posting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

The National College

NOS National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

[@nationalonline-safety](#) [/NationalOnlineSafety](#) [@nationalonline-safety](#) [@national_online_safety](#)

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This Week's Year Group News

EYFS

Squirrels - The Squirrels have been celebrating Valentine's day and pancake day with some delicious, sweet treats this week. On Tuesday, we carefully chose our own toppings to enjoy with our pancakes and on Wednesday, we decorated some delicious biscuits. The children carefully rolled icing and selected their toppings. The group have loved participating in dancing this week, by carefully following the dance videos of 'Go Noodle' - the rollercoaster song is a big hit!

Foxes - What a lovely week! The children have been busy thinking about people who they love, decorating biscuits, creating Valentine cards and drawing some beautiful pictures! In Maths, we have been exploring capacity. The children have been eager to tell us when their water bottles are full, half full and empty. We are very proud of all the Foxes for taking part in our big climb fundraiser. Everyone has worked brilliantly as a team and shown great enthusiasm throughout the week. Well done, Foxes!

Badgers & Owls - In Literacy, we have enjoyed sharing the story of 'Mr Wolf's Pancakes' and helped him to write a shopping list for pancake day. We have also talked about why we celebrate Valentine's Day and some children chose to write their own messages to people who are special to them. In Maths, we have continued with doubling numbers up to 8 and we have also started to add two groups together to find out how many we have in total.

Acorns - The children have really enjoyed completing activities to improve their physical development this week. We have been climbing, creating obstacle courses and enjoying using vehicles on the bike track. On Valentine's day, the children completed some wonderful mark making by drawing lines and shapes that represented things they love.

A huge thank you to everyone for your generous donations to 'The Big Climb'! Miss Rowland will be completing her challenge on Sunday 18th February and will be climbing the height of Everest on the versaclimber. We would be so grateful for any further donations (via the Just Giving page shown on page 4) as all the money raised will go to enhancing our block play provision across the whole of Early Years.

KS1

Year 1 - We have worked hard to write our own version of 'The Lion Inside', in English this week. In Maths, we have used number lines to add, subtract and find missing numbers. In Geography, we learnt about landmarks in England, our national anthem and the King. We also recapped the 4 countries that make up the United Kingdom. We really enjoyed our Science investigation this week, we tested different materials to discover which was the best to use for an umbrella!

Year 2 - The children have continued to learn about deforestation this week and the important work Chester Zoo do to help with conservation. They have also continued to produce some excellent artwork and writing, linked to tigers. As part of their writing, the children have continued to focus on using capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks. In Science this week, the children have been learning about the life of Charles Macintosh and how he invented the first waterproof coat. In Mathematics, we have been learning about money. The children have been using their addition strategies to add different amounts and also to compare the value of the different notes and coins. The children have had a very busy half term and are ready for a much-deserved break. We hope they all enjoy their week off and we look forward to seeing them after the holidays.

Thank you for your continued support,

The KS1 Team

Continued overleaf.....



This Week's Year Group News

KS2

Year 3 & 4 - Another half term draws to a close! We have enjoyed a Menai residential with the Year 4's, a whole phase trip to Chester Zoo and a spectacular Young Voices concert in Manchester. The children have worked exceptionally hard in all curriculum areas and have completed their write away this week - a time travelling story set in the Stone Age. In Maths, the Year 3 children have started a new unit on fractions whilst the Year 4 children have worked on division with remainders. We have completed our History topic of the 'Stone Age' and look forward to learning about the 'Bronze Age and Iron Age' on our return to school after half term. Have a wonderful half term. We look forward to seeing you all bright eyed, bushy tailed and refreshed in a week's time.

A reminder to please log in to ParentPay and ensure that you have given consent for the local area visits and our Easter Trail trip to St David's UR Church in Eastham.

Thank you for your continued support

LKS2 team

Year 5 & 6 - What a fantastic final week of Spring 1, Years 5 and 6!

Year 6, we have to start by saying what an AMAZING trip we had this week! Condover Hall was fantastic and we are overwhelmingly proud of the children for the enthusiasm, determination and maturity they showed throughout the residential. We conquered some fears, gained independence and had lots of fun along the way. Remember to check the Y6 Twitter pages for photos of our brilliant trip. Before we went away, the Y6's finished their fractions, decimals and percentages unit of work in Maths. In English, they also wrote some fantastic 'Zoo project' themed writing for their final pieces (either writing diary entries or non-chronological reports). Well done, Year 6!

Year 5 have also had a brilliant week! In English, they have been very busy researching, planning and writing their reports all about the Windrush generation, making sure to include their mastery keys throughout. In Maths, they have completed their multiplication and division unit of work and have moved on to their second fractions unit that will be focusing on multiplying fractions and finding fractions of an amount. In P.E, Year 5 have enjoyed a range of activities this week, including some basketball, netball, bench ball and dancing too! They have also enjoyed completing some COJO's sessions. Congratulations on such a fantastic final week, Y5.

We hope you all have a wonderful half term break - we cannot wait to hear all about your time with your family and friends. Remember to have a well-deserved rest too.

Thank you for your continued support.

The UKS2 Team

Have A Wonderful Half Term!



THE BIG EYFS CLIMB



12th - 16th February 2024

WOODLANDS EYFS WILL BE TEAMING UP WITH PRIME HEALTH AND FITNESS TO RAISE MONEY FOR SCHOOL EQUIPMENT.

OUR GOAL IS TO EXPAND OUR UNIT/ HOLLOW BLOCKS RESOURCES TO ENHANCE THE BLOCK PLAY AREAS

CHALLENGES:

WORKING AS A TEAM, CHILDREN IN EYFS WILL BE COMPLETING 1 HOUR OF CLIMBING EACH DAY THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.

MISS ROWLAND WILL BE JOINING THE TEAM FROM PRIME HEALTH AND FITNESS TO CLIMB THE HEIGHT OF EVEREST ON THE VERSACLIMBER.



BLOCK PLAY PROVIDES ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT AND MEANINGFUL OPEN-ENDED PLAY, MEANING THE POSSIBILITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING ARE ENDLESS.

DONATE NOW USING OUR QR CODE OR FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW TO OUR CROWDFUNDING PAGE. FEEL FREE TO SHARE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

[HTTPS://WWW.CROWDFUNDER.CO.UK/P/TH
E-EYFS-BIG-CLIMB](https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/the-eyfs-big-climb)

UPDATES OF CHILDREN AND MISS ROWLAND TAKING PART IN THIS CHALLENGE WILL BE SHARED ON THE EYFS TWITTER PAGES

FUNDS WILL BE RAISED AND HELD BY THE WOODLANDS PTA AS THEY ARE OUR DEDICATED CHARITY (CN 1147631). ALL FUNDS RAISED IN RELATION TO THIS CAMPAIGN WILL BE RINGFENCED FOR THE PURCHASE OF OUR HOLLOW / BLOCK RESOURCES.





Whole School Attendance 94.9%

Reporting Children's Absence

School must be informed of children's absence on the first day by ringing 0151 329 3164 and pressing 1 to leave a message. This must be done before 9am. Please ensure you provide the child's name, class and reason for absence.

If your child is absent due to sickness or diarrhoea, they will be unable to return to school for 48hrs after their last episode. This is inline with the Public Health Agency guidance to reduce the risk of the illness spreading. Any absence not explained is registered as unauthorised.

Appointments

Parents and carers should make every effort to book routine dental and GP appointments outside of school hours. Where this is not possible, children should only be absent for the time needed for the appointment and travel to and from.

For any prebooked medical appointments copies of appointment letters can be emailed to n.brown@woodlands.cheshire.sch.uk in advance so that a note can be added to the register. The school will work with all families on an individual basis if medical absences exceed the maximum threshold.

Holidays During Term Time

Can we politely request that parents inform school of any upcoming holidays via the Leave of Absence forms which can be collected from the school offices. These forms should be completed and handed to school 4 working weeks in advance of the first day of absence.

Dates – Week Beginning 26 February 2024

Lunches Week 1	
Mon 26 Feb	After-school club – KS2 Create Music Guitar Lessons 3.20-4.20pm pick-up Junior Playground (book direct at admin@wecreatemusic.co.uk)
Tue 27 Feb	
Wed 28 Feb	Before-school club – Y1&2 Dance with Create Dance 8am -8.45am drop off Junior Hall (club full)
Wed 28 Feb	Y5 Hoops for Health
Wed 28 Feb	After-school club – KS2 Create Music Guitar Lessons 3.20-4.20pm pick-up Junior Playground (book direct at admin@wecreatemusic.co.uk)
Thu 29 Feb	After School Club – Mad Science 3.20-4.20pm pick up Infant Office or Junior Playground
Fri 1 March	Commando Joe Showcase
Fri 1 March	Y4 Swimming - Group B Class 4RO – don't forget to bring your kit to school



Woodlands Nursery/Pre-School September 2024



If you, family or friends have a child who turns 2 or 3 before the 1st September 2024, please do not hesitate to ask us about our Nursery & Pre-School provisions. Woodlands offer half day and full-time sessions up to a maximum of 30 hrs per week and you can use your 15/30hrs free childcare funding with us. You can also use our wraparound to top up your provision with Breakfast & After-School club. Holiday Clubs can be booked and paid for separately so that all your childcare needs can be met under one roof. For more information, please email or call Jann in the Infant Office on 0151 329 3164 Opt 2 or j.bell@woodlands.cheshire.sch.uk

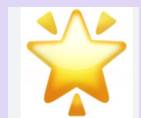
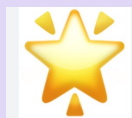
DINNER DEBTS

Despite weekly emailed reminders and often phone calls, our dinner account is regularly in arrears. As such, we would like to once again remind all Parents & Carers whose child is not entitled to a free meal, that we do require all meals to be paid for in advance.

A Woodlands Well Done!!

Please join us in saying a huge 'WELL DONE' to our fundraiser extraordinaire, Heidi Barker, who has just completed another huge feat of a 214mile bike ride. Raising over 7k for Alzheimer's Research UK and Macmillan Cancer Support. This along with the 16.5K+ already raised is, I'm sure we can all agree, very inspiring!!

Lovely to hear that her efforts are being rewarded by being invited to the audience of 'Saturday Night Takeaway', her Favourite show. Enjoy Heidi, its well deserved!!!





WORLD BOOK DAY AT WOODLANDS



World Book Day (Thursday 7th March)

To celebrate World Book Day (Thursday 7th March), we will be doing lots of fun, book-related quizzes and activities to continue to celebrate a love of reading at Woodlands. Look out on Twitter (X) for lots of photos of us celebrating this fantastic day!

In addition to the planned activities, children may wish to dress up as their favourite book character, however this is optional and does not need to cost a lot of money. Locally, there is a great initiative taking place in the local libraries in Ellesmere Port where fancy dress swaps are being held to support sourcing of World Book Day costumes and outfits. Information about the fancy dress swaps has been shared in the weekly newsletter. If children do not wish to dress up for World Book Day, they can come into school in their own clothes.

Scholastic Book Fair (Tuesday 5th, Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th March)

It is that time of year again! The Scholastic Book Fair will be making a return to Woodlands. The book fair will be run in the Junior Hall on Tuesday 5th, Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th March from 3:30pm until 4:20pm. The children will be given vouchers on Tuesday 5th March to use at the fair. Please note that this year the book fairs will be cashless this year. Information about how payments will work has been shared separately via Parentpay and in the newsletter. Please pop along if you can and support us in raising funds towards new books for our school libraries!





SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR AT WOODLANDS



**Tuesday 5th, Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th
March: 3:30pm – 4:20pm in the Junior Hall**

This year, the Scholastic Book Fair at Woodlands will be cashless as we are a cashless school. On the day of the fair, you will need to bring your phone (with internet access) and your bank card with you.

Once you have selected your book(s), you will need to go to one of the payment stations where there will be a member of staff from Woodlands there to help you pay for your new books.

Payment Steps:

Step One: Scan the QR code or type the web address (bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay) in on your phone.

Step Two: Type the school's postcode: CH66 2JT into the search bar and select 'Woodlands Primary School'

Step Three: Select the option '*I am paying at the Book Fair*' and enter your details. The Woodlands staff member helping you will total the amount you are paying for your book(s). If you are using a book fair voucher or vouchers, this will be taken off the price of the books. Then, the final amount will be entered on the payment page.

Step Four: Once you have completed the payment, show your payment reference to the Woodlands staff member who is on the payment station.



Please note, the payment system will not open until the week the fairs will be taking place.



World Book Day

Woodlands Primary will be celebrating World Book Day on the 7th March 2024. Every child will be invited to come to school dressed with a book/character theme. More information on this will follow in the coming weeks.

With this in mind, we have been advised that our local libraries will be offering World Book Day fancy dress swaps. Please see below for a message from your local librarian:

"Do your bit to help save the environment and money this year, by donating unwanted World Book Day fancy dress costumes at Barnton, Blacon, Frodsham, Hope Farm, Lache, Little Sutton, Neston, Northwich, Sandiway and Wharton libraries. Donated costumes will be quickly checked and put out for those who need them (no donation or payment required) from Thursday 1 February to Wednesday 6 March. And, while you're there, make sure to get a library card, no ID required, or take out a book."

What a wonderful way to encourage reading and save money!!



Fancy Dress Swap

Thursday, 1 February to
Wednesday, 6 March

WORLD BOOK DAY
7 MARCH 2024

NATIONAL BOOK tokens

Libraries | Cheshire West and Chester



FEBRUARY HALF TERM FOOTBALL CAMPS

Come and join us for a fun-filled football camp led by UEFA A qualified coach, Mike Hayes.

During the camp you will learn key principles of football including passing, dribbling, shooting and much more.

The sessions are open to girls and boys of all abilities. Prizes for players for the day and penalty shootout.



Please bring a packed lunch including soft drinks.

We also ask that players bring a change of footwear for inside the building.

Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 Feb 2024

£26 per child per day

Whitby Club, Dunkirk Lane, Ellesmere Port, CH65 6QF

9am – 3pm

TO BOOK contact Mike Hayes

07969691358

MPHCoachingAcademy@outlook.com

BETTER BEHAVIOUR PARENT GROUP – DROP IN SESSION



The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) in Ellesmere Port continues to offer this evidence based intervention in a small group setting for parents of Primary aged children who want to encourage better behaviour at home. The group runs for 7 weekly sessions.



We have arranged a drop in day for interested parents to attend – on **MONDAY 18TH MARCH 2024!** There will be a 1 HOUR TASTER SESSION about the group, followed by time for questions.

The same taster session will run twice - at 09.30am and then again at 2pm so please attend whichever session suits you best.

We hope to run the next group after the Easter break at Kingsley Resource Centre each Wednesday morning 09.30am – 11.30am. This will run from Weds 1st May – 26th June 2024 – these dates include breaks for half term etc. *The taster session looks at; What is Challenging Behaviour? Understanding Children's Behaviour, Factors Impacting Child Behaviour & What Happens in a Group Session.*

MONDAY 18TH MARCH 2024 @ KINGSLEY RESOURCE CENTRE (CORONATION ROAD, ELLESMERE PORT, CH65 9AA – by the Fire Station)

Please come along, we would love to meet you! It is a great chance to learn more about the group & ask any questions you may have.



NHS
Cheshire and Wirral
Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust



Changes to Childcare Choices from April 2024

Childcare Choices: Get the help that fits your family, so you can juggle work and life

Thousands of families could be saving money on their childcare costs. But some simply don't know what support they might be eligible for.

The Childcare Choices website brings together all the existing childcare offers in one place, so parents can get the help that fits their family. This could be through Tax-Free Childcare, 30 Hours Childcare, or Universal Credit Childcare. Some families might be eligible to use more than one childcare schemes together and get the most out of it. Visit the site at <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> to check your eligibility and see if you can benefit from additional support.

And from this year even more help is on the way:

From **April 2024**, eligible working parents in England with children aged 2 will have access to 15 hours childcare.

From **September 2024**, the 15 hours childcare offer will be expanded to eligible working parents in England with children between 9 and 23 months old.

From **September 2025**, eligible working parents in England with children between 9 months up to school age will have access to 30 hours childcare.

If you are eligible, you need to apply for your funding at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working>.

You do not need to apply if you are only claiming the standard 15hrs from the term after your child's 3rd birthday. This is automatically in place for all children of that age.

Support is also expanding for primary-school aged children – from September 2024, parents are expected to see an expansion in the availability of childcare in their local area before and after school, between 8am and 6pm, also known as '**wraparound care**'.

Don't miss out on getting the support you are entitled to. Visit the Childcare Choices website shown above to check what offer you might be eligible for and sign up to our newsletter to get the latest updates about the childcare support expansion.

We would also encourage parents to sign up to the Childcare Choices newsletter to receive updates about the changes coming from April 2024.

More information on wider financial support is available on the Help for Households website and leaflet at:

<https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/campaign-toolkit/>
