



Woodlands
Primary School

NEWSLETTER

News Updates from Woodlands Primary School
READY — RESPECTFUL — SAFE

29th Nov 2024

LUNCH MENU: 1

Quick Links:

Woodlands Menus


Term Dates

Reminders:

SNACKS & WATER

Further to our emailed reminder earlier this week, can we please ask that children are sent in with a healthy snack option. This is more for our Junior children as the EYFS and KS1 children are provided with fruit each day.

We also remind you that children should bring in a water bottle each day and that it should **ONLY** contain water, unless prior agreement has been given for children with special dietary needs.



Festive Fun Run

Dear Parent,

We are grabbing our festive boppers and holding our very own Festive Fun Run, on **Thursday 12th December** for the Hospice of the Good Shepherd

Our children will be taking part in the Hospice of the Good Shepherd's Festive Fun Run. They will be provided with a free set of festive boppers along with sponsorship envelope to gather as much sponsorship as possible to support their local Hospice. You can also donate online at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/woodlandsprimaryschool>

This is a great opportunity for us to show our support to a wonderful local charity and we do hope this is something you will be able to get behind. More information regarding timings will be sent closer to the event.

As you may already know the Hospice of the Good Shepherd, care for more than 1,600 patients each year from Chester, Deeside, Ellesmere Port and surrounding areas.

The Hospice aims to improve the lives of people with life-limiting conditions and care and support patients at the Hospice or in their own homes. It helps people to live as actively as possible after diagnosis to the end of their lives, however long that maybe. The highest value is put on respect and personal choice. These services provided by the Hospice are ran independently of the NHS and cost £5million each year to provide.

It is because of events like this that they are able to continue to provide this vital care to local children and families.

Thank you in advance for your support; it really is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Woodlands Primary School



This Week's Year Group News

EYFS

Squirrels - The children have been continuing with their Christmas crafts this week and have been painting and stamping shapes. The children have talked about what shapes they see on the paint stampers and what colours are their favourites! We have been continuing to practice our Christmas singing and the children are doing so well. It's really nice to hear some of the comments from parents about the Christmas songs the children have been practicing at home too! We have been enjoying the musical instruments this week and have been really expressive! The children have been following instructions really well too and have been learning 'fast' and 'slow' and 'stop'. Well done Squirrels.

Reminder - Squirrels have a 'Stay & Play' session for parents/carers to attend on Monday or Tuesday. If you can attend, you should all be signed up by now on ParentPay and we are looking forward to seeing you all. Thank you for your continued support and if you have any queries please speak to the Office or the Squirrels staff.

Foxes - This week, we have continued our focused story, 'I'm Going to Eat an Ant' and we have listened out for initial sounds in words. The children have also found out some interesting facts about Anteaters and have started to make their own information book with some lovely drawings! Foxes are working super hard practising their songs ready for the 'Christmas Sing-Along' next week. The children are all very excited and we think you are in for a real treat! Please make sure you have signed up via ParentPay if you would like to attend. Foxes had lots of fun in their PE sessions this week, developing their ball skills by practising bouncing, throwing and catching. Well done! foxes@woodlands.cheshire.sch.uk

Badgers & Owls - We have been super busy in Reception this week, travelling to Bethlehem. The Nativity is getting closer and already looking fantastic. We can't wait to share it with you all in a few weeks time! Lines have been sent home for those children who need to learn them. Please practise these if your child has received some. You will receive a slip if any parts of costumes are required e.g tights by the end of this week. If you do not receive a slip, please don't worry, it just means we have everything in school already! During class time we have been busy working on '1 more' and '1 less' and the composition of the numbers to 5. In English, we have been creating lists on different foods that all start with the same sound for the Anteater to eat! There have been some very yummy suggestions!

Acorns - This week we have had a lot of illness in Acorns - we hope all the children who have been poorly are feeling much better soon and we can't wait to welcome them back when they are feeling well. We have enjoyed lots of drawing and colouring activities this week and we have had some great "Wow moments" to celebrate! We enjoyed getting messy with paint, creating our own snail shells using finger painting and we loved exploring the icy conditions in our outside playground.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

The EYFS Team

KS1

Year 1 - 1AA & 1LW - Another week has flown by for us in Year 1! This week, the children have been identifying and comparing fish and amphibians in Science. We have learnt that we live in a town called Ellesmere Port, which is in a country called England. The capital of England is London and we have a King called King Charles. In English, we have been writing letters to 'Plop's' younger cousin 'Brownie' who is also scared of the dark. The children have explained how wonderful the dark is and given him some advice on how to overcome his fear. In Maths, we have moved onto subtraction. We have worked hard to find missing parts in a part/whole model by subtracting a part from the whole number. We used counters to help us solve different problems using numbers to 10. In **1KS** this week, we have had lots of fun, including water play and bubbles and we have told our 'Owl Babies' story with puppets. We have some new toys for both inside and outside, to help us learn cause and effect and motor skills (the scatch has gone down a storm!). We have done lots of drawing, colouring and writing, sung Christmas songs and explored the frosty, icy playground! We have finished making our snowmen pictures by adding shapes for the hat and nose and we've been enjoying 'The Snowman' musical animation! Last but certainly not least, we also had an amazing time when the Fire Engine and Police Car came to school, as we got to see them and explore inside them!

Continued overleaf.....



This Week's Year Group News

KS1 Continued...

Year 2 - This week, in English, we have continued using the wonderful 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark' by Jill Tomlinson to inspire our work. The children have been writing about 'Plop's' different experiences at night and describing how exciting night time can be. They have also been collecting facts about Owls and learning to add both 'but' and 'or' to a sentence. As part of our English work, the children have also been learning to spell words with the split diagraph 'e-e'. During our shared reading sessions, the children have been learning about the features of a non-fiction text and also about different habitats. This week, they have been finding out about life on a river. In Maths, we have continued learning about adding and subtracting three 1-digit numbers and solving mathematical problems.

Reminder - Wednesday 4th December, 9:15-10:15 is the Year 2 Christmas Crafts - Stay and Play for Parents to attend. We look forward to seeing you and creating Christmas crafts with the children.

Thank you for your continued support

The KS1 Team

KS2

Year 3 & 4 - Another busy week in Y3/4. We are now in full swing with our Christmas concert rehearsals and we are very excited to share our festive extravaganza with you at Hope Farm Church on either Tuesday 10th December (Y4) or Thursday 12th December (Y3). You should have now received two tickets per child for the performances. If you have not received your tickets, please speak to your child's class teacher. In English this week, we have been detail writing character descriptions. Focusing on 'Abdul Kazam', the magician in our story. We have used subordinating conjunctions, noun phrases and high quality vocabulary choices to describe his appearance and personality. Words such as cunning, suspicious and illusionist blew the teachers away! In Maths this week, Y3 children have been working hard to add and subtract two and three digit numbers with growing accuracy. In Y4, the children have been learning those all important times tables and their corresponding division facts. It is wonderful to see many of the Y4 children taking on the challenge of learning their times tables and becoming more confident with the speedy recall needed for their times tables check in the Summer Term. Keep going Y4 - remember practise makes perfect!

Roman Experience Reminder - If you have not already done so, please log into your child's ParentPay account and give permission for your children to attend this fantastic experience. We learn lots whilst having lots of fun becoming Roman Soldiers, exploring Chester.

Many thanks

The LKS2 Team

Year 5 & 6 - It has been a fantastic week in Year 5 and Year 6! This week, Year 6 attended 'Big Maths' at Whitby High School! The Y6 team were so impressed with the children's engagement in the fun, yet challenging practical maths activities and their behaviour during the session - well done all. In Maths lessons, Y6 finished their fractions unit, dividing fractions by whole numbers and finding fractions of different amounts. Meanwhile, Y5 have also been working very hard on all things fractions! This week, they have been adding and subtracting fractions, including adding mixed number fractions of different denominations and subtracting fractions from a mixed number fraction. In English, Year 5/6 have been working hard on organising sentences into clear cohesive paragraphs when describing Frank Russell's first impressions of 'Annie' and what her daredevil feat could do for him. They have also discussed Annie's thoughts and feelings as she prepared to complete her stunt in preparation for recount writing next week. Y5/6 also loved completing their Commando Joe's mission this week, in addition to completing a fantastic 'Philosophy for Children' activity that we called the 'Bad-choice-o-meter'! It was lovely to hear the children share ideas and listen respectfully to others in these tasks.

Reminders:

As stated in the dates for your diary, just a reminder that Y5 & Y6 are holding an own clothes day on Friday 6th December in return for chocolate donations for our Christmas Quiz (Y5) and Christmas Bingo (Y6) nights. To ensure that all children are able to enjoy the prizes, should they win, we would also love to receive donations of 'free from' alternatives if you wish to donate these.

Monday 16th December - Year 5 Christmas Quiz (Junior Hall - 3:30pm - 4:50pm)

Tuesday 17th December - Year 6 Christmas Bingo (Junior Hall - 3:30pm - 4:50pm)

Thank you for your continued support

UKS2 Team



Snapchat

A Guide for Parents & Carers

Age Rating
13+

Snapchat is a communication service. Users can take photos, record videos, add text or drawings (called Snaps) and send them to Friends. Snaps disappear after the recipient views it, or within 24 hours (for a Story or Chat).

Privacy



Go to Settings > Privacy Controls and adjust the following:

- **Who Can Contact Me:** Set to 'My Friends' to limit messages from strangers
- **View My Story:** Select 'My Friends' or create a custom list
- **See my location:** Enable 'Ghost Mode' to hide your child's location
- **Contact me:** Click 'Friends'
- **Quick Add:** Disable to prevent strangers from easily adding your child

Snaps



Encourage your child to **THINK BEFORE THEY SNAP:**

- Remember that screenshots can be taken and content might not be as 'temporary' as it seems
- Don't share any of your personal details
- Would your parents/carers approve?
- Have you asked permission to post photos or videos of other people?
- Have you used your online manners?

Snapstreaks



A **Snapstreak** tracks the number of consecutive days two users exchange snaps. Snapstreaks may contribute to a user's Snapchat score (a number reflecting app activity).

For a child, Snapstreaks can feel like a **measure of friendship**, creating pressure to maintain them, which can lead to stress or anxiety. It's important to discuss healthy app use with your child.

Family Centre



Family Centre allows you to monitor your child's activity, including usage, contacts and privacy settings. There is also an option to restrict your child from using My AI (AI chatbot).

Install the app and link your account by adding them as a friend. While you won't have access to the specific content they've sent or received, you can view their friend list and see who they've interacted with in the past 7 days.

Snap Map



Snap Map shows your child's location on a map in real time. Only their friends can see where they are.

You can turn this off by enabling **Ghost Mode**, which allows you to see the map but not be seen by others.

NOTE: Your child can submit snaps to the Snap Map and their name and location could appear on a public map.

Check



Regularly **review** Snapchat's features and updates to understand new tools or risks.

Have an **open dialogue** about your child's Snapchat usage and how often they are using the app.

Encourage them to share what they're experiencing and periodically check that they are staying **safe and happy** online.



Encourage your child to come to you if **ANYTHING** online makes them feel uncomfortable, upset or worried.



Whole School Attendance 94.31%

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.** 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, regardless of length, via the Exceptional Leave of Absence forms which can be collected from the school office. These forms should be completed and handed to school at least 4 working weeks in advance of the first day of absence.

Dates – Week Beginning 2 December 2024

Lunches Week 1	
Mon 2 Dec	Foxes - Christmas Stay and Play 9.30-10.15am - parents to book on via ParentPay
Mon 2 Dec	Y2 Judo PE Sessions
Mon 2 Dec	Foxes - Christmas Stay and Play 1.45-2.30pm - parents to book on via ParentPay
Mon 2 Dec	Squirrels - Christmas Stay and Play 1.45-2.30pm - parents to book on via ParentPay
Mon 2 Dec	After school club – Y3 & Y4 Table Tennis 3.20pm to 4.20pm. Pick up Junior Playground
Mon 2 Dec	After school club – Y5 & Y6 Street Dance 3.20pm to 4.20pm. Pick up Junior Playground
Mon 2 Dec	After school club – Y3-Y5 Young Voices
Tue 3 Dec	Y1 - Christmas Crafts - Stay and Play 9.15-10.15am - parents invited
Tue 3 Dec	Squirrels - Christmas Stay and Play 9.30-10.15am - parents to book on via ParentPay
Wed 4 Dec	Pantomime Y1-Y6 (funded by the Woodlands PTA)
Wed 4 Dec	Y2 - Christmas Crafts - Stay and Play 9.15-10.15am - parents invited
Wed 4 Dec	After school club – Y5 & Y6 Table Tennis 3.20pm to 4.20pm pick up Junior Playground
Wed 4 Dec	After school club – Y6 Football Team 3.20pm to 4.20pm pick up Junior Playground
Wed 4 Dec	After-school club KS2 Create Music Guitar Lessons 3.20-4.20pm, pick-up Junior Playground (book direct at admin@wecreatemusic.co.uk)
Thu 5 Dec	Foxes - Christmas Stay and Play 9.30-10.15am - parents to book on via ParentPay
Thu 5 Dec	Y3 Violin Lessons - individual and small group (book direct with hello@edsential.co.uk)
Thu 5 Dec	Foxes - Christmas Stay and Play 1.45-2.30pm - parents to book on via ParentPay
Thu 5 Dec	After school club – Y3 & Y4 Boccia 3.20pm to 4.20pm. Pick up from Junior Playground
Thu 5 Dec	After school club –Y3 & Y4 Street Dance 3.20pm to 4.20pm. Pick up Junior Playground
Fri 6 Dec	Y5 & Y6 Own clothes day in exchange for chocolate donations please
Fri 6 Dec	Y2 Visit to Hope Farm Church - Meet the characters
Fri 6 Dec	Y4 Swimming - Group B



Sweets for Stories



Pre-made pic-n-mix sweet bags



When: Thursday 19th December 2024
at 3:20pm

Where: Junior Playground

The funds raised will be used to
purchase fantastic KS1 and EYFS stories from
our recommended reading lists.





HOPE FARM METHODIST CHURCH

MONTHLY LEGO CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY
of each month
4–5.30pm

For children, accompanied by an adult
FREE ENTRY – donations welcome

Building fun! • Challenges!
Stories • Hot food • Drinks

For any further information, contact Rev. John Yaxley
Phone: 07961 046366
Email: Johnandlizyaxley@gmail.com

Hope Farm Methodist Church
Bridge Meadow, Great Sulfan
Ellesmere Port CH66 2LF



LEGO

The Methodist Church

Stanlaw Abbey Development Trust

Christmas Toy Appeal

10 Years of Bringing Joy to Ellesmere Port

We're teaming up with some amazing local charities! Koala Northwest, People's Pantry, KidsBank, Passion for Learning and Healthbox - to make a real difference in our community. Together, we're aiming to provide more gifts for children in need (last year, we supported 1,200 children and we hope to reach even more this year!) as well as much more....



For more information Email: toyappeal@stanlawabbey.com

**Thank you for your continued support
our closing date for donations is: 13th December**

#EllesmerePort #CommunitySpirit #ChristmasToyAppeal
#BringingJoy @KoalaNorthWest @ThePeoplesPantry
@KidsBankChester @PassionForLearning @HealthBoxCIC

**Nearest Donation Point:
Woodlands Primary School**

We will be in touch with more ways you can get involved this year!



Frankie & Benny's

NEW YORK ITALIAN RESTAURANT & BAR

Hello everyone!

This year at Frankie & Benny's in Cheshire Oaks we're hosting Breakfast with the elves

The morning will consist of:

- lots of fun and games for the kids to partake in
- breakfast and a drink for the kids
- a goody bag
- an activity pack
- making reindeer food
- writing a letter to Santa

all whilst being served by Santa's little helpers themselves who have took some time out of their very busy schedules

Places are booking up fast. Currently the availability is 7th, 14th and 21st December. Book in now to save disappointment. Prices are £15 a child and £5 to secure an adults space. However, the £5 charge for an adult will be waived if the adult orders a meal from the breakfast menu.

Please note that this is site specific to Frankie & Benny's Cheshire Oaks and no other restaurants in the brand will be participating. If you have any questions or would like to book, please contact us on 01513551966 or cheshireoaks@frankieandbennys.co.uk and one of the team will be more than happy to help.





Army Welfare Service Community Support

Come and hand make your own tabletop
Wooden Reindeer

Tuesday 26th November
From 6pm
In the Hughes Centre

Session
cost
£5

See Beth to pay
and book.



You must be
registered with
AWS to attend.
Register here using
the QR code.

**Adult only session! Come relax &
recharge with us 😊**

For booking, please email
bethan.bensley100@mod.gov.uk



Army Welfare Service Community Support

Come and join us for a

Wreath Making Workshop

Tuesday 3rd December at 7pm



**Booking essential
Adults only**

Tickets £10 in advance
by Friday 29th November

For booking tickets, please see
Beth in the Hughes Centre

**Foraging Session on
Sunday 01 December
2-3pm. Meet at the
Hughes Centre.
Accompanied children
welcome.**

Please ensure you're
registered with AWS
prior to attending.
Scan QR Code



Contact Beth for more information
bethan.bensley100@mod.gov.uk



Army Welfare Service Community Support

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday 7th December
1030 - 1230

Cooked or
continental breakfast

Please inform Beth of dietary requirements when booking

Booking essential.
Complete form using QR
code and purchase tickets
by 25th November.

£5 per
family

Register your
family using the
QR code



With
entertainment
by **DNA Kids**



Email Beth for tickets
bethan.bensley100@mod.gov.uk



Army Welfare Service Community Support

Come and make some delicious Sponge-topped Mince Pies

Tuesday 10th December
From 6pm
In the Hughes Centre



Adult only
session!
Come relax &
recharge with
us 😊

Session cost
£5.
See Beth to
pay and
book.

Make 12 Mince Pies, take home
12 mince pies, eat 12 mince
pies... whichever way you want
- I'll tell no one!

You must be
registered with
AWS to attend.
Register here using
the QR code.

For booking, please email
bethan.bensley100@mod.gov.uk





CBT GROUP INTERVENTIONS FOR PARENTS OF ANXIOUS CHILDREN

WINTER 2024 / SPRING 2025
GROUPS

FREE NHS
group
interventions
for parents.

Fear-Less

For parents/carers of school aged children 6 to 14 years with moderate anxiety issues. Fear Less is an evidence based intervention delivered over 6 weeks and includes understanding about anxiety, learning to encourage your child's coping skills to manage their anxiety; building on problems solving skills and gaining confidence as a parent supporting your child



How?

Online group
2 x hrs a week for
6 weeks

When?

08/01/25 15/01/25 22/01/25
29/01/25 05/02/25 12/02/25

Wednesday 10.00 - 12.00

To join a group parents/carers **MUST** attend one of the registration sessions - please use the QR code or link to book on:

<https://forms.office.com/e/nW1TUcZQsb>



Watch our short video to hear a parent share their experience of attending a parent group

<https://youtu.be/ln5CfFF1a6g>

Support,
Friendly
non-
judgemental



CBT GROUP INTERVENTIONS FOR PARENTS OF ANXIOUS CHILDREN

WINTER 2024 / SPRING 2025
GROUPS

FREE NHS
group
interventions
for parents.

From Timid to Tiger

For parents/carers of primary school aged children 5 to 11 years with mild to moderate anxiety and anxiety related behavioural difficulties. An evidence based intervention delivered over 9 weeks and includes understanding the science behind anxiety, safely exposing your child to their anxious situations, and how to support your child in gaining confidence and skills.



Option 1

How?
Online Group
2 x hrs a week for
9 weeks

When?
07/01/25 14/01/25 21/01/25
28/01/25 04/02/25 11/02/25
25/02/25 04/03/25 11/03/25
Tuesday 10.00am - 12.00 noon



Option 2

How?
Face to face group
2 x hrs a week for
9 weeks

Where?
Victoria Road Children's
Centre, Neumann Street,
Northwich
CW9 5UT

When?
09/01/25 16/01/25 23/01/25
30/01/25 06/02/25 13/02/25
27/02/25 06/03/25 13/03/25
Thursday 10.00am - 12.00 noon

Support,
Friendly
non-
judgemental

To join a group parents/carers **MUST** attend one of the registration sessions - please use the QR code or link to book on:

<https://forms.office.com/e/nW1TUcZQsb>





Mystery Readers wanted..

Who?

All parents, older siblings, grandparents or other special people! Surprise your child by being a mystery reader in our classroom!



Why?

Children at Woodlands LOVE to read! We can not wait to welcome family members into our classrooms to share in our learning by sharing a favourite story aloud with the class, during ERIC time, at the end of the day.

What?

Mystery readers can bring in a book from home or one chosen by the teacher selected from our class libraries.



If you are able to be a mystery reader, please contact your class teacher using the class email address e.g. 31b@woodlands.cheshire.sch.uk to arrange a suitable day and time.

We are so grateful for any volunteers and are hugely grateful of the time given to enhance our child's story time experiences.



Guided Self-Help for Better Behaviour Group

The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) in Ellesmere Port is pleased to offer this 7 week evidence based intervention group for parents & carers who want to encourage better behaviour at home.



Kingsley Resource Centre
Coronation Road,
Ellesmere Port
CH65 9AA

**9.30am -
11.30am**

Session 1 Goals and Play/Special Time - Tuesday 5th November
Enhancing the relationship with children through play

Session 2 Praise and Rewards - Tuesday 12th November
Promoting positive behaviours and routines with praise and rewards

Session 3 Selective Ignoring - Tuesday 19th November
Reducing undesirable behaviour through selective ignoring

Session 4 Effective Instructions - Tuesday 26th November
Increasing compliance with clear calm commands

Session 5 Consequences - Monday 2nd December
Promoting boundaries with consequences

Session 6 Time Out and Family Rules - Tuesday 10th December
Creating clear expectations with family rules and time out to calm down

Session 7 Ending and Trouble Shooting - Tuesday 17th December

Please note you must book a triage appointment with us before starting the group. These will be held on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th October. Please email cwp.cheshiremhstadmin@nhs.net to book an appointment