



Woodland Grange Primary NEWSLETTER ~ December 2023

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 @Woodland_Grange

The most wonderful time of the year...

We have *finally* made it to the end of a very long term and it is safe to say, that staff and pupils (and, quite possibly parents) are ready for the Christmas holidays. Whether you are celebrating or not, Christmas is a time to relax, spend time with those you love and enjoy time away from school and work. We have all certainly earned that!

However, it goes without saying that it has been a busy end to the term! With a multitude of Festive performances to enjoy: FS and preschool, KS1, year 3 and year 6 (thank you to St Peter's for making us feel so welcome) as well as year 4 and year 5 in school. Not to mention a special ukulele performance by year 4, strictly kidz, musical theatre and gymnastic shows. Have we missed anyone? Hopefully not! Thank you to everyone that came in for decorations day too. It was lovely to welcome families in to help us make the school look so festive. We have also had our final trip of the term. Year 3 visited Flag Fen; a Bronze Age site, near Peterborough. They had a brilliant day learning about early civilisations and archaeology. Finally...



We wish you a very Merry Christmas, see you in 2024!

Autumn FOWG Roundup

The Friends of Woodland Grange have had a busy end to the term. Thank you everyone that donated treats for the bake sale/ WG Bake Off. There were so many treats in the hall and the competition was very fierce. Well done to the winners and everyone that entered. It was a huge success, made possible by our amazing volunteers. The Bake Off raised an amazing £725.

FOWG also organised a 'Toys on the table' collection' at the end of term. This charity makes sure that all children have something to open on Christmas day. Thank you for your donations (over 200 gifts).

A **MASSIVE** thank you to everyone involved in the Friends of Woodland Grange from all the staff at school. You have volunteered your time and energy to set up and run events, and in turn have raised huge amounts for school.

The next meeting will be after the holidays on January 24th (check date)



Staffing update

We are saying goodbye to **Mrs Buchanan** at the end of term. Although she has only been with us for a term, she is starting a new job at Overdale Junior school (a fellow OAK Trust school). We wish her all the best and will definitely keep in touch. Mrs Matthews will also be leaving us shortly to start her maternity leave. That means we have two new teachers starting with us:

Mrs Suleman-Talab will be in Year 2 working alongside Mrs Chadwick and Mrs Sabir.

Miss Haque will be in Year 3 working alongside Miss Holland.

A fond farewell

A great school is built by great staff and pupils and we are very fortunate to have the most amazing, committed staff who do their very best for your children. In time they become part of our school family and it is always difficult to say goodbye.

At the end of term, Mrs Hunter will be retiring. Many of you with older children will know that Mrs Hunter has been at Woodland Grange for quite a while. In fact she has been part of our family since April 1995, a mere 28 years! In that time she has supported in every year group, except year 6, and has helped hundreds (if not thousands) of children as they travel through our school.

What people may not know is the many other roles that she has had in her time with us. She has also helped out with our pre and after care, and supported FOWG events. Mrs Hunter has also run our popular craft club for many years as well and who can forget knit and natter!

Woodland Grange will simply not be the same without Mrs Hunter. Everyone at school wishes her a happy retirement.



Mrs Hunter in 2001 and 2023, her final craft club..



Well done to everyone that has been awarded an Aspirations certificate this term. We will continue to add leaves to our tree (in the hall) during Friday assemblies with a matching certificate for your children to share at home. Our Aspirations are:

Risk taker **Creative** **Resilient**
Physically strong & confident **Respectful & empathetic**
Self motivated, engaged & active **Independent Thinker**

These are the qualities that we want every pupil to demonstrate in everything they do at school.



Poetry by heart is back! Look out for emails after the holiday with all the details. The children are excited and we cannot wait to get started in the Spring term.

Parking reminders

We will continue to monitor parking outside school during the Spring term. Please remember not to block residents driveways, keep junctions clear and do not stop on the yellow zig zags outside school.

School staff will also be out and about after the Christmas break with leaflets, reminding parents and carers not to park on pavements. It can cause problems for anyone with a pram, pushchair or mobility scooter trying to pass.



We are looking for new books for our library. If you have any unwanted non-fiction books (in excellent condition) please drop them off at the school office.

Don't forget you can also donate a 'Birthday Book' for the class to enjoy, if you have a birthday coming up in the Spring term.



Oadby Food Bank

Oadby food bank will be busier than ever during the Festive period. We will continue to collect items (meat, fish or vegetable items, dried pasta or rice) in our box. You can also drop off donations directly at the food bank. Thank you for your donations collected in December.

It is situated at Oadby Trinity Methodist Church, Harborough Road, LE2 4LA. **The food bank will be open between 11.30 and 12.30 on 22/12, 5/1 and 19/1.**

With the darker evenings we would ask families to only let year 5 and 6 pupils walk to (and from) school by themselves. We do not want younger children walking alone. Families can set up their own 'walking bus' if there are families on the same street. With children who also walk. Just, please, not on their own.



We have been overwhelmed, yet again, by the wonderful generosity of our WG families.

Thank you on behalf of Children in Need. Our online appeal raised £365. Every penny will go towards supporting local schemes across the City and County.

A huge thank you to everyone that made a donation following one of our Christmas shows. We were collecting for money to go towards new library books. All together we made over £320, which we can use to help restock our brilliant new library.

Parents have organised 2 bake sales on behalf of the Red Cross (to support their vital work in Gaza). With your help, they have raised more than £600, a truly incredible total.

PE Roundup

We have come to the end of a busy term, sports wise at Woodland Grange. Well done to everyone that has taken part in a sporting competition during the term, there will be plenty more opportunities when we return.

Recently, we sent a mixed KS2 team to the sports hall, indoor athletics competition. There were some stand out performances and our school won the overall Oadby and Wigston winners trophy.

We have also taken delivery of the participation award for the Oadby Wigston Schools cross country races (held at Manor High School). There were more WG runners than any other school, amazing.

Finally, we sent a team to a wheelchair basketball festival at Beauchamp College. Everyone had a lot of fun, as you can see!



A message from Oadby library:

The Winter Mini Challenge is back! This online challenge invites children, aged 4 - 11 to read three books or more, to earn digital rewards.

Join between **1 December 2023 and 14 February 2024**. Taking part is easy. - Sign up at www.wintermini.org.uk to create an online profile - Read at least 3 books over the holidays. - Unlock virtual rewards including a certificate. More information on Oadby library can be found at www.leicestershire.gov.uk including links to eBooks and eAudio which can also be used as part of the challenge. *Join in and Have fun!*

Uniformly

A reminder that, if you need replacement uniform for the remainder of the year, our pre-loved uniform store is here to help! You can buy quality items at a fraction of the cost of a new item (and help to save the planet as well!) Get in touch by contacting your year group WhatsApp rep or emailing fowg.uniformly@gmail.com.

Diary dates:

Key dates can be found on the school website calendar (search under 'News & Events')



8/1 Start of term
11/1 Y6 trip to Warning Zone
24/1 FOWG meeting