



Woodland Grange Primary

NEWSLETTER ~ February 2024

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www.woodlandwideweb.org.uk

 @Woodland_Grange

Welcome to our February newsletter, a review of what has been another busy month at Woodland Grange. Firstly, we hope you had a good half term break and your children are now fully recharged and ready for a (very short) new half term. We know that the upcoming 4 weeks will fly by and it will soon be the Easter holidays. However, we also know that there are many things to fit in before we get to the end of term. It is looking like being an even busier March!

With the recent parents' evening appointments, we also hope that you have a good picture of both attainment and progress to this point in the term. There is still plenty of time to make even more progress. With the combined support of home and school, hard work and perseverance, the outlook will be very positive indeed.

In the next month we will be gearing up for Comic Relief, World Book Day and Poetry by Heart. Special days like these at school can provide lasting memories, as well as support good causes. We will also be organising our new school library and hope to officially open it very soon.

Sport at WGPS

It has been a very busy term at school for sporting competitions. Mr Evans works very hard making sure that children have the opportunity to represent the school in many different sports and activities. We want every child to have the same chance to take part and we know from past experience that sometimes, these opportunities can lead to something bigger in the future. Who knows where our sports stars of tomorrow will come from?

Well done to our Year 6 basketball team who took part in a competition at Gartree High School. The school was represented at a boccia and curling competition. Both teams did really well and the curling team won the overall event.

Unfortunately the cross country selection race to decide the Oadby/Wigston team had to be cancelled due to the wet conditions. However, 6 children made it onto the team. The finals will take place in March and we will let you know how they got on.

Our girls football team were in action against Langmoor. Despite losing 4-1, the girls did very well. It was their first school match and the team spirit was brilliant.

In dodgeball, we sent teams to the upper and lower KS2 competitions. The upper KS team won the overall event, beating many schools along the way. The lower KS team also did really well. As this was a festival event, the teams competed against each other without deciding an overall winner.

None of these wonderful opportunities would be possible without our staff volunteers. They give up their time outside of school to coach, support and allow the children to enter the breadth of events on offer. We would like to say thank you on behalf of every WG family. Mr Evans also deserves a special mention. He coordinates events and ensures that every child at school has opportunities to compete.



Our victorious dodgeball team.

Online safety survey

Following safer internet day we have completed an online safety pupil survey with every child from year 1 to 6 in school. We have done this to ensure our online safety curriculum reflects the needs of our children, and also to support families at home. The findings were interesting:

- Most children use a mobile phone or tablet device (iPad) to go online.
- 28% of children in KS2 use TikTok (higher than snapchat, Instagram and Facebook).
- 92% in KS2 and 82% in KS1 watch online content via YouTube.
- 49% of KS2 children felt safe online all of the time with 30% spending 1 hour or less each day online.
- About a third of children in KS1 know what 'personal information' means.

The full results can be found on our online safety webpage, click [here](#).

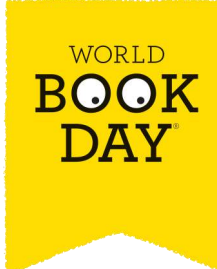
The Friends of Woodland Grange

In FOWG news, we would like to thank our volunteers for another month of fundraising and volunteering. The Valentines 'Wear what you love' day and donut sale was a big success. The next planned event will be a bingo night on Friday 19th April, more details coming soon.

Don't forget to add 2 important dates to your diaries:

Sunday 30th June is FOWG Fun Day

Thursday 2nd May is the date of the next meeting. 1.30pm at school.



World Book Day—2024

We are getting excited about World Book Day 2024. This year the children can come to school in their 'comfy' clothes (e.g. PJs, onesies or joggers). This will make sure everyone is ready to enjoy

their books on the day (March 7th).

Classes will also be promoting reading for pleasure by improving their reading corners/areas. There is a small budget to update these spaces, but families can also get involved by donating items (cushions, throws or baskets) to make them look even more amazing.

Don't forget to use your WBD voucher to claim a free book too!

We are taking part in **Poetry by Heart** again this year. Children have been very busy learning poems to recite in school. Winners from years 3 to 6 will go through to a grand final to find out our overall, school winners. It is always a tough decision and we will include a follow up report in our March newsletter.

Clubs at Woodland Grange

We know our families make the most of the wide range of clubs on offer at our school. Each term many of them fill up almost instantly and the children look forward to joining or continuing in extra curricular activities. Details of all the clubs on offer can be found here on the school website. We would also like to recognise the efforts of our staff to set up and run these clubs every week. It is a big commitment, on top of the support they provide in the classroom. We will feature some of these clubs in upcoming newsletters.

One of our newest clubs is newspaper club. Run by Mrs Keshvala, the children have started working on their first edition and hope to publish it very soon. In the club, everyone has a role; either an editor, designer or journalist. They prepare, write, design and edit their own stories in 'Woodland Words' (catchy title). Who knows, it may become a rival publication to this very newsletter! Children explained that they joined the club to improve their writing and technology skills as well as learning to prepare content for an audience. It's also another example of how we value the 'pupil voice' at Woodland Grange. Children writing about important issues and sharing their opinions.



Check mate! Children enjoying chess club, one of our new clubs for 2024.

Well done to our school Wellbeing ambassadors who attended training at Parklands leisure centre recently. They have been working hard to remind pupils about looking after their mental health and have done an amazing job.

We would like to welcome a new member of staff to Woodland Grange. **Mrs Hallam** will be leading Owl's Hoot, working as part of our after-care team. Mrs Parekh will continue to work in pre-care.

We look forward to getting to know her in the near future, welcome!

School parking

We have received a number of photos this month highlighting bad parking on the roads around school. Please remember not to block residents driveways or bus stops when you are dropping off or picking up your children. We have also received messages from concerned parents and carers who have been unable to get past cars parked on pavements around school, especially with prams and pushchairs. Please leave enough room on pavements for any pedestrians, pushchairs, prams or scooters to pass.

WE WOULD ENCOURAGE ALL FAMILIES TO USE THE GRANGE FARM PUB CAR PARK FOR THE SCHOOL RUN. It is a 3 minute walk to school and will ensure you can park without blocking access to local residents or pavements. It is also quicker to park there and walk rather than getting stuck on Beaufort Way or wait for a space on the road.



These cars were parked on a residents driveway during collection at the end of the day.

The white car was parked, blocking the bus stop on Beaufort way, making it impossible for anyone to enter or exit the bus.



COMIC RELIEF 2024

Don't forget: Woodland Grange is gearing up for Comic Relief day 2024. This year we will be organising our fundraising day on **Thursday 14th March**. We have set up an online link so you can choose to make your donation in a much easier way. Click on the link and make your pledge. Every penny we raise will help to support children and projects at home and around the globe.

[Woodland Grange is fundraising for Comic Relief \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.woodlandgrange.org.uk/fundraising-for-comic-relief)



Beavers & Cubs

A reminder that sessions for both Beavers and Cubs are in the school hall on Thursdays (6-7pm for Beavers and 7-8pm for Cubs). Come along to find out more.

If your child is interested in joining, contact: alison.hurst@yahoo.co.uk.

We know the value of parent's **WhatsApp** groups. They provide handy reminders on homework, trips or special days at school. However we would urge all parents and carers to use them solely for information purposes. Personal comments can be hurtful and unhelpful in the close partnership that must exist between school and home. As we would say to your children, please think before you post.

My School Fund

My school fund is a joint fundraising platform for schools and families. You can sign up for a free account at: www.myschoolfund.org (quoting our ref. number **46173**). Once you have your account, you can add it to Woodland Grange Primary School and start earning rewards for yourself and us. We have currently raised over £600 which we can use to benefit every pupil at school.

Diary dates:

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

7th March: World Book Day

14th March: Comic Relief

15th March: OAK Teacher day (school closed)

22nd March: End of term

30th June: FOWG Fun Day