



# Woodland Grange Primary

## NEWSLETTER ~ April 2024

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[www.woodlandwideweb.org.uk](http://www.woodlandwideweb.org.uk)

 @Woodland\_Grange

### Looking ahead to sunny days

The weather is (finally) starting to brighten up at Woodland Grange and we are looking ahead to sunny days. As we move into our final term of the academic year, and helped by the clocks changing and lighter evenings, it seems much brighter at school. We are already getting busy at school with trips (Year 1 learnt about habitats, plants and trees on their visit to Irchester park). Children in year 1 and 2 also had a brilliant time taking part in the Sing Up festival at DeMontfort Hall. There will be lots of other exciting opportunities coming up before July and we will feature them all in our newsletters.

In other news, have you spotted the new fencing and gates that have appeared near to the entrances to school? This is to improve the security of our school site, and work will continue over the coming months.

### The gift of a book

We know that families may wish to mark special celebrations (birthdays or festivals) with their child's class. As a school we ask you to do this by donating a book for the class to enjoy. Donated books can stay in year groups for many more cohorts of children to enjoy. We even have special labels to go into the books to record this gift.

We are a healthy school, so please do not send in any sweets or food treats (we also have children with food allergies in school). Speak to your child's class teacher about any books that would be suitable for you to donate.

### All things FOWG

Thank you to everyone that attended the Friends of Woodland Grange bingo night. The hall was full of families, enjoying a game of bingo (and a slice of pizza!)

Mr Parker and Mrs Brown were excellent bingo callers (eyes down!) Everyone had a lots of fun on the day and thank you to everyone that organised and helped with the evening.

The next FOWG meeting is on **Thursday 2nd May at 1.30pm** in the staffroom.

FOWG are always on the look out for extra volunteers for events. If you can help (or if you have any ideas for new events) get in touch with your year group rep. and let them know.



### Parking at Woodland Grange

We will continue to challenge bad parking outside of our school. We will continue to issue 'polite parking reminders' to anyone not following our parking rules. We know how difficult it can be for local residents and want to do everything we can to support them. Please remember the correct way to park outside of school:

- Do not stop on the yellow zig zags outside of school
- Do not park over or block residents driveways
- Do not park on pavements or block access (for pedestrians, push-chairs or mobility scooters)
- Always switch off your engine when waiting to collect your children (to avoid exhaust pollution)

**A reminder that the Grange Farm pub car park has a 'park and stride' venue. It is close to school (a 3 minute walk) does not affect any local residents and also means everyone gets some fresh air and exercise on your way to school.**

### Staffing update for the summer term

We will be saying a temporary goodbye to Mrs Pearce as she begins her maternity leave. We are welcoming Miss Harland, who will take charge of Mrs Pearce's class in FS2 for the remainder of the school year. We are also welcoming back Miss Rose (from her maternity leave) who will be teaching in year 1 and 2. Sadly, we are also saying goodbye to Miss Flanagan. She has been a fantastic member of the team since August 2020 and is moving on to start a new job at a local primary school.



### Getting crafty

We have been featuring some of our clubs in recent newsletters, this month it is the turn of craft club. Miss Bellamy and Miss Griffiths run craft club. The children have a go at lots of different craft activities, beginning with a design before getting stuck into the practical 'making' part of each project. The children love coming to this club. They enjoy the different activities, doing things they have not tried before (like glass decorating) and having fun with their friends. Many children keep coming back to craft club, over successive terms and years and this proves what a popular club it is at Woodland Grange. Thank you to the adults who volunteer to make all our clubs so special.



### Special days

Members of our school council have written about some of their special celebrations. Ramadhan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. It is a month of fast, where Muslims can perform Sawm, one of the Pillars of Islam. It is a time for doing good deeds and spending time with friends and family. At the end of Ramadhan is Eid-Al-Fitr. This is a special day, which lasts for 3 days. Families all get together to eat good food, share presents and give to charity. New clothes are worn and houses are cleaned and decorated, inside and out.



Vaisakhi is another special festival that many of our families celebrate. It is also known as Baisakhi and is a Punjabi festival celebrated with processions, singing, dancing and colourful decorations. For Sikhs, this also marks the inauguration of the 'Khalsa'. This means that Sikhs visit their Gurdwara and take part in a 'Nagar Kirtan', a special procession where they wear brightly coloured clothes (including orange and yellow). These colours are symbolic of rebirth and sacrifice.

Thank you to Tahya and Havleen for their contributions

### Up, up and away



We were lucky enough to have the Leicester Air Ambulance visit us for a Monday assembly, recently. Vicky, who works for the charity spoke to the children about the vital role that the air ambulance plays, saving lives across our region. There are (on average) 10 missions a day and with an average cost of £2,300 it is important that we support the important work that the air ambulance does.

Families can support in many different ways. There are clothing recycling bins across the county, charity shops and local fundraisers to look out for.

Vicky also wanted to make the children aware of a free club that any child can join:

*Vicky who told us all about the lifesaving work of The Air Ambulance Service. During the assembly, the children learned about a free to join children's club called #TheCrew. Should your child wish to join or if you'd like to learn more, please visit:*

<https://theairambulanceservice.org.uk/childrens-air-ambulance/the-crew/>



### Let's get ready to ROCK!

Year 5 had a wonderful opportunity visiting the University of Leicester recently. They visited the geology department and had a fantastic

time learning about rocks and minerals. Did you know that many everyday items including mobile phones, make up and even toothpaste contain minerals?

The children also learnt about life in the Antarctic (from staff that have visited this inhospitable region on many occasions). They even got to try on the clothing that the scientists would wear when they are on their field trips.

It was a fantastic opportunity for children to visit a local University, a first for most of the children. It is a trip that we hope to offer to other children in the future.

We would like to thank all the University staff who made the trip possible and a special thank you to parents and carers who helped to transport the children on the day.

Year 5 pupils enjoying a fantastic day at Leicester University geology department.



### Sporting Headlines

There have been lots of sporting competitions happening recently. Here is a quick rundown of what's been going on:

Well done to our mixed year 5/6 hockey team who took part in a competition at Beauchamp College and our dodgeball county finals at South Wigston High school. The dodgeball team finished 4th overall (making them the 4th best team in Leicestershire). Our girls football team have been in action, playing Brockhill (5-1 win) and Launde (3-3 draw). Well done to all the girls for representing the school so well. We entered a team in the year 3/4 hockey competition and our netball team finished 3rd in a competition at Manor. Our swim team have also done incredibly well, progressing through to the county finals in May. Most recently, we entered a team into an indoor athletics competition where we claimed the 'spirit of the games' award. We also took part in a para-fest event which saw a small group of KS2 pupils take part in a range of activities as well as the new age kurling finals. These events took place at Loughborough University at the end of April.

As ever, these events can only happen with the dedication of Mr Evans, who coordinates all of these events. Thank you for your hard work and also to staff and parents who make sure the children are supported.





### Stars of the future

With the Paris Olympics just around the corner, we are getting excited for a fantastic summer of sport at Woodland Grange! We thought we would also feature 2 of our pupils who are excelling in their chosen sports (outside of school) at the moment. Who knows, they might be future Olympic stars themselves. We wanted to celebrate their success and also inspire other children to dream big and work hard. As our school mission statement says: aim high, achieve excellence and success, work together. You can do it!

We are very proud of George and his amazing achievements in swimming. He is tremendously committed to his swimming journey and is currently competing at regional and national level. George trains 8 sessions a week for the city of Leicester pathway program (5am starts and 2 hour evening sessions). He is determined and focussed on achieving his goal to become an Olympic swimmer.

George also competes most weekends in various counties. He has had some great results and lots of gold and silver medals and trophies (most recently in the winter league gala at the end of April). These competitions have also allowed his personal best times to improve. He is also on the England acceptance list for upcoming competitions in Sheffield in the summer, good luck George!

We know how brilliant George is at school. He is kind and supportive and this shines through in his attitude to his sport.



*We would love to feature some more of our amazing pupils in future newsletters. If your child is excelling at something outside of school (County or National level in sport, for example) get in touch.*

*You can speak to your child's teacher or email the office. We can't guarantee that we will feature everyone, but will do our best to include as many as we can.*

Thank you to everyone for making sure their children are in school on time. School starts at 8.45am. Please make sure you are dropping off before this time.



Well done to Dilasa, who has recently competed in her 5th British Wrestling Association regional competition in Derbyshire and won gold. She has been training 2-3 times a week for two and half years at Leicester Freestyle Wrestling where her coaches have helped her develop physically and mentally. They have created a fun, yet focused environment where the children have been able to develop discipline and hardworking traits.

Did you know that wrestling was one of the original sports in the ancient Olympic Games in Greece in 776 B.C? Wrestling improves balance, reflexes, strength, endurance, and agility.

We think Dilasa is amazing and cannot wait to see what she will achieve in the future.



### Recycling:

You can drop off and recycle pens, highlighters and empty correction fluid containers and empty inkjet (not laser) cartridges. Collections are on behalf of **COG Youth Services**, a voluntary run social enterprise based in Leicester. There are collection boxes in the school reception area.

### 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](http://www.myschoolfund.org) (quoting our ref. number **46173**. once you have your account, you can 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.

### Oadby Food Bank

Oadby food bank will continue to support people during the Easter break. They will be open on **Friday 3rd** and **17th May between 11.30 and 12.30**. Unfortunately (due to increased demand) they will only be able to help people who live in Oadby. Our collection will remain in school after the Easter break. They can accept any of the items listed [here](#). On behalf of Oadby food bank thank you for all your kind donations.

### Uniformerly

Don't forget, you can still support our Uniformerly scheme at school. 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, raise money for school and save the planet at the same time. We want to avoid lots of unwanted uniform going to landfill and together we can make a difference. Get in touch by contacting your year group FOWG WhatsApp rep or email: [fowg.uniformerly@gmail.com](mailto:fowg.uniformerly@gmail.com)

### Diary dates:

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

- 2nd May:** FOWG meeting
- 3rd May:** Colour Dash
- 6th May:** Bank holiday
- 13th May:** KS2 SATS week