



Woodland Grange Primary NEWSLETTER ~ July 2021

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 @Woodland_Grange

Looking ahead to a restful Summer break

Welcome to our final newsletter of this academic year. With only a few days of term left we are starting to think about summer holidays and time away from school. It would be easy at this time to focus on continued impact of COVID on life at school and miss all the wonderful things that have happened during this academic year. Your children have been truly amazing during the past 12 months. From year groups having to self isolate, adapting to online learning, full lockdown after Christmas and wider opening after Easter, they have taken everything in their stride. Thanks to your support combined with the care and attention of all staff at school we have found a way through this most testing of times, together. We are immensely proud of every member of our school community. More recently, restrictions have once again meant plans have had to be rearranged or cancelled altogether. Parents' evening appointments were virtual (Teams or phone calls) rather than face to face meetings as we'd hoped (although it is worth commenting how complimentary and positive those meetings were). Transition days were also held online and even our planned OAK Trust 500 word story event had to be held virtually as it involved children from across the trust coming together.



In conclusion, we hope that the final lifting of restrictions across the country means life can finally get back to normal. With the vaccination program and continued hard work of all NHS staff, we know that we are in safe hands.

Have a peaceful and relaxing summer break, see you on Wednesday 25th August!

We have written to all families about proposed lifting of restrictions: 'Following a recent government announcement, we are pleased to be able to inform you, as things currently stand, that we intend to start the next academic year as per NORMAL school operation.'

- School will start at 8.50am and end at 3.15pm for ALL pupils (apart from pre-school pupils who have their individual session times)
- There will not be a one-way system in operation; use either gate to enter/exit school
- Wearing a mask on-site will not be mandatory for visitors or staff but adults may choose to wear one
- Children will not be in bubbles meaning they can mix at break/lunchtimes. Classes within or beyond year groups can work together and share equipment/resources
- A positive case will not lead to other pupils needing to self-isolate (individuals will still need to self-isolate if positive). School can still insist a child is kept off and tested if Covid symptoms are evident. Self-isolation will still be necessary if an individual is COVID positive.
- Lunches, clubs and visits can resume as normal.
- Meeting with new parents for PreSchool and Foundation Stage will go ahead in school with BOTH parents welcome to attend
- An emphasis will still be placed on a high standard of hygiene: washing/sanitisation, ventilation and school cleaning

FOWG: End of term report



Thank you to everyone connected to FOWG for another, tricky year. Fundraising efforts have been hugely affected by the restrictions and precautions that we have all been living with. The planned events for the end of the year have had to be cancelled and the School Lottery (click [here](#)) remains the only ongoing fundraiser that we can promote.

The Friends of Woodland Grange would also like to join with the rest of the school to say goodbye to two longstanding members. **Julie Anderson** and **Lisa Wood** have volunteered for many years, given up countless evenings and weekends and raised lots of money for every pupil at Woodland Grange. Both Julie and Lisa's youngest children will be leaving us at the end of term and so it is time to pass the baton onto new members to take over their roles. It is impossible to sum up the impact of their fundraising efforts down the years. Julie has been involved for 15 years. In that time she has been responsible for raising literally tens of thousands of pounds for the school.

Lisa joined FoWG about 7 years ago and in that time has taken on several roles as well as organising countless events with Julie. There is not an area of school that has not benefitted from the funds that FoWG raise, from ipads to adventure playgrounds, books to laptops. Quite simply, without their commitment your children would miss out on opportunities and experiences.

Everyone connected with our school would like to say a huge THANK YOU! For your hard work and dedication.

If you are interested in becoming part of FoWG, the date for the AGM has been set for 16th September at 7pm in the school hall. You will be most welcome to attend and find out more about our voluntary parents association.



Lisa and Julie have been key fundraisers for school for many years.



Well done to all children in main school and pre school for taking part in the **Superhero Wish Walk** in aid of 'When you wish upon a star' charity on Friday 25th June. Children came to school in their superhero outfits (there were some very inventive ones) and brought a £1 donation for their challenge. Everyone then completed as many laps as they could around the school during the day (we set a timetable to avoid any mixing of bubbles) and the children had fun as they made their way around the course.

Thanks to Miss Benjamin and Mr Evans for organising the day, it was hot but the children had a great time.



Ready for Lift Off

You may remember that in May's newsletter we featured our contribution to the **Loros Rocket Round Leicester** trail. We can now reveal that the location of our jet is: Belgrave Library, 24 Cossington St, Leicester LE4 6JD! We would like to encourage families to visit it during the holidays. For more information (and the location of the other rockets) click [here](#). Don't forget to take a photo, if you find our rocket, you can even tweet it (remember to tag **@Woodland Grange**).

We are very happy to announce that a local business to the school who are also sponsoring a Giant Rocket in the trail, have offered £1000 sponsorship for our Junior Jet!

A big thank you to everyone who took part in the design an alien competition, we raised £47 by doing this. Look out for more exciting fundraising events in the Autumn term.

Active travel Month

Thank you to everyone that took part in Active Travel month during May. Our local school sports partnership organised the month long event with the theme of promoting active travel to school. Each child had the opportunity to take part and many of them walked, scooted or rode to school. Many managed it for the entire month! Some parents parked further away from school as well. Walking, even part of the way counted as an 'active journey'.

To make the results fair we found the percentage of possible active travel journeys across the month (19) and compared it to the number of children in each class. In other words for a class of 30 that would make a potential total of 570 active journeys. We simply counted up the actual total of active journeys and converted that into a percentage. The results were very interesting:

The individual class with the highest percentage was Mrs Sabir's class in Year 2 with 74%. Mr Smith in Year 6 was extremely close with 73%. There was a total of 11 (out of 15) classes across the school with a total which was higher than 50%.

Year 2 had the highest combined percentage of active travel (72%).

Miss Smith's class had the greatest number of children that travelled actively every day, 13 pupils.

As a school we had an average of 57% active travel during the month, well done to everyone that took part!

We will continue to promote active travel after the summer break. We want to raise the number of children that walk, scoot or ride to school for a variety of reasons. There are health benefits (mental and physical) it eases congestion outside school and, with less air pollution, it is even better for the environment.

Recycling

A reminder that we will be continuing to collect pens, pencils, highlighters and correction fluid containers for recycling on behalf of COG Youth Services.



COG Youth Services is a Leicester based volunteer run social enterprise. They support young people in a range of activities. By supporting them, we are supporting local, young people.

Parking

We will continue to monitor parking outside school and would thank parents for sending in their pictures of inconsiderate or bad parking. Please remember not to block resident's driveways or junctions, as it makes it impossible for other vehicles to pass by. It is also extremely dangerous to park on the yellow zig zag lines that are outside school as many families with younger children use that as a safe place to cross Beaufort Way.



Walk — Cycle — Scoot — Park with Care

Summer Activity Camp

We will be offering a 4 week activity camp during the summer break. It will run from **Monday 12th July** and finish on **Friday 6th August** (organised by Mr Evans). Families will have been notified about booking information and prices. Summer care for pupils currently in the Foundation Stage will be either in the Pre-School or with Mr Evans.

We are very excited to announce some building work that will be taking place over the summer holidays. We will be saying goodbye to our Year 3 mobile classroom which is being replaced by a new, modern classroom block. The work will be completed before the return of school in August, keep an eye on the school Twitter feed for progress updates.



Food Bank

Thank you for all your donations during this school year to the Oadby food bank. We will continue to support them after the summer break. Please send in any tinned or packet items (in date). Remember that the food bank cannot accept fresh items as donations.

Mrs Fletcher

It is always sad to say good bye to any of our school family and at the end of term our most longstanding teacher is moving onto pastures new. Mrs Fletcher started working at Woodland Grange 28 years ago. She started working at Woodland Grange in 1993 in a mixed Year 3/4 class (there were only 6 classes in the entire school). She has since worked in every year group from Year 1 to 5 as well as teaching French to all classes across KS2.

If you take an average class size of 30, we calculate that she would have taught 840 children! Quite an achievement , we think you will agree.

It is impossible to summarise everything that Mrs Fletcher has accomplished in her time at Woodland Grange. Everyone has many memories of the amazing experiences and opportunities she has organised for her children. She has taught and supported them, watching them grow in every way. She has looked after them, been there to listen and offer advice and helped them to be the best they can be.

When we return after the summer break, school will not be the same without her and we hope that she will keep in touch and come back and see us in the future.

We are going to miss Mrs Fletcher next year and wish her all the best for the next stage of her adventure.



Mrs Fletcher in 1996.

Goodbyes



We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to some other members of staff at the end of term. Miss Turner and Mr Brown (who both support children in Year 4) will be moving on to new opportunities. Although they have only been with us a short time, they have made a big impact on the pupils they have worked with.

We are also very sad that Miss Wyatt will be moving onto a new job after the summer break. She has worked at school for 5 years, initially in the preschool before moving to Year 1. She has worked incredibly hard during her time with us and will be missed by all the staff and pupils she has worked with.

Mr Mason, our IT technician is also moving on at the end of term. He is beginning a new IT job in August and we wish him all the best for the future.

Parents may remember that Mr Fletcher has been supporting children in Year 4 this year. He is now officially retired and will be finishing at the end of term. We would like to say thank you for all the help and encouragement he has given to our children.

Finally we are saying goodbye to our resident singing teacher Mrs Dent. She has worked in many year groups during her time with us and her passion and abilities have ensured that all children have had a fantastic musical education.

**We wish everyone all the best for the future.
Good luck, we will miss you all!**

Mrs Fletcher with Mrs Santy and the rest of Year 3 June 2021



Holiday Reading

Leicestershire libraries have launched their summer reading challenge. This year the theme is making your local area a better place to live, centred around the fictional town of Wilderville. Any Child aged 4-12 years can take part in 'Wild World Heroes' at all Leicestershire Libraries. It's free to take part and it taking place between Saturday 3 July and Saturday 4 September.

All child has to do is read 6 books (audio or e-books count too) collect 6 special stickers and claim their certificate and medal at the end of their challenge, it couldn't be easier.

Click [here](#) to register for the challenge. If you are not a library member, you can join by following the link too. We want as many children to keep up with their reading during the holidays and this is one way parents and carers can support and encourage some holiday reading. Good luck and let's get as many children reading over the summer as possible!

WILD WORLD HEROES





Dear Year 6 parents & carers

Every year I reflect on how much your children in Year 6 have developed and matured and without fail I am always amazed. It is one of the very great satisfactions of working in a school, to watch and play a part in the children growing into fine young people with so much to offer to their next school and society beyond that. I can still picture many of your children as little ones coming into the lower end of the school and now some of them leave bigger than their teachers or you! What they have all done is grow in confidence and their personalities and characters have developed to make them the wonderful people they are now. We consider it a huge honour to be part of their journey and I wish to thank every child for his/her contribution to school life. I also thank you the parents and carers for your part in supporting us to work effectively with your children; success at school requires a real partnership and especially in recent times you have all found yourselves on the 'frontline' of education with learning at home.

Our dear year 6s, we wish you well for the future and hope to see you again as you go onto the next stage of your education and hope that you will have fond memories of Woodland Grange as you journey through life. Be strong in mind and body, take sensible risks and push yourself to never give up and succeed in whatever you do. Be kind and respectful to everyone you meet and be proud of who you are and what you believe in. We hope, with your parents/carers, we have helped you on your way in life and hope you will come back at some point to share how you are getting on.

Mr Hayles.



Year 6 pupils enjoying their trip to Swadlincote dry ski slope, their soaking wet sports day and leavers party.

Staffing from August 2021

- Preschool:** Mrs Smith
- Foundation Stage:** Mrs Hibbard & Miss Yadav
- Year 1:** Miss Bowe/Mrs Bryan & Miss Hageman
- Year 2:** Mrs Chadwick/Mr Parker & Mrs Sabir
- Year 3:** Mrs Santy/Mrs Turner & Mrs Leslie
- Year 4:** Miss Benjamin & Miss Scott
- Year 5:** Miss Smith & Mr Healey
- Year 6:** Mrs Barrs & Mr Smith

Diary dates:
Remember that all dates can be found on the school website calendar (look on our homepage)

9th July: End of term for main school pupils

25th August: School returns (Pupils in Y1-6)