



Woodland Grange Primary NEWSLETTER ~ December 2021

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 @Woodland_Grange

Holidays are coming, holidays are coming...

We hope this final newsletter of the term finds you safe and well and looking forward to the Christmas holidays. It has certainly been a long and eventful term and as we head towards the end of term it seems a good time to look back and reflect on the last 4 and a bit months at school. It is easy to forget that the children have only been in their current classes for one term! It seems no time at all since we were welcoming our new starters in the preschool and foundation stage and seeing them now it is easy to forget how much they have already grown up. This term, we have tried to keep school life as normal as it can be. We have seen a return to clubs, school trips and activities away from school. Sporting competitions have once again returned and many children have already had the chance to represent Woodland Grange. We have also been able to establish opportunities for our children to take a more active role in our school. These include setting up a new school council, sports leaders and our eco council. We look forward to these things continuing after the Christmas break.

We are, of course, aware of the ongoing Covid crisis and are ever mindful of the need for caution in everything that we do. With new variants and the threat of further restrictions we must continue to do what we have been doing for the last 21 months, listening and following government advice and ensuring we do everything in our power to keep everyone as safe as we can.



Everyone at school would like to wish you & your family a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful, safe start to 2022.



Friends of Woodland Grange

We hope that when we return FoWG will be able to get back to organising their fundraising events. In the meantime they would like to remind all families of the school lottery. The link is [here](#), simply set up your account and start playing. There are monthly prizes and school benefits from every ticket sold. If you would like to join FoWG, look out for the next meeting after the Christmas holidays.

Christmas Shows

The children have had great fun preparing a little festive, musical treat for parents this term. Although we are still not able to welcome families into school we wanted to mark the end of term with some Christmas performances. Pupils in the preschool and foundation stage will share their songs via tapestry and year 1 and 2 via MS Teams. Log on and follow the links to watch. We would also like to thank Miss Fisher and Miss Jackson for putting together the Christmas Strictly Kidz shows (links to the videos have been sent out).

Foundation stage had a brilliant trip to **Curve** to watch the 'Smeds and the Smoos'. They travelled to the theatre on Friday 10th December and had a brilliant time. Many thanks to all the parents that helped out on the trip. Your children behaved beautifully and had a great time visiting the theatre and seeing a LIVE show (a reminder of just how important school trips are and also how much we have been missing these sorts of experiences during recent months).

Children in KS1 were able to stream a LIVE pantomime too. They watched Sleeping Beauty (Oh no they didn't!) and enjoyed the show immensely. Although it was no replacement for actually visiting the theatre, staff felt that it would still offer the children the chance to experience a traditional panto.

Tech tips

We are sure that many families will be stocking up on tech gifts this Christmas. Many children will have asked for the latest gadgets and these are always big sellers at this time of year. The UK Safer Internet Centre have published a useful set of tips that families can use if they're purchasing any of these gifts. Click [here](#) to visit saferinternet.org.uk.

One of the most important things you can do as parents is to have a conversation with your child. Having an open, honest discussion about their use of technology is key to supporting them in the future.

- *What do they do if they are worried?*
- *Do they know the risks or consequences about their online behaviour?*
- *How would they help a friend?*

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to 2 members of our staff team. Mrs Turner has been working in the preschool this term will be leaving us at the end of term. We will be welcoming back Mrs Oliver who will be returning from maternity leave.

We are also saying a sad farewell to Mrs Noormahomed who leads our lunchtime team. She has worked at the school for 7 years and in that time she has supported many children at lunchtime and managed her team very well indeed. We will be sorry to say goodbye and wish her good luck for the future.



A reminder that school finishes on Thursday 16th December due to the additional day for the Platinum Jubilee. Preschool will also close on that day but reopen on Monday 20th December until Thursday 23rd December.

Parking at WGPS

We would like to say thank you to all our parents and carers who park with courtesy and consideration at school drop off and pick up times. This is an ongoing issue and we will continue to tackle bad parking outside school. Please remember :

- Do not block road junctions, residents driveways or bus stops
- Do not use the school entrance to turn around
- Do not park on the yellow zig zag lines
- Leave enough room for pedestrians to cross or pass
- Don't leave your engine running when you are waiting in your car: reduce emissions

Remember, travelling in an active way can also help relieve the congestion outside school. Leave the car at home and walk, cycle or scoot to school. There are huge benefits for your child and, additionally our school and local area.



Looking Festive

Thank you to all the children who came to school in their Christmas jumpers on Friday 10th December. They looked very festive and there were so many eye catching designs. School took part in the Save the Children Christmas jumper day for 2021. Families can still make an online donation by clicking on this [link](#).



The Aspiration Tree

Each monthly newsletter will feature one of our seven aspirations for our children at Woodland Grange. This month:

We are: Physically Strong & Confident



At Woodland Grange we want all our children to be physically strong and confident. This process starts before they even start at school and has a significant focus in preschool and early years. Having good core strength and stability, a good sense of balance and

motor control is essential and can have a wide impact in many areas. It can mean the difference to a child accessing the curriculum, holding a pencil, using the skills required to complete creative and craft activities and even concentrating. Higher up the school (in key stage 1 and 2) this journey continues as children develop physically. The wide range of opportunities for children at Woodland Grange is key to that development and we encourage to be as physically active as possible, which in turn helps them develop in the classroom.



A MASSIVE THANK YOU from Oadby Food Bank

Christmas is the time of goodwill to all and this has especially apparent in our amazing food bank donations for the end of term. We have been bowled over by the amazing generosity of our families. Following a plea from Mr Hayles we were inundated with donations of goods for the Oadby food bank. The total amount of donations was enough to fill at least 3 car boots and the school entrance area resembled a small supermarket with the sheer number of items that people brought in to donate! The food bank would like to express their gratitude to everyone and we hope donations continue in the new year. The food will go to help many local residents who rely on the good work that the food bank provides.



Just one of many boxes full of kind donations for Oadby Food Bank



Recycling: We will be continuing to collect old pens, pencils, highlighters and empty correction fluid containers for recycling on behalf of **COG Youth Services (a Leicester based volunteer run social enterprise)**. There is a collection box near the main entrance. Thank you.

My school fund: A reminder for families to sign up to our 'My School Fund' scheme. The idea is simple. Register by clicking on this link: click [here](#) or visit www.myschoolfund.org. Then set up your account (our unique, school ref. number is 46173) and starting collecting those rewards. The school benefits from any shopping that you do and you can earn rewards for yourself. Everyone wins so get started today!

A reminder to foundation stage parents that resources have been shared from our local sports partnership (LSLSSP) about the importance of supporting a physically active child at home, on Tapestry. If you would like to find out more, contact school.



Happy New Year! See you on Tuesday 4th January

