



# Woodland Grange Primary NEWSLETTER ~ July 2022

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www.woodlandwideweb.org.uk

 @Woodland\_Grange

## Thinking back and looking forward

With the summer holidays just around the corner, it seems like a good time to reflect on another very busy year at Woodland Grange. The terms have gone by very quickly and it seems like only five minutes since we welcomed the children back to school! You will now have received your child's end of year report. We know their hard work and the progress, together with the attitude they have shown in the classroom will be reflected in the kind comments made by teachers. One well-used phrase in many of our newsletters this year has been 'getting back to normal'. Thinking back to the start of the year, that was what we all hoped for. Cases rose (once again) and we found ourselves trying to do the best under difficult circumstances. With each passing month, we have slowly 'got back to normal' although there have been recent reminders that COVID is still very much part of our lives. It was lovely to offer a year 6 residential, once again. The children had an amazing time at Conover Hall. They were fantastically well behaved and got so much out of the activities. It was a lovely end to their time at Woodland Grange and we know they will continue to be wonderful role models at their new schools. We also welcomed parents back to our sports days. It was wonderful to see and hear so many positive and encouraging comments and the children competed for their houses. Well done to the Rabbits who became sports day champions for 2022!



Finally we know you will join us in saying a huge thank you to everyone that works at our amazing school. As Mr Hayles says, a school is made by the staff that work there. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated and caring group.



We have three sets of Wedding bells happening over the summer holidays.

Everyone at school would like to wish Miss Hageman, Miss Yadav and Miss Bowe **GOOD LUCK** as they tie the knot during July and August. Next year Miss Hageman will return as Mrs Brennan. Miss Yadav will become Mrs Johnson and Miss Bowe will become Mrs Bowe!

## Game, Set & Match

One group of pupils were lucky enough to visit the Wimbledon Championships recently. They enjoyed an amazing day out including a visit to Murray mound (or should that be Raducanu ridge?) They had tickets for Court No.1 and watched some brilliant tennis and soaked up the fantastic atmosphere. What an experience. The children included our own tennis team who finished second in the County this year, stars of the future.



## Friends of Woodland Grange

FOWG would like to say thank you for all the support with their fundraising efforts this year. They are hoping to get back to organising events in the new school year, but can only do it with your help! They will be having an AGM after the summer break, which will be a chance to plan future events. Put the date in your diary:

**Thursday 8th September at 7pm.**

A reminder that you can sign up for the School Lottery by clicking [here](#). There are monthly draws and the more families that sign up to play, the more money we raise for school.



## Positive Parking

We will continue to challenge inconsiderate parking outside our school. We know that things get busy during the drop off and that the majority of our parents park with courtesy and consideration. Please remember to follow the rules:

- **Do not use the school entrance to turn around**
- **Do not block junctions, driveways or bus stops**
- **Do not park on the yellow zig zag lines outside of school**
- **Leave enough room for pedestrians to pass**
- **Turn off your engine when you are waiting in your car. This will help to reduce emissions**

We would also remind families that the Grange pub is our designated 'Park & Stride' venue. You can drive to the pub, leave your car and walk the rest of the way. This means you are not blocking any roads around the school site and everyone gets the benefits of walking to school!



**We could not complete our final newsletter of this school year without keeping everyone up to date on the Woodland Grange school family, those moving on and those joining the staff team.**

Families will already know that Mr Hayles is leaving us at the end of term. He is looking forward to spending well earned time at home with his family. It is safe to say that Mr Hayles will be very missed as our head teacher. It can be a difficult but ultimately rewarding job. There are pressures and expectations from various sources. However, Mr Hayles has always kept the needs of your children at the heart of everything that we do. He is always there to welcome new children starting school for the first time and he is with them as they make their way through school, wishing them good luck as they leave us at the end of year 6. He is an important part of their journey through our school and takes a personal interest in every child (very difficult when you have over 450 names to remember!) He has been a kind, caring and generous Head Teacher and everyone connected with Woodland Grange would like to say thank you for leading our school for the last 12 years.



Mrs Smith's contribution to Woodland Grange has also been huge. She has worked at school for 18 and a half years, led our Early Years team for much of that time (including the Pre School). She has established herself as an important early years practitioner, one that is in demand from other schools across the County. As Assistant Head she has also contributed to key decisions about our school, always keeping the interests and needs of the pupils at the very centre. For a child to have the very best start, to their education, they need a positive and nurturing start which also lays the foundation blocks for the rest of their education. Mrs Smith has provided that to every child in her care.



If you ask any child who has ever had Mr Smith as their class teacher, you will hear words like funny, exciting, interesting and (very occasionally) grumpy! His experience and expertise in the classroom have made him invaluable at Woodland Grange. He has worked at school for 19 years and has been an important part in so many children's lives. As with Mrs Smith his commitment is beyond measure and he takes great pride in the job that he does. Families will know that both Mr and Mrs Smith are moving abroad to continue teaching in Brunei. They will both be missed immensely and everyone from school wishes them luck for their new family adventure.

We are also saying good bye to Miss Benjamin. She has been with us for 5 years and has made a big impact on school life. As PE lead in school she has promoted the benefits (physical and mental) of an active lifestyle. There has been sporting success at school and increased opportunities for all children to get involved in sport. Miss Benjamin is moving to a new role at a city school and we wish her luck for the next stage of her career.

Mrs Smyton will be retiring at the end of term. Parents may recall that she officially finished with us a few years ago, however we coaxed her back to work alongside Mrs Smith in the Pre School. She has, however, made the decision to finish teaching in July and we wish her luck in her retirement.

Miss Kotecha is also moving on at the end of term. She has provided classroom support, wrap around care and helped out at clubs and holiday camps. She has been a kind and caring member of our team and we hope she continues to develop her career in the future.

Finally, we will be losing another WG couple at the end of this term. Mr and Mrs Pickering will both be retiring. Mrs Pickering has worked at school for 18 years. In that time she has provided support to children in Foundation Stage and Pre School. Her positive contribution to the education of our youngest pupils cannot be underestimated. She has shown herself to be a caring and nurturing presence in their earliest days, with the results being felt in the rest of the school. Although Mr Pickering has only been with us a fraction of the time that Mrs Pickering has (a mere 6 years) he has also become an important person at school. He is modest about his contributions and these would almost go unnoticed, but not by any of the staff who have worked with him. His involvement in the Woodland Wheelers Cycle Club is just one example and it is difficult to say how many children he has helped to learn to ride a bike. They will both be greatly missed.

**With staff leaving us at the end of term, we will of course be welcoming many new members to our team in August!**

Mrs Brown will become our new Head Teacher. She is very excited to be taking over from Mr Hayles and is keen to get started when we return after the summer break.

Mrs Brewster will take charge of Early Years. She will continue the great work that Mrs Smith started in the Pre School as well as taking an active role in the senior team in school.

We are delighted that Mrs Matthews, Miss Holland and Miss Smyton will be joining us as class teachers in August. We will also be welcoming Miss West, Mr Holtom, Ms Bhinkha, Miss Ryan and Mrs Gray as new members of our support staff. They will be taking individual support roles working with pupils in the classroom.

We are looking forward to getting to know everyone starting at Woodland Grange next term and no doubt will be writing about their contributions in our future newsletters.

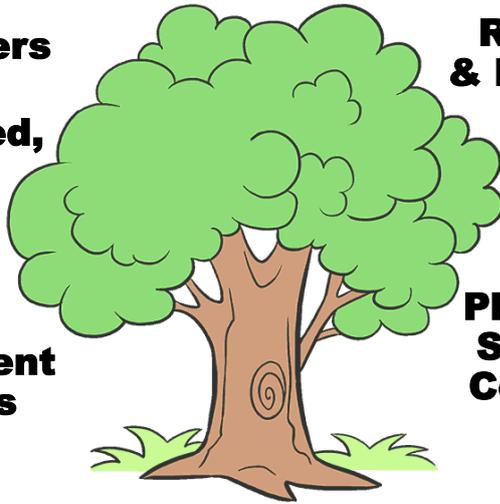




# The Aspiration Tree

Since October, we have been featuring our Woodland Grange aspirations in each newsletter. In this final newsletter of the year, we thought we would remind everyone of all 7 aspirations. We are:

**Risk Takers**  
**Self-Motivated, Engaged & active**  
**Resilient**  
**Independent Thinkers**



**Respectful & Empathetic**  
**Creative**  
**Physically Strong & Confident**

Keep discussing each of these with your child at home during the holidays. Which do they think they do well? Are there any that they could work on after the summer break? Can they think of an example of something they've done that would demonstrate any of our aspirations?

## 500 words

Well done to everyone who entered the recent OAK Trust 500 word story writing competition. There were some amazing stories and the judges had an impossible task picking out the winners. Overall we did well, with pupils coming in first and third place in KS1 and third place in KS2. All the stories were amazing, keep up the super writing!

## End of year sports round up

It has been a busy end to the term for all things sporty. The school was represented in the Saffron Lane Athletics competition with a large team of KS2 pupils. There were plenty of medal winning performances, well done to everyone that took part and the staff that accompanied them. Our girls football team also narrowly missed out on overall top spot when they lost to Glen Hills in the semi-finals. In boys football it was a repeat, with the team narrowly missing out in the final, again to Glen Hills. We would like to thank all staff that have made it possible for the school to compete in so many competitions this year. In particular, Mr Evans who continues to make a massive contribution.

Thank you to everyone that supported our non-uniform day on behalf of Aadi Wilson. Everyone looked brilliant in their bright clothes and there were some fantastic donations. Any contribution will make a huge difference towards the £20,000 target for a new electric wheelchair. If you would like to make an online donation, click [here](#).

## You can sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge [here](#).

The theme for this year's challenge is the Gadgeteers. Join them and discover the amazing science and innovation behind the world around you, including some of your favourite things!

Visit the Oadby Library to find out more. Promoting reading over the summer break is incredibly important. We have an amazing local library, join the challenge, read some fantastic books and claim your reward!



## A Beautiful Green Space

We are sure that families will have noticed the new planted area on the path between the staffroom and the car park at school. We would like to thank the volunteers from Ridge LLP, property and construction consultants who gave up their time to turn a rocky patch of mud into a beautiful space to be enjoyed by everyone walking past. Thank you as well to the children that painted tin can planters on the posts. They are very eye catching and finish the area off very nicely.



## Get Knitting!

There is still time to visit the Oadby Yarnbomb near St Peters Church.

Our very own knitter natter club have created some school inspired knitted items as part of the overall display and they look amazing!

They spent many hours putting the display together with the expert help of Mrs Hunter to guide them. Why not pop down during the holidays and have a look?



## Key Dates:

**8/7 : End of term** (main school and term time preschool pupils)

**30/8 : Start of Autumn Term**

Key dates can also now be found on our school website:

[www.woodlandwideweb.org.uk](http://www.woodlandwideweb.org.uk)  
Click on 'News & Events' then 'School Calendar'.