

Woodstock Weekly



The weekly newsletter from Woodstock CE Primary School

15 May 2023

Edition: 28

LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this week's newsletter finds you well and you enjoyed yesterday's glorious sunshine. At about 7KM into the Town and Gown 10K in Oxford on Sunday, I even thought that perhaps it was a little too hot!

Year 6 End of Key Stage Two assessments:

Last week year six pupils completed statutory assessments in English Spelling Punctuation and Grammar, Reading and Mathematics over four days. We are beyond proud of all our pupils for showing incredible maturity, engagement and resilience. They embraced the week with enthusiasm and positivity. They should be rightly proud of themselves. My thanks to all staff involved in making the week run smoothly.



Behaviour Policy Parent Working Group update from Mrs Hipwell:

A huge thank you to the parents who attended the final parent working group. We have been discussing ways to ensure parents are aware of our approaches to behaviour in school and how to support this at home. From September we will have a monthly bulletin in the newsletter outlining approaches to behaviour, strategies we are teaching and supporting, and links to interesting pieces of research.

There was a useful discussion around communication to parents and engagement of parents with school events and workshops. Whilst assemblies and performances are always well attended, workshops are often not. Workshops are the ideal time for teachers to share curriculum content, teaching approaches, engagement techniques as well as an opportunity for parents to see inside classrooms and absorb the environment. We hope from September, to see a higher level of engagement with these events.

In the last meeting we discussed parents sharing information about their child with SLT members on the gates. There has been a good uptake of this facility and it has meant that staff are more aware of levels of sleep, if a child has refused breakfast or if there has just been a rushed morning. These small pieces of information can help staff to engage children with their learning and support them as the day begins.

Finally, we discussed communication from school. This is an area that we have focussed on recently as a school with the introduction of ParentMail. The weekly newsletter contains various pieces of school information, and the office are amazing at sending out reminders or updates. To receive all of this, please ensure the office has you registered and that you have it loaded onto your phone with notifications switched on.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and Paediatric Basic Life Support (BLS) training:

There has been a great response from parents for the upcoming AED and Paediatric BLS sessions. There are a few spaces left on the AED session this Friday, Paediatric BLS is now full.

BLS with an AED – Friday 19th May, 1.15pm to 2.30pm. To book your place, please click here: <https://forms.office.com/e/TXmXJTrmgd>

As previously shared, The British Heart Foundation (BHF) supply the equipment to run these sessions, in addition to training thousands of young people each year with the RAH campaign. As you know I completed the London Marathon supporting the BHF team in April. Huge thanks to all parents that have contributed to the fundraising. So far we have raised **£2220** which is super. Particular thanks to local businesses, [Flowers Estate Agents](#) and [Allen Associates](#) for once again generously supporting our school's charity work. There is still time to show your support for this important initiative, thank you in advance.: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/christian-mcguinness3>

Creative Arts Week: Week beginning Monday 22 May 2023

This year's Culture and Creative arts week is being coordinated by Mrs Christie who has been working behind the scenes to put together an array of exciting workshops and experiences for the children to take part in. We will be welcoming into school some visitors who will work with the children over the week on a 'Carnival' theme, which will include samba drumming, samba dancing, costume design and making – including masks and head dresses. We are also welcoming a local mosaic artist into school who will work over the week with the children to design and make a 'Coronation' themed mosaic plaque in celebration of King Charles III. It is going to be a very exciting week with children exploring the meaning of Carnivals around the world and why they are celebrated.



A ParentMail will be sent out very soon with further details and a request for donations towards the cost of the week – which I am sure you will agree will be a wonderful opportunity and experience for our children.

Nut free school:

Can I remind everyone please that we are a nut free school. We have a number of children with nut allergies so it is very important that pupils do not bring anything into school which contains nuts. Thank you for your support with this.

Thank you as always for the continued support you give to our school, it is always very much appreciated and hugely valued.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian McGuinness', written in a cursive style.

Christian McGuinness
Headteacher

Safeguarding Children Updates:

What to do if you have concerns about a child

If you have any concerns about a child relating to Safeguarding, please get in touch with one of our Safeguarding Leads immediately by contacting the school directly on 01993 812209 or by email safeguarding@woodstock.oxon.sch.uk.

If you are unable to speak to a member of our Designated Safeguarding Team at school and have a safeguarding concern, please contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) directly who will be able to advise you.

If you have a concern about a child, please call MASH on 0345 050 7666.

Fun with the Hedgehog Club for all the family

Available to book on the website today:

May half term activity days for 5–12-year-olds

The first dates for summer activity dates (more dates coming soon)



Summer term of The Hedgehog Club at Cogges for children from crawling to 4 years old

Book your outdoor fun today at www.thehedgehogclub.co.uk

Any questions do get in touch with Mandy on thehedgehogclub123@gmail.com



Collective Worship Weekly Theme

Week Beginning: 15/5/23		Collective Worship	
Key Idea: Animal Pests			
Biblical Link:	Genesis 1:25 God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. (NIV)		
Core Value:	Respect		<div>Invitation prayer</div> <p>Dear God, Thank you for all the animals you created, Help us to care for and protect them, Help us to treat them all with respect, even if we need to use protective measures to keep ourselves or something safe, Amen</p>
Understanding Christianity Theme:	 Creation		
Worship Song:	All the Animals/All creatures of our God		

Our World



Should all animals be treated equally?

Let's look at this week's story

Blackpool Zoo is looking to hire a team of people in an attempt to scare away nuisance seagulls - by dressing them in bird costumes. Blackpool Zoo says the birds have been persistently stealing food from visitors and animal enclosures. The role, which would be housed within the Zoo's Visitor Services team, will involve someone dressing up as an eagle and keeping seagulls away from the main visitor dining areas.

Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



UN Rights of a Child

We have the right to live in a clean and safe environment. Sometimes animals may damage our clean and safe environment, so measures need to be put in place to prevent this.



British Values

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Seagulls are known for stealing food and can be a nuisance! Not everyone will feel this way. We can show respect to people who have different beliefs and opinions.



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At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

10 top tips for safely using SMARTWATCHES

Kids love gadgets, and smartwatches – available to buy from as little as £20 online – make a tempting gift. As with any type of mobile technology, though, smartwatches can pose risks to children unless they're used safely. Receiving unwanted calls, cyber-stalking and distracting a young person when they're crossing the road are all known risks associated with smartwatches. However, these devices can bring plenty of benefits for children and parents alike – so let's examine the pros and cons of smartwatches.

AVOID CHEAP OPTIONS

A quick search online yields a torrent of cheap smartwatches for kids, costing as little as £20. It's wise to avoid this bargain basement tech: It tends to deliver a poor experience with inferior battery life, and it's hard to have faith in the software's safety. There have been cases of smartwatches being hacked to track or contact children; stick to known brands who have a reputation to protect.

CONTROL CALLING

Many smartwatches have the facility to make or take calls. As with a phone, you may want to restrict who your child can call – or be called by. On Apple Watches, you can select trusted contacts who are allowed to ring your child, while other watches' controls vary hugely. Some need to connect to a linked phone for calls, so you may be able to block unknown contacts via that device instead.

BEWARE HIDDEN COSTS

For a smartwatch to allow calls independently (that is, without being connected to a phone via Bluetooth), it will need its own mobile data plan. This might take the form of a tiny SIM card that you slot into the watch – or an eSIM, where the physical card is replaced by software settings. Either way, this will incur an additional monthly cost that you'll need to factor into any buying decision.

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Apple Watches aren't cheap, but they do offer superb safety features – allowing parents to control calls, messages and emails on the device, as well as a location tracking system that can send alerts if kids wander beyond pre-set boundaries. Their SOS function enables children to contact emergency services instantly if they're in trouble, which simultaneously also alerts parents and carers.

MAKE THEM COOL FOR SCHOOL

Some schools have banned smartwatches, as pupils have been using them as substitute phones. If your child's school does permit them, some devices can be set to prevent distractions in class. For example, Apple's Schooltime feature turns their watches into ordinary time-keeping devices during school hours. The display changes in this mode, showing teachers that it isn't being used for other purposes.

TRACK ITS LOCATION

Both Apple and Android devices have apps which allow you to track a smartwatch's location. They can also initiate an audio alert – avoiding those cushion-hurling panics when a treasured device can't be found at home. If you're planning to track your child's location via their watch, make them aware of that in advance. You could even make it a condition of them getting the watch in the first place.

THINK 'SAFETY FIRST'

Smartwatches are often worth hundreds of pounds, which can make young people wearing one a target for thieves. Advise your child to keep the watch hidden in public (when possible) and not to resist if muggers demand their watch. If you manage to track a stolen device, pass that information to the police; location data isn't always accurate, so you could end up wrongly accusing someone.

STORE MEDICAL INFO

Devices including the Samsung Galaxy Watch and Apple Watch can store the owner's medical details (such as their blood group and any pre-existing medical conditions), potentially giving emergency services access to vital information in a crisis. These devices also have 'hard fall' detection, which sends a text message to selected contacts along with a map showing the wearer's location.

USE THEM AS MOTIVATION

If you're worried your child's spending too much time slumped on the sofa staring at screens, smartwatches are great fitness trackers and can be a powerful incentive to get moving. Some devices will alert the wearer if they've been inactive for a long time and encourage them to do some exercise. Many watches record the user's daily step count and measure other health metrics.

BE MINDFUL OF BEDTIME

Many smartwatches offer sleep tracking, which some (usually older) children use to justify wearing them to bed. However, that also presents a temptation to message friends or check social media late at night, even if their phone is downstairs. Unless there's a valid reason not to, you could encourage your child to remove the watch in the evenings and ensure the charger stays in a different room.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *BBC Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and the *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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12 WAYS YOU CAN HELP TO DEVELOP YOUR CHILD'S PHYSICAL WELLBEING



SPORT

Encourage your child to take part in sport not just for the physical benefits



PLAY

Schedule in time for fun activities. Encourage creativity and movement



ACTIVE

Seek out opportunities where you can be active together



DIET

Support your child to eat a well balanced diet



HYDRATION

Make sure your child is well hydrated throughout the day



SLEEP ROUTINE

Support your child to get into a regular sleep routine



EXERCISE

Encourage a range of exercise: aerobic and strength exercises



RECOVERY

Make sure your child has enough time for rest and recovery



SELF CARE

Provide opportunities for your child to practise self care



SLEEP ENVIRONMENT

Make sure your child is developing a positive sleep environment (think about light, sound, bedding, use of electronic devices)



FAMILY

Involve the whole family in promoting healthy physical habits



ROLE MODEL

Be a role model for your child and demonstrate positive behaviours

