

# Woodstock Weekly



The weekly newsletter from Woodstock CE Primary School

15 January 2024

Edition: 14

## LETTER FROM THE DEPUTY HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this week's newsletter finds you all well and that you managed to get out and enjoy some of the better weather over the weekend. It feels like a little while ago now, but a very Happy New Year to all of our children and families. It is always a delight to welcome the children back into school after a break – with lots of very happy smiling faces and smart uniform. I have had the pleasure to catch up with many of the children over the school to hear about what they had been up to.

We had a very busy first week back – each phase in school starting a new theme to their learning. Curriculum maps will be available on the school website by the end of the week for you to view and see what your child/ren are up to this term. There are many visits and workshops being planned – with our first trip of 2024 happening last week for children in Years 5&6.

### Start and End of Day Timings (excluding Nursery who have different timings)

Please can we remind you of the following start of day, and end of day timings:

TIME	
8.35am	All gates open for children to come into school
8.40am	Gates are locked and any arrivals after this time will be recorded as 'late'
3.10pm	End of school day

Please can you ensure your child arrives **promptly at 8.35am** and no later than 8.40am, where you will need to sign in at the office.

### Curriculum Updates:

Please see below the subject led themes for the term for your child/ren.

Class Phase	Curriculum Theme
EYFS Nursery:	I live here!
EYFS Reception:	Once Upon a Rhyme & Splish Splash Splosh
Key Stage 1 Years 1&2:	Castles and Dragons (History and English Focus)
Key Stage 2 Years 3&4:	City of Spires (History and Geography Focus)
Key Stage 2 Years 5&6:	In the Beginning (History and Science Focus)

Before the end of the Autumn Term we published dates for our [Class Curriculum Celebration Assemblies](#). Here are the dates for your diary below:

Date @ 2.20pm	Class
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Red Kites Years 5&6
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Falcons Years 5&6
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Kingfishers Years 3&4
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Kestrels Years 5&6
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Woodpeckers Years 5&6
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Cygnets Years 1&2
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Goslings Years 1&2
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Nightingales Years 3&4
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Ducklings Years 1&2
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	EYFS: Reception
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	EYFS: Nursery



Last week children in Years 5&6 took part in the national **Young Voices** singing event in Birmingham. Parents were treated to an amazing singing performance from over 6000 children across the country. It is always a special experience that children and parents will remember forever. I would like to say a huge well done to the children who, as always did a brilliant job of representing our school. A lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes of this event in order for us to be able to take part – Pip in the office has been organising this with the Year 5&6 team for months, including transport, tickets etc. Years 5&6 colleagues have also been working hard with the children teaching and learning the songs together, which makes it such a special event to be part of. We had some wonderful emails from parents last week, who attended the event, to share with us their thanks and appreciation for being part of Young Voices and how much their children loved every minute of the event – these have been shared with colleagues. I would like to echo these emails by saying a very big thank you to everyone involved – it has been very much appreciated.

This week, I have the pleasure of accompanying the Years 3&4 phase to the Story Telling Museum in Oxford which supports this term's history and geography work on Oxford as a city, but also focuses on their leading text *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* by CS Lewis. I know the children will thoroughly enjoy this experience. Plans are well under way for children in Key Stage 1 to visit Warwick Castle to support their work in history – another exciting visit that really does bring to life the children's learning.

#### A Few Reminders: Uniform and Breaktime Snacks

We feel our uniform policy reflects the high standards we expect of children and generally children are always looking very smart. Staff have noticed an increase in children wearing trainers on non-PE days. Please can we remind you that children should have proper school shoes on days it is not PE. Our uniform is plain black or navy shorts, leggings, or jogging bottoms.

Please can we remind you that children are invited to bring in a healthy snack to enjoy at breaktime (fresh fruit or vegetables). It is very easy for children to open their packed lunch box at breaktime and eat something they fancy rather than what has been packed for their snack. If you can remind your child at home of these expectations and we will do the same in school. Many thanks for your support with this – it is much appreciated.



With the cold spell upon us, please do encourage children to bring a coat, hat and gloves please (labelled with names is really helpful).

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

Yours sincerely,

*afoto*

## 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](mailto: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.**

### NSPCC Updates for Parents and Families

The NSPCC have updated some of their guidance on supporting children with mental health issues. Please follow the links to some very useful pages on their website.

**Child Mental Health:** click [here](#)

**The Safeguarding Network:** click [here](#)



## Parent Governor

We have a Parent Governor vacancy on our governing body and so must hold an election. As many of you may already know, the governing body has an extremely important role: it is responsible for working strategically in partnership with the headteacher and staff to identify the most important aspects of the school that need to be improved, approving plans to achieve this and ensuring progress. Governors individually have no power but act collectively as a corporate team. All governors receive training to help them carry out their role. Oxfordshire Governor Services runs special induction courses for new governors – we expect all our governors to attend this training.

Parents or anyone who has parental responsibility\* for a registered pupil at the time of the election are entitled to apply. You can nominate someone for election and can vote in the election. We have a factsheet about becoming a governor that we can send you if you want more information.



All nominations should be sent to the school office by **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January**. You can nominate yourself. Every nomination must be signed by the candidate, stating that they are willing to stand. Nomination forms can be collected from the school office.

### \*DEFINITION OF A PARENT

(The Education Act 1996: Section 576 defines "Parent" to include):

- All natural parents, whether they are married or not; and
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person; and any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person  
(The Education Act 1996: Section 576 (1), (3) and (4), read together with the Education Act 2002: Section 212(2), gives a definition of "parent")
- "Parent" is defined for the purposes of the Constitution Regulations as including "any individual who has or has had parental responsibility for, or cares or has cared for, a child or young person under the age of 18".
- It includes a person who the child lives with and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child. The reference in the definition must be to someone involved in the full-time care of the child on a settled basis.

## Collective Worship Weekly Theme

Week Beginning: 15/1/24		Collective Worship	
Key Idea: Ready to Read!			
Biblical Link:	Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." (NIV)		
Christian Value:	Wisdom	<div>Invitation prayer</div> <div>Dear God, Thank you that we can learn to read, Thank you for everything that we can enjoy reading, Thank you for the Bible and all that it teaches us, Amen</div>	
Understanding Christianity Theme:	 God		
Worship Song:	Black and white		

## Our World



**Is an e-reader better than a book?**

### Let's look at this week's story

A study from the University of Valencia, in Spain, found that print reading could boost skills by six to eight times more than digital reading, for example, on an e-reader or tablet. The study, published in the Review of Educational Research, also found that while there is a negative relationship between digital reading and comprehension for primary school pupils, the relationship turns positive for secondary school-aged pupils.

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 all have the right to get information from the internet, radio, television, newspapers, books and other sources.





### British Values



### Individual Liberty

We are all provided with the opportunity to learn to read. Sometimes learning to read can take perseverance and resilience, which we can be responsible for.



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 game of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# OF WORLD WARCRAFT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**12+**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

World of Warcraft originally launched way back in 2004, and since then the game has blossomed into a major entertainment property. It's spawned spin-off novels, merchandise and even a Hollywood movie adaptation ... but why are we still talking about it in 2023? World of Warcraft's most recent iteration, Dragonflight, launched last November and marks the game's ninth major expansion. This latest addition has attracted a whole host of lapsed players back to the game – as well as newcomers jumping into the realm of Azeroth for the first time.

## ALWAYS ONLINE

World of Warcraft is an MMORPG, which stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Players create a character and head off on mythical quests to earn rewards and become more powerful. The game's environment is absolutely vast, and it can only be played online on PC or Mac – so there's a high probability of young Warcraft fans wanting to monopolise the family computer.

## REGULAR EXPANSIONS

As is common with many MMORPGs, World of Warcraft's developers, Blizzard, release regular expansions for the game (usually every 18 months to two years). So although there's still plenty of content for young players to experience right now, there will almost inevitably be a requirement to continue buying future expansion packs, which tend to cost around £50.

## IN-GAME PURCHASES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Just like its genre contemporary Final Fantasy XIV, World of Warcraft requires a monthly subscription fee to play. It's currently £9.99 per month (although you can get it cheaper by signing up to a longer subscription). There are also many items which can be purchased from the in-game store that don't affect gameplay, but instead offer cosmetic alterations to a player's character.

## VOICE AND TEXT CHAT

Because World of Warcraft is played exclusively on PCs and Macs, it's easy for users to type out text messages if they aren't comfortable using voice chat. If you'll forgive the pun, that's a double-edged sword because – although there's less chance of them being harassed verbally – it puts young players at increased risk of being trolled or receiving spam through the in-game messaging function.

## SIMULATED VIOLENCE

The fact that World of Warcraft is almost 20 years old means that even its most violent battles look slightly cartoonish compared with the level of authenticity in many more modern games. The exception tends to be Warcraft's in-game cutscenes: animated sections which move the plot onto the next stage. These offer more realistic visuals, but they still aren't overly gory or scary.

## POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

World of Warcraft can trigger a powerful "just one more quest" mentality in players (especially young ones) as they rush to secure the next dopamine hit from levelling their character up or earning a new item or weapon. It's also a game that doesn't have a definite "end" – because as soon as a player finishes levelling up one character, they can start afresh with another one.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### MANAGE PLAYTIME

World of Warcraft can be an extremely enjoyable game to play with friends, but it's important that your child doesn't let their adventures crowd out school work, socialising or anything else they also enjoy. You could, for example, consider imposing playtime limits – such as a set number of hours to play Warcraft per week, or restricting it to particular days or just weekends.

### MAKE IT A REWARD

If your child is excited about getting the next World of Warcraft expansion, you could consider using it as a reward for completing their weekly tasks (you could even call them "quests") like tidying their room or doing their homework. This will demonstrate that you're happy for them to play the game but will also help them to build good, productive habits, reinforcing that hard work earns rewards.

### SIGN UP FOR THE FREE TRIAL

Warcraft's monthly subscription effectively "pays" for the regular new content, but there's also a sizeable free trial that lets new players explore the world of Azeroth without paying a penny. Players can play up until Level 20 for free, which is easily several hours' worth of gameplay. If your child does take this option, we'd suggest minimising in-game spending by not linking a bank card to their account.

### REMEMBER THE AGE RATING

Due to mild violence and the occasional use of offensive language, World of Warcraft has been rated as appropriate for players aged 12 and over by PEGI (the Pan-European Game Information system, which gives games their age certificate). It isn't really suitable for anyone below that age, so you may potentially have to explain this reasoning to your younger children if they want to play it.

### ADVENTURE TOGETHER

Warcraft can certainly be addictive, but playing it together is also a great way to spend time with your child. The game's focus on cooperative questing and battling enemies can make it feel like you've accomplished something as a team, and you'll also be in a prime position to spot any early signs of addiction. Just remember to apply gaming time limits to yourself as well as your young ones!

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website Dextera and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar, among others.



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Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2011/aug/29/world-of-warcraft-video-game-addict> | <https://worldofwarcraft.com/en-us/start>



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# TIPS TO BUILD EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE IN KIDS

**Spend quality time with kids.**  
When they feel loved and supported, children develop emotional strength.

**Talk about feelings so your child learns to share their worries and fears with people they trust.**

**Instead of rushing to solve problems, give kids time to work things out themselves.**

**When children experience failure or disappointment, it's important to praise their effort and encourage them to try again.**

**Acknowledge your own mistakes to teach kids that mistakes are essential for learning and growth.**

**If your child can't find a solution to a problem, use gentle questioning to guide them towards it.**

**Ensure kids are eating well and getting enough sleep and exercise.**