

Friday 13th March 2026  
Volume 22: Issue No. 24

# WOODRIDGE NEWSLETTER

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## SCIENCE WEEK - 'Curiouser and curiouser.'

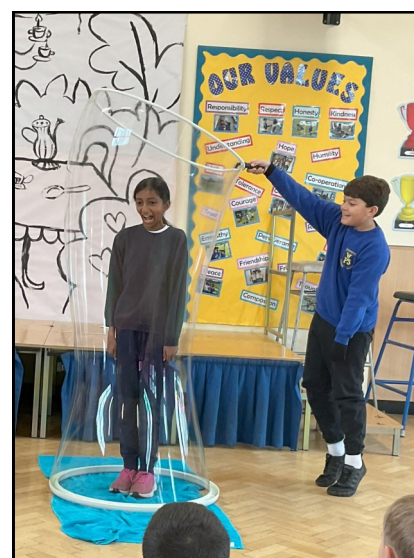
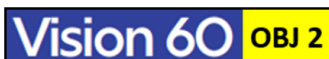
This week has been Woodridge Science Week, continuing the theme of 'Curiouser and Curiouser' from Artsweek.



On Tuesday, each class took part in a workshop run by Spark2. This included a display of giant bubbles that some of the children capture each other inside (see photo).

The Science ambassadors (Anya, Sebi and Termeh) also went round the school to compile a list of science questions from across the classes. These will be used for a science display board.

Big thanks to Miss McCleneghen for co-ordinating such an engaging week.



## READING IN USUSUAL PLACES

We had dozens of photos sent in for our World Book Day reading challenge, which now form a lovely 'We Love Reading' display in the entrance lobby.



Our Y6 English Ambassadors, Florence and Rojeen judged the winners of the photo competition:

YR: Amba, Y1: Oliver, Y2: Sophie R, Y3: Ernie, Y4: Adam, Y5: Millie and Y6: Emily S. These children each win a Book Token.



HEALTHY SCHOOLS  
LONDON



## Y5 CLASS ASSEMBLY

This week it was Year 5's turn to tell us about what they have been learning about in school in recent weeks.

The children talked about rainforests in geography, reversible and irreversible reactions in science, making mazes in computing and they taught everyone some sentences in Spanish. They finished with a song, also in Spanish.

Thanks to Miss McCleneghen for organising such an engaging assembly.



## SWIMMING SUCCESS

Well done to Arun in Y5 for achieving his 400m swimming award at Finchley Lido.



## GREAT FOOTBALL RESULT

On Friday, in addition to Y4 winning a football tournament, the Mixed A Team also beat Goldbeaters 3-0 in the Dick Bailey Cup, progressing to the Semi-Final, which Woodridge have never done before.

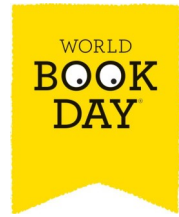
This is the biggest cup competition in Barnet, featuring all schools in the borough. It was a great game to watch, with some great passing, scoring and goal-keeping.



Scorers: Jamie Y6 (2) and Zack Y6.

## ARTSWEEK - WORLD BOOK DAY REPORT

As all the classes were walking into assembly Mr Dowland was playing a lovely World Book Day piece of music by the Beatles—'Paperback Writer.'



Next, some of the adults read a section of their favourite books:

First of all, Mrs Wheatcroft read a part of *Swallows and Amazons*.

Miss Hickman read *The Paper Bag Princess*

Miss McClenaghan read from *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*

Mrs Pavlou read from *Kensuke's Kingdom*

Mrs Baikie read from *The Magic Faraway Tree*

Mrs Hooper read from *The Secret Garden*



Next, Mr Dowland got all staff and children to come in to take a picture of the whole school in their World Book Day outfits.

Finally, we listened to an Mc Grammar rap about World Book Day and the free book tokens.

By Adiel Y5

## ARTSWEEK - DAVE WHITEHOUSE REPORT

Dave Whitehouse is a trombonist playing in the London Philharmonic Orchestra. He studied in the Guildhall School of Music and Drama from 2002-2008.

When he was younger, Dave's father took him to many concerts in Birmingham which inspired him to play the trombone.

Although he really wanted to play the instrument, he only started playing in Year 7 Secondary School.

He now plays the Euphonium and plays in a Brass Band and also in the West End.



By Aishini Y5



## ARTSWEEK - THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE REPORT

When Mr Dowland doesn't work at school, he is a tour guide who shows people around the Royal Opera House. He wears a green shirt and a wonky jacket. In assembly he talked about this job.



*At the Opera House, you can either see an Opera ( an event where a singer who sings about a story with instruments playing in the background ) or a Ballet (an event with no talking or singing and multiple dancers wearing beautiful costumes who dance to music to tell a story).*

The Opera House has been open for 300 years. The first Opera House burnt down and was rebuilt. When the owner of the Opera House went on holiday a man performed a show with fireworks which burnt it down again. They built one more time and added electricity to.



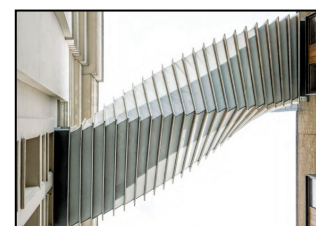
*Queen Victoria used to sit in a very particular part of the Opera House called the royal box. Although, it was very hard to see from the royal box even if everyone in the theatre could see her*

*when she sat there. They had to use a mirror to see the play as there was such a bad view! However, King Charles III moved the royal box to a spot with a much better view in the back of the theatre.*

Altogether, about 1,000 people work at the Royal Opera House, but most of them aren't actually dancers, or musicians, or singers. You can do things such as make the floor, paint the backdrop, program the backdrop, program the lights, create the props or make the costumes as well as many other things!

There are 200,000 costumes. The ballet dancers usually wear tutus when dancing. They pile the tutus on a wooden pole called the tutu tree.

*The Royal Opera house is attached to the Royal Ballet School by a glass bridge called the "Bridge of Inspiration" which some people like to call the "Bridge of Per-spiration".*



By Ella Y5 and Richie Y5 *(in italics)*



## YEAR 1 IN THE NATURE RESERVE

On Wednesday, Year 1 went on a Spring nature hunt in the Nature Reserve. Along the way, the children collected interesting natural items and used them to create beautiful nature collages.



**Vision 60** **OBJ 2**

## COFFEE MORNING AND ANXIETY WORKSHOP

It was great to see lots of parents at the anxiety workshop and coffee morning this week where Tammy from BICS, along with Mrs Sperber delivered a presentation including strategies to help child when they become anxious.



## AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Just a reminder that last minute bookings for After School Club, should be made by 1.00pm, so that we have time to adjust staffing levels, if needed.



Also, for the same reason (and to help the school budget), if you have booked After School Club and then you no-longer need a place, please let us know. We had five children not attend yesterday who were booked in!

## THE LITTLE PRINCESS TRUST

Last week, we featured the donation of hair from Elira in Y3 to the Little Princess Trust.

If you would like to donate to her fundraising campaign, here is the link: <https://littleprincesstrust.blackbaud-sites.com/fundraising/eliras-fundraising-page?>





# The Woodridge Supper Quiz

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30 pm

£20 per person - Max 10 people per table

**Fish & Chips included (or veggie option)  
BYOB!**

**Prizes:**  
A full year's bragging rights  
A write-up in the newsletter  
Medals & Chocolate



## WOODRIDGE SUPPER QUIZ

The Annual WSA Woodridge Supper Quiz is back, and this year it's on a Saturday evening. So, if you want to test yourself at a gathering of Woodridge's finest minds, be sure to sign up quickly - spaces are limited! <https://forms.gle/qsHu61eU6Tiw6jRT7> .



## THE BIG WALK AND WHEEL - NEXT TWO WEEKS

*Mrs Wheatcroft writes:*

We are taking part in the Big Walk and Wheel, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge. The challenge runs from 16 March- 27 March 2026. It's free to take part and we would love everyone to be involved by walking, scooting or cycling to school on as many days as possible during the event.



All children who have a bike or scooter at school also have a chance to win a prize in the daily Golden Lock competition.

The Big Walk and Wheel is a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which is important for their physical health and mental wellbeing. Active school runs also help to reduce congestion and air pollution outside the school gate.

Last year we did really well and came in 155<sup>th</sup> position out of 1196 small primary schools nationally and 4<sup>th</sup> in Barnet!! This year, let's make it into the top 3!

## WOODRIDGE KEY EVENTS/DATES 2025-26

Below is a list of all the key events and dates for the whole of the 2025-26 year. Further dates, including class trips will be added as the year progresses with **new events/changes in red**.



The term dates for **next year** (2026-2027) are in the later pages of this Newsletter.

Please note - INSET Day 4 is **MONDAY** 13th April (not a Tuesday as it stated in the last two Newsletters!) **WSA Quiz Supper night is SATURDAY 18th APRIL.**

<b>SPRING TERM</b>	<b>Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Feb – Y4 to Verulamium</b>
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan – INSET Day 3	WC 2 <sup>nd</sup> March - ARTSWEEK
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan - CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL	Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> March – <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> Show pm
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan - Y4 British Museum	Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar – World Book Day
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan – Y2 Class Assembly One	WC 9 <sup>th</sup> March – SCIENCE WEEK
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb - Y3 Tring Museum	Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar – Y5 Class Assembly Two
<b>Weds 4<sup>th</sup> Feb - Y6 Docklands Museum</b>	<b>Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Mar - Y6 to Imperial War Museum</b>
<b>Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Feb – Y1 Class Assembly One</b>	Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar – Y4 Class Assembly Two
<b>Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Feb – Y5 Science Museum</b>	Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar - Y5 to Sound Out Concert
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb - Y2 Barnet Environmental Centre	Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar – Y1 to Y6 Mid-Year reports home
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Y3 Class Assembly Two	Weds 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar – Workshare Evening 5-7pm
WC 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb – HALF TERM	Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar – Y6 Class Assembly Two
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb - CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL	Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar – Last Day of Term 1.30pm finish
<b>Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Feb – Y3 to Buddhist Temple Kennington</b>	
<b>SUMMER TERM</b>	Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> June – Y2 Class Assembly Two
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April – INSET Day 4</b>	Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> June – End of Year Reports home
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> May – BANK HOLIDAY	Tues 30 <sup>th</sup> June - Y1–Y6 Learning Reviews 4.00-7.00
Weds 6 <sup>th</sup> May - Y1 Parents Phonics Mtg 9.00am	Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> July - Y1–Y6 Learning Reviews 5.00-7.30
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> May – Y6 SATs week	Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> July – Junior Sports Day 1.30pm
<b>Sat 18<sup>th</sup> April - WSA Quiz Supper Night</b>	Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> July – Junior Production Dress 1.45pm
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> May – Reception Class Assembly	Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> July – Infant Sports Afternoon 1.30pm
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> May – Y6 School Journey Mtg 3.30pm	Weds 8 <sup>th</sup> July – Junior Production Perf 7pm
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> May – Y5 Southover Sleepover	Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> July – Junior Production Perf 7pm
WC 25 <sup>th</sup> May – HALF TERM	Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> July – Reserve Junior Sports Day pm
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> June – CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL	Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> July - Reserve Infant Sports Afternoon
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> June – Y6 to Condover Hall	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> July - Y6 Leavers' Assembly 9.10am
Weds 17 <sup>th</sup> June – Y1 Class Assembly Two	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> July - Last Day of Term 1.30pm finish

## WIDER WOODRIDGE ALLOTMENT PROJECT

This term, one of the KS2 Wider Woodridge projects is

**THE ALLOTMENT**

to create an allotment to grow flowers, fruit and vegetables. This will be in the rectangle of grass beside the staff car park where the children are not allowed to play during playtimes.

The profits from the Friday Widerness Café will this term go towards financing the £300 cost of making the flowerbeds and buying seeds, plants and compost.

So we need cake donations on Fridays to make this happen this happen. Thank you.



# STARS OF THE WEEK!

## Achievement Awards (Science Week)

Friday 13th March 2026

Each Friday we hold an Achievement Assembly where two children from each class are awarded a certificate for outstanding achievement in the week. These recognise hard work, great behaviour or exceptional progress, as well as our Woodridge Values.

Reception Oak	George for excellent enthusiasm during Science Week and sharing his knowledge of the moon. Amba for excellent writing about the planets and sharing her knowledge about the moon.
Year 1 Willow	Xavier for amazing scientific observations about the moon. Esme for fantastic maths homework and two lengths correctly.
Year 2 Rowan	All of Year 2 for their fabulous and imaginative questions for the Science Ambassadors. Eva for a wonderful space collage for science week.
Year 3 Silver Birch	Zara and Ernie for great questions in British Science Week and for being so curious.
Year 4 Ash	Xylia and Gray for outstanding teamwork and collaboration to create a truly amazing piece of moon artwork.
Year 5 Lime	Sara and Millie for well-researched, neat and attractive posters about the space scientist Valentine Tereshkova.
Year 6 Maple	Year 6 were at the Imperial War Museum today.
Value of The Month	March - <b>Thoughtfulness</b>

### SPORTING STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to the following children for receiving certificates from Mr Mapes this week for being sporting stars:

Multisports - Sophie R Y2, Jude Y1, Noemie Y2,  
Kira YR and Alma Y1.

Gym - Kelsey Y6 and Ruhaan Y6



Vision 60 OBJ 2

# Woodridge Primary School



## TERM DATES 2025-2026

### Autumn Term 2025

Monday 1 September      INSET Day: School closed for pupils  
Tuesday 2 September      First day back for pupils

Half Term: Monday 27 October – Friday 31 October

Monday 3 November      INSET Day: School closed for pupils  
Tuesday 4 November      First day back for pupils  
Friday 19 December      Last day of term: 1.30pm finish

Please note the earlier finish times on the final day of each term.

### Spring Term 2026

Monday 5 January      INSET Day: School closed for pupils  
Tuesday 6 January      First day back for pupils

Half Term: Monday 16 February – Friday 20 February

Monday 23 February      First day back for pupils  
Friday 27 March      Last day of term: 1.30pm finish

### Summer Term 2026

Monday 13 April      INSET Day: School closed for pupils  
Tuesday 14 April      First day back for pupils  
Monday 4 May      Bank Holiday: School closed for pupils

Half Term: Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May

Monday 1 June      First day back for pupils  
Friday 17 July      Last day of term 1.30pm finish

### Four INSET Days – School closed to children

Monday 1st September 2025  
Monday 3rd November 2025  
Monday 5th January 2026  
Monday 13th April 2026

(Plus Monday 4 May 2026 - Bank Holiday)

Please do not book holidays during term time. Fixed penalties fines from August will now be £80 per child, per parent.



# Woodridge Primary School



## TERM DATES 2026-2027

### Autumn Term 2026

Tuesday 1 September      INSET Day: School closed for pupils  
Wednesday 2 September      First day back for pupils

Half Term: Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October

Monday 2 November      INSET Day: School closed for pupils  
Tuesday 3 November      First day back for pupils  
Friday 18 December      Last day of term: 1.30pm finish

Please note the earlier finish times on the final day of each term.

### Spring Term 2027

Tuesday 5 January      INSET Day: School closed for pupils  
Wednesday 6 January      First day back for pupils

Half Term: Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February

Monday 22 February      First day back for pupils  
Thursday 25 March      Last day of term: 1.30pm finish

### Summer Term 2027

Monday 12 April      INSET Day: School closed for pupils  
Tuesday 13 April      First day back for pupils  
Monday 4 May      Bank Holiday: School closed for pupils

Half Term: Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June

Monday 7 June      INSET Day: School closed for pupils  
Tuesday 8 June      First day back for pupils  
Thursday 22 July      Last day of term 1.30pm finish

### Five INSET Days – School closed to children

Tuesday 1st September 2026  
Monday 2nd November 2026  
Tuesday 5th January 2027  
Monday 12th April 2027  
Monday 7th June 2027

(Plus Monday 4 May 2027 - Bank Holiday)

Please do not book holidays during term time. Fixed penalties fines from August will now be £80 per child, per parent.





## Year B (2025-26)

September	<b>Kindness</b>
October	Freedom
November	Understanding
December	Co-operation
January	<b>Responsibility</b>
February	Tolerance
March	Thoughtfulness
April	Perseverance
May	Compassion
June	Courtesy
July	Humility

## Woodridge Vision 60

### Our strategic objectives

**1**

Through quality teaching and learning, to improve outcomes for all children by building a culture of achievement through progress across the curriculum.

**2**

To extend the Woodridge curriculum to create wider opportunities for all children to develop their skills and talents.

**3**

To develop sustainable, high quality and accountable leadership at all levels throughout the school.

**4**

To work in partnership with other schools, parents and the wider school community to enrich our school.

### Top Primary Schools in London

1. Thomas Jones Primary School, Kensington and Chelsea – Regional 1 / National 1 Primary School of the Year in London
2. Hampden Gurney CofE Primary School, Westminster – Regional 2 / National 5
3. St Andrew's RC Primary School, Streatham, Lambeth – Regional 3 / National 6
4. Courtland School, Barnet – Regional 4 / National 7
5. Christ Church Bentinck CofE Primary School, Westminster – Regional 5 / National 8
6. Cleves Primary School, East Ham, Newham – Regional 6 / National 11
7. Merton Park Primary School, Merton – Regional 7 / National 13
8. Hampstead Parochial CofE Primary School, Camden – Regional 8 / National 14=
9. Woodridge Primary School, Barnet – Regional 9 / National 16
10. Fox Primary School, Kensington and Chelsea – Regional 10 / National 17

**Ofsted**



Read our report ↗

**THE SUNDAY TIMES**

**SCHOOLS GUIDE  
2026**

**Woodridge**  
Primary School