

Friday 1st December 2023
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WPS NEWSLETTER

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WOODRIDGE FINANCIAL POSITION

Further to our *Meet the Governors* meeting last month, parents were asking for more information about our financial position, which we have said for the last few years has been very challenging. This is largely due to us being small school, with very low Pupil Premium children, but an above average number of children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) needing support. Here are the numbers:



Total income for 2023-24 = £1,393,000

This INCLUDES £30,000 of school lettings at weekends and in the evenings
It also INCLUDES approximately £15,000 of donations from WSA fundraising
It also INCLUDES £18,000 of Woodridge Together Fund donations

Total predicted expenditure for 2023-24 = £1,472,000



This is a predicted **in-year shortfall of £79,000** for 2023-24 - despite £63,000 being raised by the school and parents.

For the last few years, we have only been able to spend money on essential things at school, and staffing (with part-time co-heads, part-time deputy and part-time SENCo) is just enough to cover classes and support children to the statutory level and safely. Staff costs amount to over 90% of our overall costs.

Put simply, we are not given enough money by the *Department for Education* to run the school at minimum levels, let alone the way we want to and in a way that best supports the children and teachers. This is why we need to hire out the school and rely on parents raising and contributing so much money. We are grateful for all the support received from the WPS parents and attach a link to the **Woodridge Together Fund** forms for those who have not yet set up their contributions. Thank you in advance for your support.

<https://woodridgeprimaryschool.secure-primariesite.net/the-woodridge-together-fund/>



HEALTHY SCHOOLS
LONDON



THE WOODRIDGE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Save the date! And see page 3 for bring-ins!

THURSDAY 14th DECEMBER 3.15-5.30PM

Grandparents also very welcome!



YEAR 3 ASSEMBLY

We had our final class assembly of the term on Tuesday and it was the turn of Year 3 who told us about the New Zealand rugby haka (see photo) and the artist Stephen Wiltshire. They also demonstrated some whole class subtraction and finished with a moment of meditation. Thanks to Mr McCrann and the Year 3 team for organising the assembly and thanks to the capacity audience of parents.



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PARENT WORKSHOP - MATHS MASTERY

In response to the parent survey back in July, this week saw the first of our parent workshops planned for this year, aimed at supporting parents with their children's learning.

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Vision 60 OBJ 4

Maths Leader Mrs Norman ran a workshop to explain what is meant by Greater Depth and Mastery in maths, looking at the use of concrete materials, a range of methods and how to extend explanations. Thank you to those 27 parents who came. To see the slides of Mrs Norman's presentation go to the *Uploads and Useful Links* tab on the website. Here's the link:

<https://www.woodridgeprimaryschool.com/uploads-and-useful-links/>



LOCKDOWN PRACTICE

On Tuesday we had the first whole school Lockdown practice for a while. This is to prepare the children for the unlikely event of stranger or unknown dog in the grounds, a poisonous gas cloud or severe weather and involves the children staying in class, sitting on the floor, away from windows and with the external doors locked.



We prepared all the children beforehand with stories about a bull on the loose (KS1) and a stray dog wandering into the playground (KS2).

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The children reacted to this brilliantly and followed the instructions really well. We will be carry out a practice twice a year. Ask your child about it.



Woodridge Xmas Bazaar 2023 Thursday 14th December 3.15-5.30pm

Woodridge
Primary School 

The Xmas Bazaar is just over a month away! To help make the event a success, please bring in the following items on the dates listed below.

If you can't make the specific dates, or would like to give all items in one go, that is also fine.

Date to bring in items	Item	Description
Friday 16 th November	Bottle Tombola	Any type of unopened bottle Alcohol/soft drinks/bubble bath/perfume NO BLEACH
Friday 23 rd November	Sweet Tombola	Fill a glass jar (with a lid) up with sweets. Please mark if veggie/halal/kosher NO NUTS OR CHOCOLATE
Friday 30 th November	Gifting Stall - Small Gifts (value under £5)	Small unused or new gifts for the gifting stall. eg. Toiletries, candles, chocolates etc Children will be able to buy a gift for under £5 and have it wrapped ready to give for xmas.

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BANTER TO BULLYING

This week Mrs Sperber ran a session called 'Banter to Bullying' for Year 6. The session focused on when banter becomes bullying behaviour. Year 6 responded really well to the session, which linked to Anti-Bullying Week. Here's the final slide of the presentation.



WHAT DO WE NEED TO ASK OURSELVES?

- **WOULD I BE UPSET IF SOMEONE SAID THIS TO ME?**
- **IS IT HURTFUL?**
- **ARE WE FRIENDS?**
- **HAS SOMEONE SAID 'STOP'?**
- **IS EVERYONE LAUGHING?**
- **IS THIS FOCUSING ON SOMEONE'S INSECURITIES?**

WOODRIDGE COMMUNITY SERVICES

After a suggestion by the WSA, we would like to compile a list of local services that might be useful for parents, such as garages, plumbers, electricians, garden services and the like.

These will then be posted on our WPS Community Services tab on the school's website which would be linked to an article in the School Newsletter every week.

Businesses would be asked to donate a fee for this service, which would run on an annual basis until the end of July each year. The contact for this is our School Business Manager email - sbm@woodridge.sch.uk Here's the link to the page on the website: <https://www.woodridgeprimaryschool.com/wps-community-services/>



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BEAT MUSIC LESSONS DEADLINE

The deadline for paying for instrumental music lessons next term is 4th December.



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HIRING WOODRIDGE SCHOOL

Did you know that you can hire Woodridge Primary School as a meeting, event or party venue? We are also interested in finding an appropriate long term hire for our Suite, which is a classroom and an office room with a kitchen and two toilets.



For details and photos go to <https://www.sharesy.com/v/woodridge-primary>

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FREE MONEY FOR WOODRIDGE!!

The DfE don't give us enough money to be able to run the school the way we need to. So...free money is available for Woodridge when you do any shopping via **EasyFundraising**. There are thousands of brands to shop with, including Amazon, John Lewis, eBay & Argos. Start your shopping by opening the app and a percentage of your spend will automatically raise money for the school.



We're trying to raise £500 this Christmas, which will go towards the new outdoor school gym. **Anyone who uses the app for a purchase before the Xmas Bazaar will be entered into a draw to win a £50 shopping voucher!**

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You can do it via iPhone, Android or Web, just follow the links below. Once you sign up you can also see the running total of money raised! Here are the sign up links:

Apple https://apps.apple.com/us/app/easyfundraising/id915474725*

Android <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ef.easyfundraising&...>

Web <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/woodridgesa>

YEAR 4 AT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

On Wednesday, Year 4 went to the science museum as part of their topic on Sound.

The class also spent time in brilliant, interactive *Wonderlab* - see photo.



Thanks to the Y4 team and parents for organising and supporting the children, particularly on the Tube.

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DOCTOR BIKE

Barnet Council's Parking team has arranged free Dr Bike sessions run by qualified bicycle mechanics in December. Members of the public can take along their bikes to have a free, full safety check, including the condition of tyres, rims, gears, brake function and tyre pressure and adjustments can be made if required. Children and adults. The sessions will take place on the following dates between 9am and 3pm.

Lodge Lane Car Park, North Finchley, N12	02/12/2023
Watling Avenue Car Park, Burnt Oak, HA8	03/12/2023
Stapylton Car Park, Barnet, EN5	09/12/2023
Marsh Drive Car Park, West Hendon, NW7	10/12/2023
Watling Avenue Car Park, Burnt Oak, HA8	16/12/2023
Lodge Lane Car Park, North Finchley, N12	17/12/2023
Marsh Drive Car Park, West Hendon, NW7	23/12/2023
Stapylton Car Park, Barnet, EN5	30/12/2023



MUSIC SUCCESS

Well done to Riku Y5 for passing Piano Grade 2 with a merit. Very well done.



TRUMPETS IN ASSEMBLY

Today in assembly we heard two great debut solos on the trumpet. Elmir Y6 played the spiritual song 'All Night, All Day' and Rina Y5 played 'One Hand, One Heart' from *West Side Story*.

Both performers played really well in their first solos in front of a big audience.

Thanks to brass teacher Helen Reeder for preparing the children so well.

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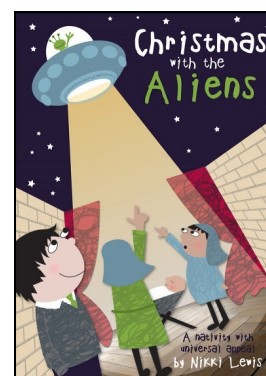


THE INFANT PRODUCTION

The infant production of 'Christmas with the Aliens' is on Wednesday 13th December at 2.00pm and Thursday 14th December at 9.30am.

No tickets are necessary, but buckets at the end of the show, for cash donations will help to cover the costs of buying music, sound tracks, script and other resources.

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CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Next week we will be having Woodridge Christmas Jumper Day **on Friday**. Children can wear **any sort of colourful jumper**, so please don't buy a special one.

Normal uniform underneath. If your child wants to bring in 50p for *Save the Children*, that's great, but this is completely optional.



INFANT PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT 8.45-8.55AM

Please don't forget that we do not allow children to play on the climbing frame in the infant playground first thing in the morning due to lack of monitored supervision. This is particularly the case in icy weather.



BBC 550 WORDS COMPETITION ENTRY

Here's another Woodridge entry for the BBC 500 Words Competition - *Robot Apocalypse* by Nikhil Y6



In a far away galaxy, a planet of warriors was on the brink of war. The tension was palpable and the war was inevitable. He was coming for us like he did for everyone else. This was the downfall of civilization.

My heart pounded, blood rushed to my head, war had been declared. Ferocious fights had erupted across the planet's weather-beaten surface; everywhere had been thrown into anarchy.

I raiad to die but fought gallantly unafraid to die but that did not stop me getting wounded in gory fights. Nobody would come out of this war unscathed. Without warning, we saw bombs erupt around us, spraying clouds of ash. We were under attack. Would we ever see our planet flourish again. An ear-piercing bang erupted across the planet. This was the biggest attack on our planet for over a millennia.

I stepped out, death loomed ominously in the air as I stepped over decaying corpses. Star ships hovered over the planet. We were living in hell. Our troops flooded onto the battlefield, we were met by our enemy's fearless leader. Panic overwhelmed me, my brain couldn't process my thoughts. This was my end...

Gunshots echoed around the planet; my heart skipped a beat. The menace who was corrupted by power stood in front of me. I led my troops into battle and met him in a gory fight. Was this my end?

Fear swept over me like a wave, engulfing me in it's cold , murky waters. I charged with my weapon; it was a violent fight but we had to retreat in the end. Blood seeped through my wounds, so many of our soldiers were dead or injured. All hope was lost. We all be enslaved by a merciless tyrant.

Tears streamed down my face, I was in despair. I gazed out at what used to be my home but now was just a pile of rubble. I left the camp, the hot ,sticky air hit my face. It was night now, nothing stirred. I peered out at the endless void of black sprawled out in front of me. I knew in a few hours this would be a war-zone again.

Horns sounded , hundreds of troops poured out of the camp behind me, One of them said "leader we have found a potent weapon with the power of destroying a galaxy." I seized the weapon and shouted tonight we will obliterate our enemies."

As morning dawned, we woke and began the final assault. We reached our enemy's base and opened fire. Flames leapt up as their leader emerged. Before long, I shot him dead. I gazed at his lifeless eyes. He was dead, our planet would finally be at peace again.

We had won this war despite the thousands of soldiers who died in the process. This was the end.



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THE WIDERNESS CAFE

On Fridays, from 3.00pm The Widerness Café will open, led and run by pupils in Year 6 as part of KS2 Wider Woodridge.



Tea, coffee, hot chocolate and cakes will be on sale. **CAKE DONATIONS WELCOME!** Bring your own cup if you can.



Vision 60 OBJ 3

WOW TRAVEL TRACKER

Each month, Mrs Wheatcroft totals up the number of children who travel to school sustainably. The class winners for the month of November were Year 6.



WPS KEY DATES/EVENTS FOR 2023-24



AUTUMN TERM DATES/EVENTS	Tues 21 st Nov – Y4 Class Assembly
Mon 30 th Oct – INSET Day 2	Tues 21 st Nov – Parents' Evening
Tues 7 th Nov – Y6 Class Assembly	Wed 22 nd Nov – Parents' Evening
Tues 7th Nov - Y1 to Nature Reserve	Tues 28 th Nov – Y3 Class Assembly
Mon 13th Nov - Individual School Photos	Weds 29th Nov - Y4 to Science Museum
Mon 13 th Nov – Anti-Bullying Week	Mon 11 th Dec – Inf Production Dress 2.00pm
Mon 13th Nov - Y2 at Infant Music Festival	Weds 13 th Dec – Inf Production Perf 2.00pm
Tues 14 th Nov – Y5 Class Assembly	Thurs 14 th Dec – Inf Production Perf 9.30am
Weds 15th Nov - SEND Coffee Morning 9.00am	Fri 15th Dec - Bollywood Assembly
Weds 15th Nov - Y2/Y5 Music Assembly 9.10am	Thurs 21 st Dec – Last day of term 2.30pm
Mon 20 th Nov – Panto 'Cinderella' pm	
SPRING TERM	
Mon 8 th Jan – INSET Day 3	Fri 8 th March – WPS World Book Day
Tues 23 rd Jan – Y1 Class Assembly	WC 11 th March – SCIENCE WEEK
Tues 30 th Jan – Y2 Class Assembly	Tues 12 th March – Y6 Class Assembly
Tues 6 th Feb – Y3 Class Assembly	Tues 19 th March – Y5 Class Assembly
WC 12 th Feb – HALF TERM	Fri 22 nd March – Y1 to Y6 reports to parents
Tues 27 th Feb – Y4 Class Assembly	Tues 26 th March – Workshare Evening
WC 4 th March - ARTSWEEK	Thurs 28 th March – Last day of term 2.30pm
Tues 5 th March – 'A Little Princess' Show pm	
SUMMER TERM	
Mon 15 th April – INSET Day 4	Tues 18 th June – Y1 Class Assembly
Tues 30 th April – Reception Class Assembly	Tues 25 th June – Y2 Class Assembly
Mon 6 th May – BANK HOLIDAY	Fri 5 th July – Y1-Y6 Short Reports sent home
Mon 13 th May – Y6 SATs week	Tues 9 th July – Infant Sports Morning
Fri 17 th May – Red Nose Day	Tues 9 th July - Y1-Y6 Learning Reviews 4-6.30pm
Mon 20 th May – Walk to School Week	Thurs 11 th July - Y1-Y6 Learning Reviews 4.30-8.00
Tues 21 st May – Y1 Phonics Parents' Mtg 9.00am	Fri 12 th July – Junior Sports Day pm
Weds 22 nd May – Y6 School Journey Mtg 3.20pm	Mon 15 th July – Junior Production Dress 2.00pm
Thurs 23 rd May – Y5 Southover Sleepover	Tues 16 th July - Reserve Infant Sports Morning
WC 27th May – HALF TERM	Tues 16 th July – Junior Production Perf 7.00pm
Mon 3 rd June – INSET day 5	Weds 17 th July – Junior Production Perf 7.00pm
Tues 4 th June – Y1 Phonics Check Week	Fri 19 th July – Reserve Junior Sports Day pm
Tues 4 th June – Y4 Tables Check Week	Weds 24 th July – Last day of term 2.30pm
Mon 10 th June – Y6 to Condover Hall	

STARS OF THE WEEK!

Achievement Awards

Friday 1st December 2023

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	As well as doing lots of number work, Reception class have been practising a lot for the infant show and making houses for the scenery background in the hall.
Year 1 Willow	Emma for writing fantastic sentences in our English work. Asad for using his phonics knowledge to write some wonderful sentences.
Year 2 Rowan	Kaian for hard work and focus in Maths, being enthusiastic and working well in a team. Amelia for amazing work in maths and tackling tricky new concepts.
Year 3 Silver Birch	To all of Year 3 for writing, practising and performing a great class assembly.
Year 4 Ash	Takumi for always rising to challenges and being a great role model. Ruben for going the extra mile with his work when independent learning.
Year 5 Lime	Haru for working hard using his new DT skills to make a bird house. Danielle for showing real focus and enjoyment whilst practising her DT skills whilst making her bird house.
Year 6 Maple	Max and Elmir for working really hard on our DT project this week.
Value of The Month	December - CO-OPERATION

SPORTING STARS OF THE WEEK

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

Multisports - Seima YR, Harry Y2, Oscar Y2 and Raffi Y1
Gym - Kelsey Y4 and Max Y6



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Woodridge Primary School



TERM DATES 2023-2024

Autumn Term 2023

Monday 4 September INSET Day: School closed for pupils
Tuesday 5 September First day back for pupils

Half Term: Monday 23 October – Friday 27 October

Monday 30 October INSET Day: School closed for pupils
Tuesday 31 October First day back for pupils
Thursday 21 December Last day of term: 2.30pm finish

Spring Term 2024

Monday 8 January INSET Day: School closed for pupils
Tuesday 9 January First day back for pupils

Half Term: Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February

Monday 19 February First day back for pupils
Thursday 28 March Last day of term: 2.30pm finish

Summer Term 2024

Monday 15 April INSET Day: School closed for pupils
Tuesday 16 April First day back for pupils
Monday 6 May Bank Holiday: School closed for pupils

Half Term: Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May

Monday 3 June INSET Day: School closed for pupils
Tuesday 4 June First day back for pupils
Wednesday 24 July Last day of term 2.30pm finish

Five INSET Days – School closed to children

Monday 4 September 2023
Monday 30 October 2023
Monday 8 January 2024
Monday 15 April 2024
Monday 3 June 2024

(Plus Monday 6 May 2024 - Bank Holiday)





Woodridge Primary School Value Cycle



Year A (2022-23)

September	Respect
October	Unity
November	Friendship
December	Peace
January	Honesty
February	Resilience
March	Hope
April	Love
May	Empathy
June	Courage
July	Trust

Year B (2023-2024)

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