Friday 20th November

Dear parents, carers and families of Woodlands,

It has been a while since I have been let loose on the newsletter but it is lovely to share all the exciting Woodlands news with you this week! The weather has certainly tested us this week with some Autumn wind and rain but everyone managed to keep smiling their Woodlands Smiles as always!!



Monday saw us all wearing crazy socks to mark the beginning of Anti-Bullying Week. This year's theme is 'Break the Silence,' encouraging us all to speak up and start conversations about bullying so that we can create environments where children and young people feel safe to speak and are supported when they do.

Nobody ever has to suffer in silence.

I also had the opportunity to work with our Junior PCSOs as they undertook their duties to encourage safer parking around school. I was so impressed with their confidence as they showed me the ropes! It is so very important that our children are safe on the paths around our school and we thank you all for supporting us to make this happen.



During our singing assembly on Friday we were treated to a special performance from some of our Year 5 girls! The girls had prepared a dance and sang various songs in front of the whole school! Well done to Lottie, Ettie-Rose, Mariah-Armelle, Pippa & Elyza, next stop—Britain's Got Talent!



As time is creeping on, we are getting closer to the usual festivities in school. EYFS & KS1 have already been practising the songs from their Christmas productions, Mrs Day and the choir have been rehearsing ready for their various appearances and staff have been busy organising our annual Christmas Fayre—more info on P2! Thank you in advance for the donations for our stalls and games, they are always very much appreciated!

Here's to a lovely weekend everyone, love Mrs Jackson x x x x

It's beginning to look like the:

Woodlands Christmas Fayre

Woodlands Academy of Learning

We welcome you to join us as we get into the Christmas spirit. Visit our wonderful winter wonderland, take part in many festive games and activities, and visit Santa in his grotto and receive a special gift.



Santa's Grotto

To visit Santa in his grotto, please pay the small fee of **£3.50** on your child's Scopay. You can overpay for any extra siblings/children that will be joining you at the fayre.

Wednesday 2nd December 2026

3:40pm – 5:30pm

Entrance Fee - 50p Adults, Children Free





WINNING CLASSES WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE!

Well done to our children who arrive on time, before 8:50, and so are ready for the important first lesson of the day.

Best classes during the last week who earn extra play time are:

1NP: 98.7% & 5H: 99.3%

Absolutely Fantastic!



Reminders!





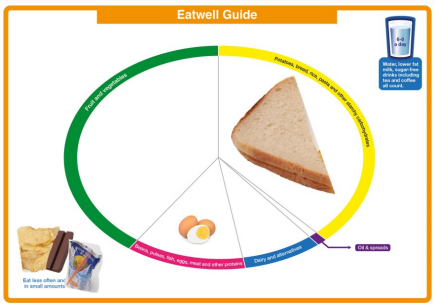
What is a healthy lunch?

Our Phunky Food Ambassadors have been teaching us about healthy lunches.

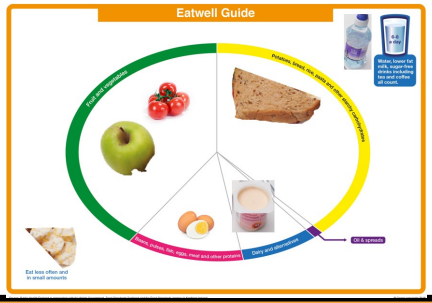
We should be aiming for an item from a few of the main sections of the Eatwell food circle for each meal.











Who are our SUPERSTARS this week?



Class	Name	Reason
Treehouse	Natalia - 4N	For being a great friend and supporting her peers during PE lessons. A brilliant role model! Well done!
NAM	George	Amazing maths work, recognising numbers 1-10 on the hedgehogs and then confidently and accurately adding the correct number of pegs to the hedgehog.
NPM	Leila	Working hard on the formation of number 2. First by rainbow writing and then independently.
RG	Jackson	For beginning to grow in confidence and raising his hands to answer questions on the carpet.
RJ	Annie	For making tremendous progress in our phonics lessons! You have worked so hard at home and school – well done!
1W	Toby	For coming to school every day with a fantastic attitude towards learning. Toby always tries his best and always has a huge woodlands smile. Well done, Toby! J
1NP	Hudson	For trying hard with his handwriting. Hudson slowed down his writing and put a big focus on making his work neat. Keep it up.
2CH	Tommy-Jax Connolly-Latham	For working hard on his handwriting. Tommy-Jax is trying hard to ensure his letters sit on the line and are formed correctly.
2D	Oliver C	For fantastic maths knowledge when comparing objects and numbers, using his mathematical language such as; greater than, less than and equal to.
3A	Elsa	For working hard to improve her handwriting! Elsa has been trying her best to make sure all of her letter are sitting neatly on the line and formed correctly. This is making a huge difference. Keep working hard Elsa – well done!
3E	Elsie	For super historian work when detailing the expansion of Alexander the Great's Empire. Well done Elsie.
4R	Victorious	For persevering with her Maths work and is now confident with column subtraction with more than on exchange. Well done.
4N	Ethel	A wonderful attitude to school. You have impressed me these past few weeks, keep it up!
5D	Lottie	For your outstanding effort and dedication in improving your handwriting and presentation across all your books. Your hard work, care and perseverance have resulted in a huge improvement, which is clearly evident in all your work. Keep up the fantastic effort and continue to take pride in your work! Well done! ☺
5H	Sahil	For showing fantastic enthusiasm and commitment to using Spelling Shed! You completed an impressive 58 spelling games last week and have now achieved an incredible total score of over 17,000,000 points. Your hard work and dedication are really paying off, and I can clearly see the improvement in your spelling in your written work.
6P	Thea	Thea, for making fantastic progress across all the assessments we have completed so far this year, showing just how much your hard work and determination are paying off. What a brilliant start to the year and such a positive sign of all the wonderful things still to come!
6H	Miyah- Leigh E	For showing fantastic improvement in your Maths assessments! Your hard work and dedication have really shone through in your results. Well done, and keep it up!

Well done to our 'Out of school achievers'



Millie B for Swimming

Ezekiel for Karate

Rory L for Martial Arts

Freddie for Football

Oliver C for boxing

Ellanna for football

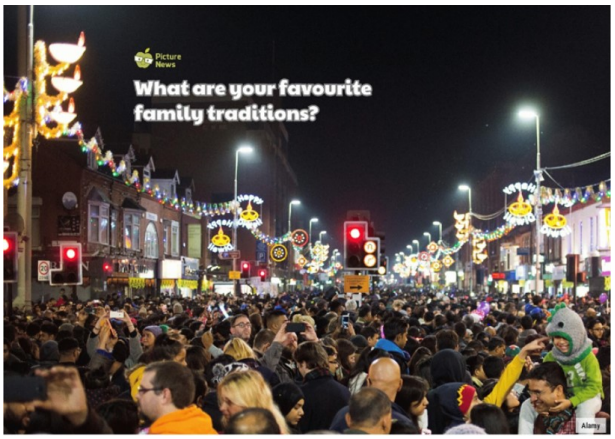
Picture News



Question of the week that we have been discussing in school and you can discuss at home too:

What are your favourite family traditions?

Have you heard about the celebration Diwali? Whst do you know about it? Also known as the Festival of Lights, Diwali is celebrated every year. People celebrate in many different ways.



Our linking Woodland's value is:

Caring

Which British Value does this question highlight?

Families choose to take part in different traditions that are important to them. One family's traditions can look very different to another family's.

Which Protected Characteristic does this story link to?

Diwali is an example of how people come together to celebrate their faith and traditions. Everyone should be able to practise their religion or belief and celebrate traditions that are important to them.

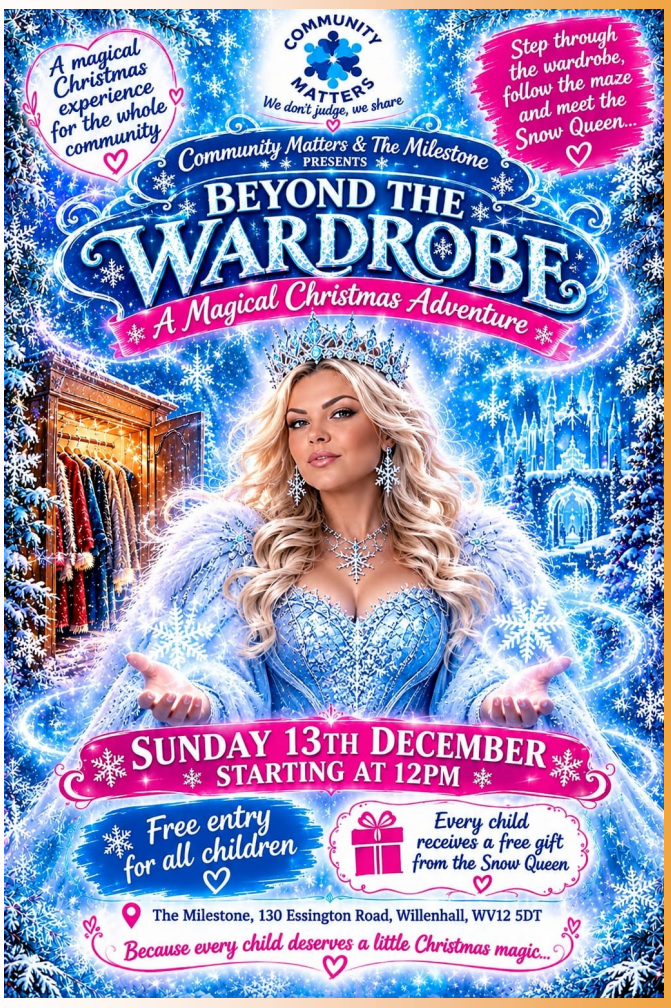
Key Dates to share for the Autumn Term:

Monday 23rd November	Changes to toast provision for Y1-6. From today, morning toast is only available to children in receipt of 'targeted free school meals.'
Tuesday 24th November	Choir performing at Walsall Arena: Travelling Through Christmas
Friday 27th November	Flu vaccination for Y6 by the NHS (and for those children who were absent when the NHS came in last time)
Friday 27th November	Last day for Y3 Parents to inform the office of any dietary requirements for the Y3 Parent Christmas lunch
Monday 30th November	Y6 Swimming lessons begin—lessons over following 3 weeks
Wednesday 2nd December	Christmas Fayre after school—info on P2
Change to information!	**Tuesday 8th December** 2:30 Musical Event for parents of children who have private music lessons in school only not all Y4 parents—sorry for the miscommunication!
Tuesday 8th & Wednesday 9th December	Y3 Road Safety Walk
Wednesday 9th December	Christmas dinner for 3A (parent per child invited - letter closer to the time)
Thursday 10th December	Nursery & Reception Christmas Movie night, 3:30-5:00pm —sign up on Scopay
Monday 14th December	Children in Reception to Y6: reports will be sent home
Tuesday 15th December	Y6 at the Theatre
Tuesday 15th December	Christmas Performance for Nursery and Reception at 9:15. Christmas Performance for Y1 and Y2 at 2:15
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Performance for Y1 and Y2 at 9:15. Christmas Performance for Nursery and Reception at 2:15 Christmas dinner for 3E (parent per child invited - letter closer to the time) Christmas dinner day for everyone
Thursday 17th December	Christmas Jumper Day and last day of term for children
Friday 18th December	Teacher Training Day – school closed for children
Monday 4th January	Everyone returns for the Spring term
Wednesday 13th January	Choir performing at Young Voices at the NEC
Friday 15th January	Y5 visiting Selly Manor
Thursday 11th March	Y2 visiting Dudley Zoo

What's happening in our community?









BIG FUN, BIG ADVENTURES!

Introducing OPAL Playtimes at Woodlands Academy of Learning

Dear Parents and Carers,

We're getting ready for a new kind of lunchtime! We're really excited to be introducing **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)** at Woodlands. OPAL helps children enjoy more active, creative and adventurous play with their friends.

□ Why is play so important?





Play is much more than a break from learning. It helps children to:

- □ Be active, explore and build confidence
- □ Make friends, share ideas and work together
- □ Use their imagination and get creative
- □ Develop independence, resilience and problem-solving skills
- □ Have fun and enjoy coming to school

□ What will playtimes look like?

Children will have more opportunities to explore our outdoor spaces and choose how, where and with whom they play. This may include using a wider range of play resources, trying new activities and getting a little muddier along the way!



Children may experience new challenges and greater freedom to lead their own play. Staff will carefully consider risks and benefits so that play is as safe as possible, while still allowing children to explore, learn and grow.

□ A little help from home

As our OPAL adventure develops, we will be asking families to donate suitable play resources. Take a look at the poster overleaf that has a list of requested items. If you are having a clear out over the half term holiday please bring clean and safe (no broken items please) items from the list to school, during the first week back. Collection point will be the back left side of KS1 playground.

□ Be part of our OPAL journey

Over the coming months, we'll share updates and invite you to events where you can see our new play opportunities in action. We hope you'll join us in making playtimes happier, more active and full of imagination.

Want to find out more? Visit **www.outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk** for information and videos about OPAL.

Thank you for your support. We can't wait to see our children learning, exploring and having fun together!



Best wishes,
Mrs T Newton
Head teacher
Ms. A Campbell – OPAL Mentor