

Friday 24th October 25

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a fantastic way to end the half term with Explore and Discovery Week, '11 Before 11', Bryntysilio, a trip for our Saplings as they undertook role play in different careers, fun seasonal events and some of our families have celebrated Diwali too. We hope our families that did celebrate Diwali enjoyed this very special festival.

The theme of Explore and Discovery Week has been '11 Before 11'. This is our brand new initiative at Woodlands when children undertake new learning and new skills to earn a special badge. All the badges are linked to children developing their own character, learning more about themselves and also gaining a deeper understanding of the wider community in which they live, including The British Values.

Every year group worked towards a different badge with a different theme which you can read about on the next page.

The week began when we welcomed a special visitor, Mr Stacy Barnfield, into Woodlands to lead an assembly. Mr Barnfield shared his career path as an editor and now, as a designer and artist.

Mr Barnfield is responsible for developing the Colour Palette for Birmingham and has captured Birmingham's key landmarks in ink and watercolour which can be viewed in the Bullring. The children were fascinated and asked great questions. Mr Barnfield then challenged the children in Year 3 to create a Woodlands Colour Palette, which I am very excited to see.

It has been a fantastic week, fun and exciting but with lots of learning too.

Year 6 have been fabulous at Bryntysilio and risen to all the new challenges. There was spooky fun at the Halloween Disco and family fun at the Pumpkin Party too. Thank you to our families for your children's amazing costumes. Your children were so proud to wear their outfits and had great fun scaring the staff!

We hope everyone has a lovely half term and a good rest because when we return we enter a very different seasonal time that promises to be very busy...

School re-opens for everyone on Monday 3rd November.

Mrs Newton



11 Before 11

The theme of Explore and Discovery Week has been '11 Before 11'. This is our brand new initiative at Woodlands when children undertake new learning and new skills to earn a special badge.

Treehouse undertook the **Professional Role Badge**. The children explored different careers at Playtropolis and then continued with given responsibilities throughout the week.

Nursery and Reception undertook the **Make or Break Badge**. The children have been record breakers this week as they have undertaken different challenges. The main challenge was to be able to dress themselves for PE and they have smashed it! We are independent learners!

Year 1 undertook the **Wildlife Warriors Badge**. This week has involved them learning about the devastating effect that rubbish has on our oceans, culminating in the children recycling 'rubbish' to create different creatures.

Year 2 undertook the **Caring Campaigners Badge**. These children invited and welcomed a member of their family to 'Afternoon Tea' but they had to invite, plan, bake, prepare, decorate and lead the very special occasion during the week.

Year 3 undertook the **Culture Vulture Badge**. These children have been exploring artists and significant pieces of art whilst also developing Woodlands' colour palette.

Year 4 undertook the **Celebrating Differences Badge**. Year 4 have been learning about different religions including Hinduism and Sikhism. To help them in their learning journey, they welcomed a visitor from the Gurdwara who taught the children all about Di-wlai.

Year 5 undertook the **Look To The Future Badge**. These children have been entrepreneurs this week as they have invented new products to help children learn and then pitched their ideas in a presentation to the 'Dragons' (Mrs Day and Mr Hand!) who I believe were pretty tough in their judgments!

Year 6 undertook the **Energetic Explorers Badge** for the children at Bryntysilio or the **Professional Role Badge** for those children who were Teaching Assistants at Woodlands.



Children leading assembly...

3E have been scientists and led a fantastic assembly all about rocks and soil! Who would have thought this topic could be so fascinating... From volcanoes to fossils and dinosaurs – your audience learnt so much and we really enjoyed your enthusiastic singing. Brilliant assembly 3E!



Well done to our Phunky Food Ambassadors for leading a great assembly about choosing healthy snacks. Jenson, Pippa and Amelia did a great job of informing us about the hidden sugars in foods. Children are supposed to eat no more than 6 sugar cubes per day, but a large bag of Haribo contains 24 cubes! It was a very helpful assembly.



Poppy Appeal 2025

Thank you for supporting the Poppy Appeal last year, Woodlands raised £304.77 for this important charity.

The Poppy Appeal has started again for this year in the lead up to Remembrance Day. From Monday 3rd children can purchase the items in the photograph through school.

Please place the correct amount of money in an envelope. Then write your child's name, class and the item they would like.

Snap band £2.00

Ruler £1.00

Poppy Reflector £1.00

Bracelet £1.00

Zip Pull £1.00

Paper Poppies 50p minimum



Information to share:

Christmas Dinners

We invite an adult to have Christmas dinner with their child in Y3 and Y4.

Wednesday 26th November Y3E

Thursday 27th November Y3A

Wednesday 10th December Y4N

Thursday 11th December Y4R

The parent will need to pay for their dinner and their child's (if they usually do) and let us know about any dietary requirements by **Friday 7th November** so we can order the essentials. This is the last day for booking a place and a dinner for this event

The rest of the school will have their Christmas dinner on Wednesday 10th December.

Coats

Can children please ensure they have coats with them in school so that if there is light rain they can still enjoy break time and lunchtime.

Jewellery and School Uniform

Can parents please ensure their children are not wearing necklaces or bracelets to school. The Woodlands Uniform Policy states that children can wear a watch (not a SMART watch) and small stud earrings, no other jewellery.

Most children have made the switch to the winter uniform, if your child is still in summer uniform then please be aware that all children should be in winter uniform from Monday 3rd November.

High School Applications for Y6

Please remember that the closing date is 31st October for applications for High School. If a parent doesn't apply then a school place will be allocated that may not be your chosen school.



Out of school achievements

It has been a busy week for our children in their chosen hobbies and sports out of school.

Football continues to be top of the list with so many children playing for different teams and doing so well, which is just fantastic.

Oliver J, Ryley, Reuben, Sam, Roshan, Haiden and Tommy received football awards for demonstrating super football skills in their matches. Also, in lower school Leo and Oliver took part in a football competition and their team won both games!

Also, in lower school swimming success was the main theme this week with Ollie, Brooklyn, Carter and Evie achieving the next stage in their swimming journey.

Carter did something completely different and took part in a running festival and ran for over an hour!

Whereas Holly in 4N has achieved a Brownie Badge for presenting information about a specific job.

We are always impressed by our children's skills and talents!



Who are the SUPERSTARS this week?



Class	Name	Reason
Tree-house	Francesca	For engaging well with our life skills learning and making a brilliant "Farmyard Bagel." Well done Francesca!
NAM	Elsie	Using the correct language to describe why your pumpkin was rolling. While exploring the pumpkins.
NPM	Billy-Joel	Independently singing a song to help him learn about his senses
RG	Toby	For working hard his set 1 sound knowledge. Well done J
RJ	Aizah	For a huge improvement in your handwriting. You have worked so hard and we are very proud of you!
1W	Avaani K	Fantastic improvement in RWI. Avaani has been putting 100% effort into her lessons and has made accelerated progress this half term. Well Done!
1E	Jaycee-James	For his creativity when drawing a landscape inspired by Vincent Van Gogh. He took his time to draw in detail.
2CP	Elsie	A superb diary entry, written as Paddington. Elsie used detail as well as including feelings and questions to make her writing interesting.\
2D	Oscar	For fantastic knowledge in history, remembering the important facts about the Great Fire of London, and creating a brilliant letter to King Charles II.
3A	Lexie	For a wonderful retell of 'The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig.' Lexie worked so hard on her retell and used lots of fantastic sentence openers in her writing. Well done Lexie!
3E	Poppy	a fantastic innovated story of 'The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig.' Poppy used super time adverbials to start her sentences.
4R	Arlo	For a fabulous still life drawing. Arlo used all the techniques we have been learning to create his final drawing. Well done.
4N	Holly	Super work on rounding to the nearest 10 in Maths.
5D	Sophie	Sophie - For a detailed setting description of Kensuke's Kingdom. Sophie's vivid imagination, beautiful vocabulary, and attention to detail brought her setting to life and made her writing shine! Well done Sophie!
5H	Nella	For creating a fantastic setting description that used lots of figurative language.

Dates on the horizon

Friday 24th October	School closes for half term at the end of the school day
Monday 3rd November	School opens. All children in Y1 to Y6 to be in winter uniform
Friday 7th November	Y3 & Y4 parent deadline for ordering & paying for parent Christmas dinner
Friday 7th November	Flu Catch Up for children who missed the first vaccination date
Monday 10th November	Anti Bullying week starts with Odd Socks Day
Tuesday 11th November	Remembrance Day
Friday 14th November	Children In Need. Children can wear appropriate non-uniform on this day in return for a £1.00 for Children In Need. (Through Scopay please) CASH for Christmas Fayre????
Tuesday 18th November	2:45, 6H Class Assembly, parents invited
Wednesday 19th November	Y3 visit to Think Tank
Friday 21st November	Y5 workshop on understanding our emotions led by the School Nurses
Tuesday 25th November	2:45, 5H Class Assembly, parents invited
Wednesday 26th November	Christmas Dinner with your child for 3E
Thursday 27th November	Christmas Dinner with your child for 3A
Thursday 27th November	Evening Walsall Arena Performance by the choir
Monday 1st December	Teacher Training Day, school closed to children.
Wednesday 3rd December	Christmas Fayre after school
Wednesday 3rd December	Y4 visit to Black Country Living Museum
Wednesday 10th December	Christmas Dinner with your child for 4N
Thursday 11th December	Christmas Dinner with your child for 4R
Tuesday 16th December	Y6 visit to the Theatre
Tuesday 16th December	Christmas Performances by Nursery to Y2 9:15 Nursery and Reception Performance 2:00 Y1 and Y2 Performance
Wednesday 17th December	Christmas Performances by Nursery to Y2 9:15 Y1 and Y2 Performance 2:00 Nursery and Reception Performance
Thursday 18th December	School closes at the end of the day for children
Friday 19th December	Teacher Training Day, school closed to children.
Monday 5th January	School opens for everyone
Wednesday 7th January	Young Voices
Friday 16th January	Y5 Visit to Selly Manor
Wednesday 18th March	Y2 visit to Dudley Zoo
Wednesday 22nd April	Y3 visit to Walsall Art Gallery

Is your child due to start Reception next September?

The application form process is now open on Walsall admissions website.

Parents and carers are advised to submit applications on time before **15 January 2026** for primary school applications.

Children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 are due to start reception in September 2026.

Please remember that having a place in Woodlands nursery does not guarantee a place in the reception class at that school. Parents/carers must submit a separate application for a place in the reception class.

The applications process is all online, and our school admissions team are hosting drop-in sessions throughout this term to support parents and carers with any questions you may have.

Primary school drop-in sessions

2 December 2025

Willenhall Library – 9am-12pm

Darlaston Library – 1pm-4pm

3 December 2025

Lichfield Street Hub – 9am – 5pm

4 December 2025

Blakenall Village Centre- 1-4pm

Offers will be sent by email to on-time applicants on **16 April 2026** for primary school places.

Further information and help with school admissions can be found on the council's website: [Apply for a primary school place | Walsall Council](#)

WINNING CLASSES LAST WEEK 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:

RG 98.7% and 3A 99.6%

SUPER ATTENDANCE!





October Half term

This is a message from West Midlands Police for parents and carers about robbery, antisocial behaviour, and personal safety for young people.

Police and schools across the West Midlands are committed to working together to protect our young people from becoming victims of robbery and violent crime. We also want to reduce antisocial behaviour around fireworks, especially in the darker nights.

As we head into October half term, we are urging everyone to talk to their child about staying safe over Halloween and Bonfire Night.

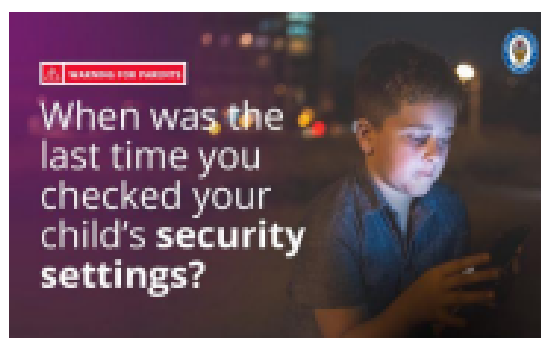
We have seen an increase in criminals targeting young people who carry iPhones, wireless headphones or digital devices. Thieves are forcing young people to log out of their iCloud to prevent the phone being tracked after it's stolen. By enabling two-factor authentication on iCloud or your child's phone, can make thieves lose interest in taking their phone.

Increasing the security on your child's iPhone and iPad:

1. Firstly, talk to your child about enabling two-factor authentication on their devices to help keep them, and their phones, safe from theft and exploitation.
2. Reassure them that turning on location and enabling better privacy settings allows them to communicate with their friends and family safely and securely.
3. Turn on two-factor authentication for your child's Apple Account: On your iPhone or iPad: Go to Settings > [your name] > Sign-In & Security. Tap Turn on Two-Factor Authentication. Then tap Continue and follow the onscreen instructions.
4. Discuss with your child who they would like to add to their 'trusted contact list' and encourage them to save these numbers in their emergency contacts list in case they get into trouble.
5. Add your child's devices to your 'Family' by heading to your Apple ID settings and adding the devices.
6. From the 'Family' group you can enable content and privacy restrictions and two-factor authentication, as well as location sharing.

For further information visit: [Use parental controls on your child's iPhone and iPad - Apple Support](#)

If your child has an Android phone there are additional security settings, you can put in place to make sure the location of their phone and data is secure. Visit your phone provider website for further crime prevention advice.



Staying safe around Halloween and Bonfire Night:

We want everyone to go out and enjoy the festivities of Halloween and Bonfire Night, but this can be a worrying time for those most vulnerable in our communities. Before your child heads out with their mates, be sure to talk to them about how to respect others and how to get help if they find themselves in trouble.





You can download our [parent's guide](#) to Halloween and firework safety. Here are some top tips to give your child:

1. Plan a safe and familiar route and stick with friends.
2. Make sure phones are charged, location on, and kept out of sight.
3. Wear high-visibility clothing or something recognisable so friends and family can spot you in a crowd.
4. Attend a public firework display when you can and never handle adult fireworks.
5. Organise a safe meet-up place in case you lose each other at an outdoor event.
6. Never point fireworks at people, animals, emergency service vehicles, buildings, or roads.
7. Tell them that police can arrest and prosecute anyone using fireworks dangerously.
8. If someone has a 'no trick or treating' card in their window do not approach the property or ring the bell.



What to do if you are concerned about your child or a young person you know:

Talk to them in a safe and quiet location that feels comfortable for both of you.

You may wish to contact a member of the Pastoral Team at school if you feel your child isn't listening or is at risk. You can reach out your school's officers to seek advice. They can talk through your concerns and plan a way forward together.

If you or your child has been a victim of crime or their life is in danger, call 999 immediately. Alternatively, you can call 101 if the crime has happened and you want to report this to the police.

You can contact Crime stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Thank you, **West Midlands Police.**





WOLFIE'S HALLOWEEN BALL

**During half-term:
Wednesday 29th October**
at 11am or 2pm for two hours

Halloween themed activities, games and prizes plus a spooky "Bella Bright" book reading with author Carolyn Ward!

BOOK NOW

**TICKETS
£8.00**



 **Funded by
UK Government**

FREE bus travel for parents this October half term

All day, **unlimited** travel from
27 October until 2 November

Parents, guardians and carers can enjoy unlimited free bus travel across the West Midlands during these dates.

How to claim

Applications are open from Monday 6 October until Wednesday 15 October. Just scan the QR code (or visit tfwm.org.uk/october) to apply!

Once applications close, we'll email you with instructions on how to redeem your free travel through your Swift account.



You're Bussing It  **West Midlands
Bus**