

Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas is definitely in the air...

Assembly on Wednesday was all about Advent, what Advent means and how people have counted down to Christmas over the years. I did encourage children to be mindful of how busy their parents are at this time of year and to help you out at home.... I did try on your behalf...

Y2 have had a very exciting week with an emphasis on structures (design and technology) which they learnt about during their visit to the Black Country Living Museum and then had follow up workshops in school on Thursday to deepen their learning. These opportunities were completely free and were brought to our attention by one of our governors - Kate Glanville. Thank you to Miss Glanville, The Arts Council and to the BCLM team too for enabling our children to enjoy and learn from this experience.



The excitement continued into Wednesday evening when the choir and Mrs Day joined other Walsall choirs to perform at Walsall Arena in the production 'Christmas Past and Present'. For the first time ever I was very sad to have missed the performance but Mrs Macpherson and Mrs Day said that the children did an amazing job. The children captured the festive spirit, danced, sang and enjoyed every minute! The children, Mrs Day (and mums and dads) have worked incredibly hard over the past term, attending choir practice and learning the lyrics to the songs, some of which were really tricky. Rosie said the evening was 'unforgettable' and Jasleen said it was 'amazing.' Thank you Mrs Day!



Also this week, Y6 undertook a workshop organised by the police about Knife Crime which was very age appropriate, the aim of which is to help keep children safe as they transition to secondary school.

We hope Y4 and their grown up enjoyed their Christmas lunch on Wednesday, Mrs Mason and the kitchen team did us proud! It is everyone else's turn, including Y3 and their grown up, on Wednesday 11th December.

I am not sure we shall get much learning done in the first few days next week as we get ready for the Christmas Fair but we do intend to try! The children have been busy creating 'goodies' to sell on their year group stalls on Wednesday from 3:40 onwards. We ask parents to bring small change rather than notes and please don't forget to book a visit to Santa through Scopay.

Watch out for those mischievous elves on Sunday!

Mrs Newton



Woodlands Academy of Learning

Christmas Fayre



Come along to our festive Christmas Fayre as the Christmas countdown begins!

We are inviting you to join us as we get into the Christmas spirit. Visit our wonderful winter wonderland, take part in our many festive games and activities and visit Santa in his grotto to receive a special gift – Only £3 per child.



3.40pm – 5.30pm

Wednesday 4th December 2024

Entrance Fee - 50p Adults, Children Free

Woodlands
Academy of Learning

Year 2 Learning and Fun!

Year 2 had a fantastic learning experience at the BCLM. Children walked around looking at the different structures with a focus on materials used to build the houses. We looked inside a selection of houses and shops going on a journey from 1915 – 1960s. The volunteer guides were very impressed with the behaviour and mature level of questioning from many of the pupils.

The BCLM staff visited Woodlands to continue the activities. Year 2 children were given a range of resources to construct a sturdy shelter for either humans or animals with an extra challenge of making them wind and water-proof. Again, the children were praised for their engagement in the task as well as their impressive levels of teamwork and discussion. The Y2 Team



What's happening in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

2nd - 8th December 2024

**Question of the week that we will
be discussing in school and you can
discuss at home too:**

**What does it mean to feel
included?**

**Thinking about
disabilities.**

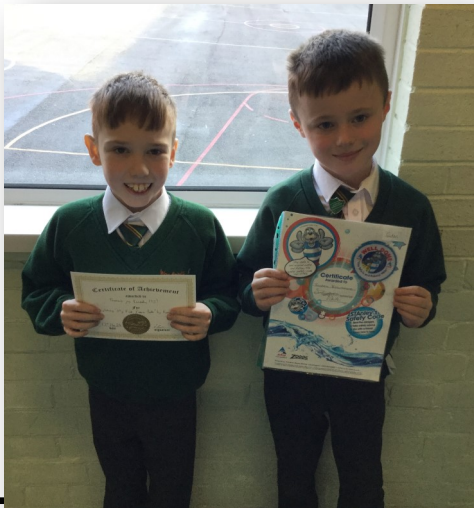
**Our linking
Woodland value is
'team player'**



So many children achieving out of school:

Well done to Seraya for being made star of the week at gymnastics, Oliver B and Jaiden B have achieved in their swimming whilst Oliver has achieved in his football skills. TJ has completed his first book in piano - that is a new skill!

There is lots to celebrate!



FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK!

RJ achieved 96.6% and 4R achieved 99%

Very well done to these children and their families.

These children deserve an extra playtime.

**Please remember the first lesson begins at 9:00 which is a core
lesson, including RWI. If your child is late they will miss the teacher
input - the direct teaching and modelling.**



Who are the SUPERSTARS this week?



Class	Name	Reason
NAM	Leonora P	Working hard on your pencil grip, helping you to begin tracing over your name and adding details to your drawings.
NPM	Keanu B	For matching and naming, the animals correctly from our class text Dear zoo.
RG	Millie	For completing some excellent sentences in PWAP time. Millie was able to complete the full sentence independently.
RJ	Oliver M	For sharing his amazing knowledge and showing enthusiasm in our Learning Adventure lessons about the different habitats that animals live in – well done!
1W	All of 1W	For fantastic behaviour and engagement during our school trip to the toy museum. You were all an excellent representation of Woodlands. Well done everyone! J
1S	Whole Class	Well done, for asking lots of interesting questions during our trip to the Toy Museum and demonstrating excellent listening skills. Your behaviour was outstanding and you represented Woodlands wonderfully.
2CP	Whole Class	For a fabulous class assembly. Reading and singing with confidence to share science learning about plants. We are proud of you all!
2D	Alex J	For a wonderful character description about 'Bob', from our story 'Man on the Moon.' Alex used some wonderful adjectives to describe 'Bob's appearance and his personality. Well done Alex!
3A	Nancie S	For Nancie's wonderful work in maths last week. Nancie independently used number lines to divide by four and she was also a supportive learning partner to other children. Well done, Nancie!
3G	Nevaeh	Absolutely shining with her knowledge from our write plan sessions. Nevaeh can recall and share all of the learning we have done so far.
4R	Sam	Good explanations during Maths lessons. Well done Sam.
4N	Frances H	Writing a wonderful setting description using subject, verbs and adjectives.
5HO	Nancy Y	For applying her learning of multiplication and division in her recent maths assessment. Nancy has really impressed me with her secure understanding which shone through in her assessment score. Well done Nancy!
5HA	Jenson P	For making a great start with his non-chronological report. Great use of research and the WAGOLL to help structure his opening. Well done.
6P	Isabelle S	Showing a fantastic understanding of 'The Butterfly' a poem we have been looking at about WW2. Isabelle showed a wonderful understanding of the symbolism used by the poet.
6E	Rosie M	For always producing the very highest quality responses, both verbal and written in every lesson. Rosie takes pride in her work, taking detailed notes she can refer back to in order to support herself and her peers. Rosie truly embodies the meaning of the phrase seize every moment. I am so proud of you.

Dates on the horizon

Wednesday 4th December	Christmas Fayre after school
Thursday 5th December	NHS Eye Tests for Y1 in school
Friday 6th December	Y3, Y5, Y6 Flu nasal vaccination (and for children that missed the first vaccination) This date has changed to Tuesday 10th December.
Friday 6th December	Visitor from Severn Trent Water in school for children, 9:00 Assembly 'The Wonderful World of Water' for Y4 and Y5
Tuesday 10th December	Y2 visiting the Short Methodist Church to learn more about Christmas
Wednesday 11th December	11:00 Christmas Dinner for Y3 and a parent / carer. Christmas dinner for all the school. Parents need to book their child's dinner through Scopay by Friday 15th November.
Thursday 12th December	Y4 visit to The Black Country Museum
Monday 16th December	Choir visiting Swan House
Tuesday 17th December	Y6 visit to the Theatre
Tuesday 17th December	Christmas Performances: 9:15 Nursery & Reception. 2:00 Y1 & Y2
Wednesday 18th December	Christmas Performances: 9:15 Y1 & Y2. 2:00 Nursery & Reception
Thursday 19th December	Christmas Jumper and uniform day. School closes at the end of the day for children
Friday 20th December	Teacher Training Day
Monday 6th January	School opens for everyone
Wednesday 8th January	Y5 visit to Selly Manor
Thursday 9 th January.	Y1 Parent Phonic Meetings 2-3 and repeated at 4:30-5:30
Tuesday 14th January	Young Voices at The Genting Arena
Tuesday 21st January	6E Class Assembly, parents invited
Tuesday 28th January	Y6 SATs Workshop for parents

IMPORTANT: CALLING ALL NURSERY PARENTS

Nursery parents please remember to complete the application form for your families choice for your child for their Reception Year. Your child **ISN'T** automatically given a place at Woodlands, you have to apply for a school place and this process is managed by Walsall Admissions.

This is really important because if you do not complete the form then the Local Authority will select a school for your child and it could be anywhere in Walsall or at a school that you may not want your child to go to.



The closing date is 15th January 2025. In order to apply, families must submit an on-line application through the Admissions web page of Walsall Council website: [Apply for a primary school place | Walsall Council](https://www.walsall.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-admissions/apply-primary-school-place)

Information from the council

Walsall parents and carers are reminded to apply online and are encouraged to attend the council's drop-in sessions to receive any help or support.

If your child is starting reception in September 2025, you must apply online between 4 November 2024 and 15 January 2025. Children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 are due to start reception in September 2025.

Parents/carers can visit the following drop-in sessions to meet a member of the team, who will be able to assist with their application:

Location: Willenhall Library

Date: Tuesday, 3 December 2024

Time: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Address: 1 Walsall St, Willenhall, WV13 2EX

Location: Darlaston Library

Date: Tuesday, 3 December 2024

Time: 1pm - 4pm

Address: 1 King Street, Darlaston WS10 8DE

Location: Lichfield Street Hub

Date: Wednesday, 4 December 2024

Time: 9am - 5pm

Address: Lichfield St, Walsall, WS1 1TR

Location: Blakenall Village Centre

Date: Thursday, 5 December 2024

Time: 1pm - 4pm

Address: 79 Thames Rd, Bloxwich, Walsall, WS3 1LZ

More information about school admissions can be found on the council's website: <https://go.walsall.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-admissions/apply-primary-school-place>



BLACK COUNTRY FOODBANK HELPS VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN CRISIS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF AN EMERGENCY FOOD AND TOILETRY PARCEL, WHILE A LONGER-TERM SOLUTION IS DEVELOPED

PLEASE SUPPORT US BY DONATING ITEMS FROM OUR SHOPPING LIST

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TINNED MEAT (CHICKEN/HAM) TINNED VEGETABLES TINNED POTATOES/MASH GRAVY / PACKETS OF STUFFING CARTONS OF LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE CARTONS OF UHT MILK CORDIAL/SQUASH SMALL JARS OF COFFEE TEA BAGS BOX OF 40'S TINNED FISH PASTA SAUCE TINNED CHOPPED TOMATOES BREAKFAST CEREAL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TINNED CUSTARD MINCE PIES CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS SELECTION BOXES TINNED READY MEALS (MEATBALLS/MACARONI CHEESE) TINNED FRUIT SAVOURY RICE INSTANT NOODLES ROLL ON DEODORANT SHAMPOO SHOWER GEL TOILET ROLL BARS OF SOAP |
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PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO RECEIVE A WEEKLY REMINDER OF OUR SHORTAGES LIST ON YOUR SHOPPING DAY



Do you have any extra Advent Calendars?

Staff are collecting Advent Calendars in School for the Food Bank.

The Food Bank will collect them from Woodlands by 22nd November, so if you have any spare ones please drop them into the food bank box in the foyer and they can join our staff donations too.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

BLACK COUNTRY FOODBANK
LOVE . CONNECT . INVEST

The idea is a simple one – for every day of Advent collect an item of food and, at the end of Advent, donate what you have collected to Black Country Foodbank. If you wanted to do this throughout the month of November instead, you could substitute some of the suggestions with specific Christmas items e.g., puddings, mince pies, selection boxes but nothing containing alcohol please.

TINNED MEAT (chicken/ham/spam/ hot dogs)	SPECIALITY BISCUITS/ CHOCOLATE	TINNED VEGETABLES	TEA BAGS BOX OF 40'S
PASTA COOKING SAUCE JARS	RICE/ PASTA	INSTANT FLAVOURED NOODLES/ POT NOODLES	PACKET MASH/ TINNED POTATOES
TINNED DESSERTS (fruit/rice pudding/ custard/sponge pudding)	SMALL JARS OF COFFEE	BREAKFAST CEREAL (small/medium packets)	LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE
HOT CHOCOLATE (made with water)	TINNED TOMATOES	SHAMPOO	TINNED READY MEALS (chilli/meatballs/curry/ ratatouille/mac and cheese)
TINNED FISH	JAM/ MARMALADE	BARS OF SOAP	TOILET ROLL
LONG LIFE MILK (1L carton)	ROLL ON DEODORANT	MICROWAVE FLAVOURED RICE	SUGAR (small bags)

ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN MAKE A FINANCIAL DONATION VIA JUSTGIVING BY SCANNING THE QR CODE

THANK YOU.

REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1136676



**Information from parents or external local groups that have asked
Woodlands to share with the school community**



Whats on at our Family Hubs.....

Did you know we have lots of exciting and FREE activities to take part in and at our four Family Hubs across Walsall;

- 0-5 Stay and play sessions
- Dad's stay and play and Dads for Dads peer support groups.
- Christmas fun days
- Grandparents' coffee and chat
- Walsall Works drop-ins for careers advice and help
- Sensory Room
- Parent Carer panels
- Healthy eating and nutrition workshops
- Parenting workshops including first aid, online, antenatal
- Free professional therapy service for families what are expecting or with a child 0 - 5
- Breastfeeding support groups / Introducing solid food workshops
-And lots more!

Scan here to visit our Family Hubs website



or visit www.walsallfamilyhubs.com



Follow us on Facebook [Walsallfamiliesintheknow](https://www.facebook.com/Walsallfamiliesintheknow)



Come and join our festival of fun to celebrate Christmas at our Family Hubs.

Each hub will be full of seasonal music and Christmas crafts for your family to enjoy

11 December at 15:30- 17:00 @ South & Central Family Hub, Hub Birchills Street, Walsall, WS2 8NF

12 December at 15:30- 17:00 @ West Family Hub, Ilmington House, Crescent Road, WS10 8AE

17 December at 15:00 - 17:30 @ North Family Hub, 275 Blakenall Lane, WS3 1HJ

19 December at 12:00- 14:30 @ East Family Hub, Silver Court, Brownhills WS8 6HA

You can simply join us on the day.

