



LEARN ASPIRE ACHIEVE

WOODS LOKE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026 - ISSUE NO.6

A note from Mr Crawley

The end of an academic year always brings with it mixed emotions. That sense of excitement at the summer ahead, the anticipation of moving up to a new class, or even a new school, tinged with a degree of sadness at the prospect of leaving our familiar surroundings and moving on. But there is also that sense of pride and satisfaction in all of our achievements over the past year and the huge progress we have all made since September.

One of the more emotional aspects of the end of an academic year is saying farewell to our Year 6 pupils, and this year is no exception. Every single one of them has worked really hard to get through their SATs, they have been excellent role models to younger pupils, especially our Woods Loke Leaders, they enjoyed their residential trip and leavers' disco, and we still have their end of year performance to look forward to. We are all incredibly proud of everything they have achieved during their time with us and we wish them all the very best as they begin their new High School adventure.

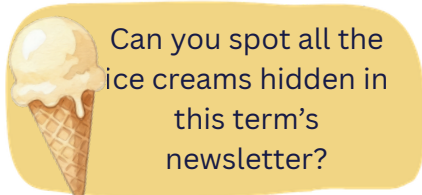
The end of this year is also significant for me personally as I have now been the Headteacher of Woods Loke for ten years. While much has changed and developed over that time, the core of our school remains the same – helping children to LEARN, ASPIRE and ACHIEVE every single day. There is no greater privilege than watching children grow from their early years into confident, mature young people, ready to take their next steps into the future, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported both me and our school over these past ten years.

However, just like the children, I am looking ahead to next year. We have held our transition day where the children spent a very enthusiastic day in their new classes, we have elected our pupil councils for the forthcoming year, and preparations have already been made to make next year another fantastic year at Woods Loke.

All that remains is for me to wish each and every one of you a peaceful and restful summer holiday. We look forward to seeing you all return refreshed and invigorated in September when another exciting academic year begins...



LEAVERS



Can you spot all the ice creams hidden in this term's newsletter?

What an incredible last term it has been in **Maple Nursery**! At the start of the term, we explored the world of 'life under the sea'. The children enjoyed going on an exciting submarine adventure, using their very own handmade periscopes to search for underwater animals. Our learning then took us on a pirate adventure, where the children had great fun following clues on a treasure hunt around the field and creating their own special messages in a bottle.

As the weather became warmer, we turned our attention to the season of summer. We have been exploring beautiful summer flowers and enjoyed making our own lavender playdough, using our senses to smell, touch and create.

The children have also loved our imaginative role-play activities. We began by making pretend ice creams, which inspired us to create delicious milkshakes in the garden using a range of different sensory items. We then enjoyed a real milkshake together, which was a lovely treat in the sunshine.

We are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved during their time in Maple Nursery. It has been a fantastic start, and we are excited to watch them continue to grow, learn and thrive in the next part of their journey in Willow Nursery.



FROM THE SCHOOL COUNCIL



The School Council celebrated Woods Loke's Talent by hosting talent shows that happened across the school, judging was very difficult but winners were chosen, each receiving a personalised certificate from the School Council. Congratulations to the winners and everyone who was brave enough to take part! The School Council had a very successful afternoon tea with the Governors and were ready to share their highlights over the year. They were incredibly proud of themselves because they have managed to raise £2196.59 over the year with the various fundraising activities that have taken place: thank you so much to everyone who has supported them from the sponsored bunny run to the Easter cake sale. The money will be divided between the three chosen charities, The Air Ambulance, Cancer Research and Vision for Asia. Our school also has a share of the money and it will be one of the first tasks the new School Council has to decide how the school money will be spent.

It is always sad to see an amazing team move on to different schools and new commitments, but I'm looking forward to meeting the new School Council in September and seeing what they will do for our wonderful school!





WILLOW NURSERY

Willow Nursery have had a wonderful final half term. With the hot weather we have enjoyed lots of water play including fun in the paddling pool, using rollers to paint the castle with water and throwing water balloons at targets. We have also been preparing for next year and the children have enjoyed spending time in the Reception garden.

We have continued to enjoy our nature days and have covered lots of topics including sunshine and shadows, grass, rainbows and summer flowers. The children enjoyed collecting natural materials to create their own rainbows.

In maths we have looked at spatial reasoning and measuring. The children have enjoyed creating a height chart, measuring each other and objects in the nursery.

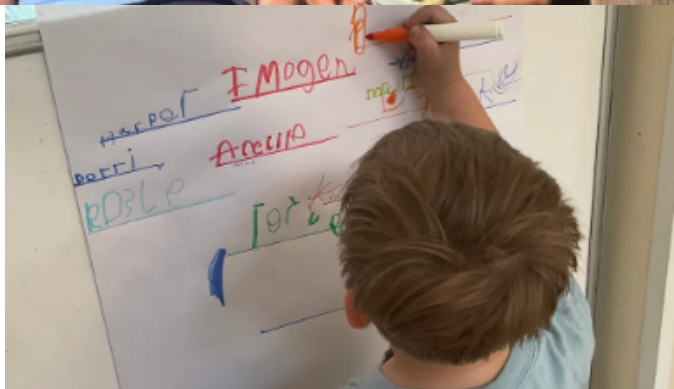
We were very pleased to finally hold our sports day, the children took part in activities such as shot put, standing jump, egg and spoon race and hurdles.



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RECEPTION



Reception have had a great last half term! We have spent lots of time reading and re-telling fairy tales and traditional tales. The children have enjoyed making puppets and props to re-tell the stories, as well as writing pages and pages of them!

The children have managed to enjoy the warmer weather and spent more and more time outside. They have been exploring the mud kitchen and the water area regularly. They especially enjoyed our water fight! Lots of the children have been enjoying role playing shops and restaurants and even created their own pizza shop and Woods Loke Biscuit Café.

We also had our final trip to Bewilderwood last week. The children explored the forest and were brave enough to climb the rope bridges, tree houses and ride the zip wires. Lots of the children also enjoyed the 'death slides'! All of the children were remarkably well-behaved and were an absolute pleasure to take. The children finally got to enjoy their Sports Day! We were so impressed with how well the children took part in front of such a large audience. The children took part in running races, throwing events and the traditional egg and spoon race! Although, we think the children's favourite race was the parents race! We would like to thank all our children and parents for their hard work and support. It has been a fantastic year and we are going to miss the children so much. However, we know they are ready for Year 1 and wish them lots of luck as they continue their journey through Woods Loke. We hope you a very lovely Summer!





What a busy final half term we have had in Years 1 and 2!

In **Year 1**, the children have had lots of fun completing a mini topic based around our focus piece of music 'The Carnival of the Animals'. Each week we have concentrated on one of the animals and used this as our focus for science, art and music. We listened to the elephant, tortoise, aquarium and aviary pieces of music. The children loved exploring the different percussion instruments for each of the animals and we wrote scientific fact files about them. We also created our own Salvador Dali inspired elephant paintings, 3D tortoises, tangram fish and birds with fanned wings. Our grand finale at the end of the topic was when the children performed their own version of 'The Carnival of the Animals' using the instruments.

In English, the children wrote some fantastic stories based around 'Mrs Honey's Hat' and carefully used the days of the week in their stories too. We were very proud of all the children when it was phonics screening week; they have worked incredibly hard all year on their phonics. We had our art specialist Mrs Gamble this half term and the children designed and created their own Flanimals out of clay. We also went on our visit to the Bridewell Museum, where the children got to meet Florence Nightingale, handled artefacts that Florence would travel with and had the opportunity to make their very own Fanoos lamp.



In **Year 2**, we have been exploring the local area near our school. As part of our geography work, we used maps to navigate the road names, signs and local facilities around our school as part of a local walk. Then, we compared what it is like to live in a village, town and city, using maps and case studies from people who live in these places. We have also studied the author 'Roald Dahl' and read 'Fantastic Mr. Fox' as our focus text. We developed our acting skills as we re-enacted different key scenes, with great attempts at a Mr. Fox voice! We wrote diary entries to show how Mr. Fox felt when he had to dig with his family to escape the farmers. We learned about the key features of a newspaper report and used this information to become journalists ourselves!

The real highlight of our work this half term though was our visit to Jimmy's Farm in Ipswich. This enabled us to draw upon our science knowledge about animals and habitats alongside using a map to navigate around the farm. We absolutely loved seeing the butterflies, the crocodile, polar bears, camels, zebras, brown bears, lions and farm animals. It was an amazing day out and it was great to find out about what the animals need to survive. We enjoyed walking around the farm and used the map to locate the different creatures and the play area!

It has been a fantastic year with so many amazing achievements, we have loved every minute and we wish all the children all the best in their new year group.





As we reach the end of the academic year, after a very busy half term, it is good to reflect on all our achievements. Despite the hot weather, everyone has continued to make every minute count. This is the time of year when children are able to demonstrate all the jigsaw pieces of their learning slotting together.

Year 3's topic has been 'Mythical Creatures' and there has been some excellent creative story writing. DT has also been a focus, with the children designing and making jigsaws of their own.

Year 4 have studied WW2 with a focus on the main battles. They have applied their historical learning to write stories in first and third person as both a soldier escaping Dunkirk, and a pilot involved in The Battle of Britain dogfights. The children have also read and written some very moving war poems. Year 4 have also had a lot of fun with their specialist music teacher: Amazing drumming and strumming on the ukulele.

Both **year 3 and year 4** took part in a great team building day, where they had to solve a variety of challenges to find the kidnapper of Kevin the llama! Again, a hot day, but the children were both motivated and excellent in their efforts to solve the crime. It was good to observe how the groups developed their skills over the sessions and there were cheers when Kevin was returned safely!

Transition day is a time of mixed emotions. Maybe some apprehension, some anticipation and lots of excitement. The children in all classes did very well and impressed their new teachers, who are so excited to see them back in September for another year of exciting learning opportunities.

For year 4, moving on to Upper Key Stage 2 is the next step in their learning journey and they are more than ready to tackle this new challenge. We will miss them but wish them all the best!

The LKS2 team would like to wish everyone a restful and enjoyable holiday and extend our thanks for your support throughout the year.

As Phase Leader, I personally would also like to say a big thank you to all the great staff in our department who have supported the children and have worked so hard to make the year the success it has been. Best wishes to those moving to other areas and welcome to those joining us for next year.



Year 5 have finished off the academic year by studying Ancient Greece. They started by looking into the timeline of the Ancient Greeks and how parts of their history, like the Olympic Games, have influenced today. The children then looked at the city states of Sparta and Athens, studying their differences. With this information they then wrote arguments: the children looked at the features of both state, trying to convince the reader to join either Sparta or Athens. They also looked at the origins of democracy and how that translates to Britain today.

No project on the Ancient Greeks would be complete without looking at Greek mythology. The children read lots of myths, using them as a muse for their own narratives - their second text type. Through these their versions of these stories Year 5 tried to use all the Year 5 taught punctuation with a particular focus on speech.

To top off the topic, Year 5 had an Ancient Greece Day with Portals to the Past. The children and teachers were in full costume. They learnt even more about the origins of the Olympic Games. They also had a chance to play authentic Ancient Greek board games as well as look at real replica armour and weapons.



Year 6 have come to the end of their time at Woods Loke. It is a sad time for staff as we really don't want them to go. This cohort have been amazing and have all grown into such amazing characters.

With the shadow of the SATS gone and our writing submitted, the year group have been throwing themselves into their production of Rapunzel and the Barbershop Bros. It's been an exciting end to the year for our amazing Year 6 pupils! After weeks of rehearsals, they are poised to take to the stage with a fantastic a performance - complete with lively song and dance numbers, lots of laughter, duets and solos. We hope the show will be a great success, and we couldn't be prouder of their talent and teamwork.

Last week, Year 6 packed their bags for their long-awaited residential trip to Eaton Vale. From high ropes and canoeing to team challenges and woodland adventures, the trip was full of fun, friendship, and unforgettable memories. It was the perfect way to celebrate the end of their primary school journey.



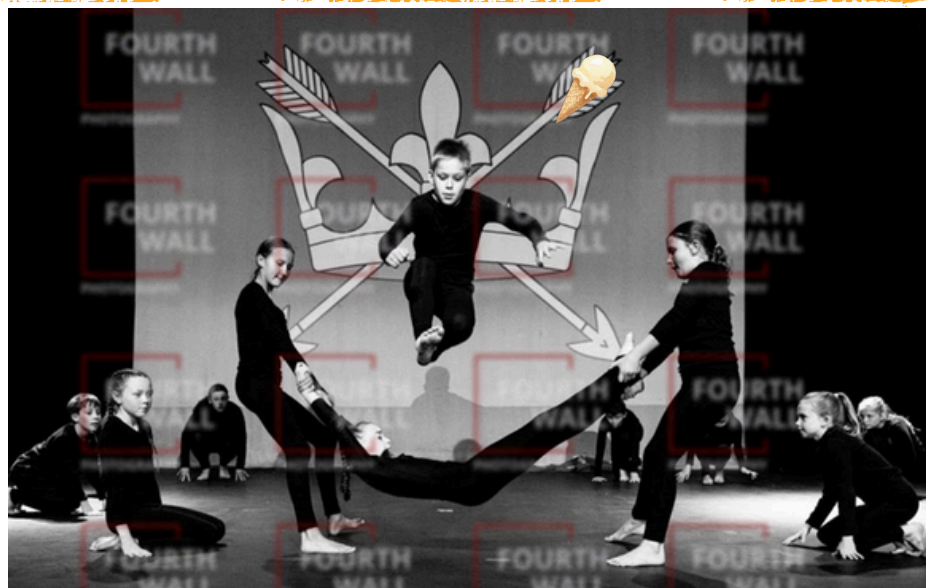


SPORTS ROUND-UP

This term, some of our key stage 2 pupils travelled to East Point Academy to participate in the primary panathlon challenge. They worked incredibly hard and won the gold medal! We are extremely proud of the enthusiasm, determination and teamwork shown by all of our pupils that have participated in sporting events and activities this year!



DANCE SHOW



This year's Lowestoft dance festival was centre around the fishing heritage and the sea in Lowestoft. We partnered with the Marina Theatre and the Norfolk Suffolk school games to put this piece together under the watchful eye and coaching of Mr Morgan. The children performed in late June on stage at the Marina and they were absolutely incredible: a show-stopping troupe! If you would like to order prints from the show, head to 'Fourthwall Photography'.

EXTENDED SCHOOL

As extended day comes to an end for this year we all have had the chance to experience many different activities: friendship club, sports, art and crafting, Hama beads and lots more. We have enjoyed seeing so many of you throughout the year! We've had children making and performing their own puppet show; rounds of bingo; water play and lots of time spent outside - what a fun packed year we have had! Summer activities are all planned and ready to go, and we look forward to welcoming many of you to those. We wish you all a lovely break and look forward to seeing you back in September!

