



Woodlea Word

Spring Issue 8

6th March 2026

WOODLEA
PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." –
Frederick Douglass

Book Week: There is a very good reason why reading is the prioritised in schools – it is the skill that gives you access to the world, the past, present and future and a world beyond. At Woodlea, we spend the largest proportion of curriculum time on reading, but we also appreciate being able to celebrate reading week as part of World Book Day. The children have taken part in a range of activities throughout the week which focused on books and reading. The celebrations culminated in our **"Dress as a Word"** parade on Friday morning. There were some very impressive interpretations of words which have expanded all our vocabulary's. Thank you parents for all your support with the activities.



Someone Special Book Read

It may surprise you to learn that my dad did not go to school very often but he was determined to learn to read and he mostly taught himself as he knew how important a skill it was. Because of my dad, I grew up with a love of science fiction books because I would see him reading them. Children today have an amazing array of wonderful books which they can enjoy but when they see adults reading too, or reading with or to them it has a lasting influence. So it has been fantastic that so many "special adults" were able to join us this week to read with the children. We know this is not easy but even if you could not make it this week, we know how much time parents and carers give to their children to read with them. Do keep doing this, even when the children are fluent readers.

Reading buddies:

The classes also paired up this week to read with each other. When we do this, we always say we want to do it more often as the children get so much from reading with younger or older children.



Railway Children: The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed a wonderful production of *The Railway Children* on Thursday afternoon as part of our Book Week celebrations. This year we replaced our traditional pantomime, as the noise levels had become overwhelming for some children.

We are so pleased with this decision. The enjoyment and engagement from the children during this production was truly lovely to see. Our Lambs sat with their buddies and behaved beautifully throughout.

When staff are able to sit back and focus on the story and the actors, rather than reminding children about their behaviour, it is a clear sign that the children are relaxed, engaged, and genuinely enjoying the experience.



Netball v St John's – Won 14 - 2

On Wednesday the netball team played against saint John's. It was an exciting match with great teamwork from everyone. In the first quarter, Ellie Yr6 scored 5 goals, Giving Woodlea a strong start. In the second quarter, Clara Yr6 added 2 more goals. Shiya scored in the third quarter, and the team continued to defend well. In the fourth and final quarter Maya Yr6 scored 6 goals helping Woodlea secure a fantastic 14-2 victory. The team showed excellent effort and teamwork throughout the game. Well done to Maya, Clara, Ellie, Ella, Shiya and Ava



Football v St John's & Whyteleafe

On Wednesday the football team played 2 matches against St John's and Whyteleafe. In the first match the team drew 2-2. The team then had to play straight again and they battled extremely hard but tired towards the end and lost 4 – 1. Thank you to St John's for hosting.

Team: Raffi S, Max VTB, Luca s, Adam W, Henry H, Oliver H, Alfie J, Arjun S, George B & Xavier B



Cross Country

Cross Country: **Farthing Downs SLH cross country**. I am looking forward to seeing some of our KS2 runners at the Farthing Downs Cross Country on **Saturday morning (7th)**. First races are at 10am. I will be there and if your child decides in the morning they want to run. Please just turn up. I will bring a couple of spare bibs. See attach flyer for further details.

If your child is interested in running there is a **New Junior Park Run at St John's Primary School, Markfield Road, Caterham. Every Sunday at 9am. Ages: 4-14 year olds**. It is free, you just have to register with Parkrun and get a barcode. Follow the link to find details [home | St John's Primary School junior parkrun](#) | [St John's Primary School junior parkrun](#)



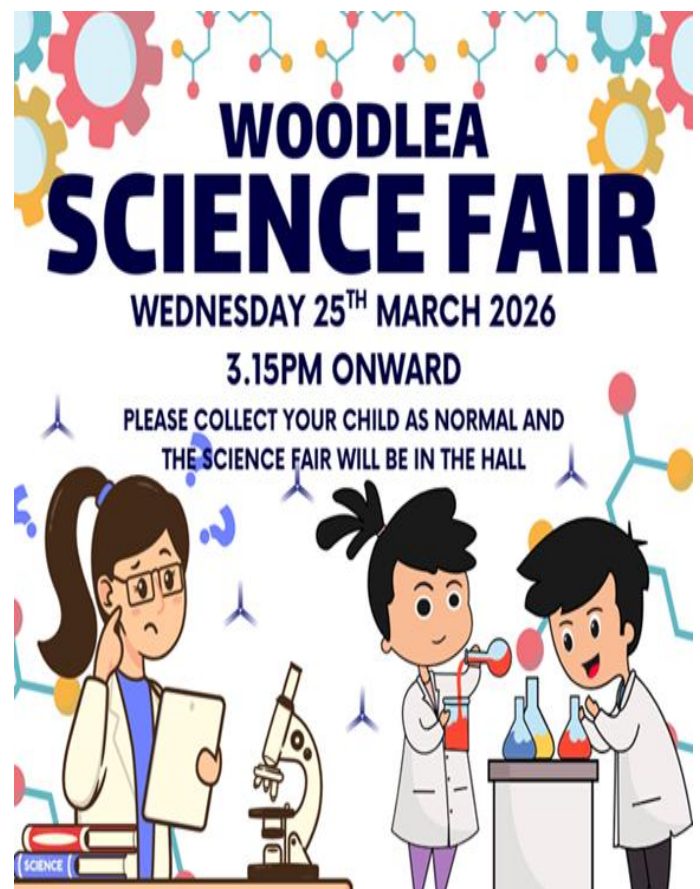
GO RED FOR
RED NOSE DAY

**Dress up in Red
On Friday 20th
March**

IN RETURN FOR A £1
DONATION TO RED NOSE DAY

**Children are also welcome to
wear a red nose**

[SHOP HERE](#)



**WOODLEA
SCIENCE FAIR**

WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH 2026

3.15PM ONWARD

PLEASE COLLECT YOUR CHILD AS NORMAL AND
THE SCIENCE FAIR WILL BE IN THE HALL

Illustration of three children in lab coats conducting science experiments with a microscope and beakers.

Weekly Attendance

Y1 : **96.7%** , Y2: **90.6%** ,

Y3 : **95.1%** , Y4 : **98.8%** ,

Y5 : **96%** , Y6 : **98.6%**

Winners : Lambs – 99.1%

Please remember school attendance is mandatory. **Holidays should be planned for school holiday times to avoid missing school time.**

If your child is absent, you must notify the school office every day before 9:10am at the latest.

School Uniform

Our current school uniform supplier can be found here. [MyClothing](#)

Please check with your class rep if you require second hand uniform.



Events Calendar

Please see below for all upcoming events and how to book. Please refer to the original email for full details of events.

New events are listed in red

Date	Event	Details
09.03.2026	Year 6 - Parliament	Year 6 only Packed lunch required Book via Arbor (please note if you do not consent for your child they will not be able to attend)
11.03.2026	Year 5 – Mayan Day	Year 5 only Book via Arbor (please note if you do not consent for your child they will not be able to attend)
12.03.2026	Year 4 Carrot Wood Meeting	4.30 – 5pm Year 4 Classroom
13.03.2026	Year 4 – Egyptian Day	Year 4 only Book via Arbor (please note if you do not consent for your child they will not be able to attend)
16.03.2026	Parents Evening (early)	Please see letter sent on the 23 rd February
17.03.2026	Year 2 – Parents Evening	Please see letter sent on the 23 rd February
18.03.2026	Year 5 Wisley Gardens	Year 5 only Packed lunch required Book via Arbor (please note if you do not consent for your child they will not be able to attend)
19.03.2026	Parents Evening (late)	Please see letter sent on the 23 rd February
20.03.2026	Year 4 Class Assembly	Year 4 would like to invite parents to see their class assembly. It will take place in the hall at 9.15am.
20.03.2026	Red Nose Day	See flyer attached to the Woodlea Word
21.03.2026	Cross Country	Cross Country – Oasis Academy. Year 3 – 6 – Signup via Arbor under Trips
23.03.2026	Rock Steady Concert	9:15-9:45am For Rock Steady parents please contact rock steady for any queries
23.03.2026	Book Fair	See flyer attached to the Woodlea Word
24.03.2026	Book Fair	See flyer attached to the Woodlea Word
25.03.2026	Book Fair	See flyer attached to the Woodlea Word
25.03.2026	Science Fair	We will be displaying the class science projects in the hall after school. Please pick your child up from school as normal and then you can attend the fair with your child.
26.03.2026	Year 1 & 2 Easter Sing Song	Parents are invited to attend the Year 1 & 2 Sing song. It will start at 9am. Please enter the hall via the car park. The event will last for around 15/20 minutes.
27.03.2026	Last Day of term	Early finish 2pm

Weekly Communication

Year 6 – Secondary School Destination
Year 4 – Carrot Wood Forms
Year 4 – Class Assembly
Year 1 & 2 – Easter Sing Song
All – Reminder World Book Day Dress Up

Universal Credit

Did you know that the school receives extra funding for every child that is entitled to universal credit? If you are entitled to universal credit, please do make sure that you come and make us aware in the school office. This means that we can access more funding for the school and for your child. To check eligibility click the link below
[Free School Meal Eligibility Checker](#)

Lunches



Please update Arbor every day, even if your child has packed lunches

Menus are available on – Autumn Spring 2025/26
[Woodlea School Website](#)



Unfortunately, the 'pick for all future dates' option was removed by Arbor during an update and we have been told by them that 'new features in the meal section wouldn't support this.'. We have raised this as an issue with Arbor as we know that this made ordering lunches in advance so much easier for parents. We hope to hear back from Arbor very soon regarding this important feature.

Arbor Checklists:

- Check all meal payments are up to date: Arbor – Payment
- Check all trip payments are up to date.
- Add any emergency contacts for your child.

For any how to guides please [click here](#).

Please remember for there is a 2-week deadline for booking lunches.



Absences, medical appointments & sickness

If your child is absent from school or has a medical appointment, please email info@woodleatft.co.uk or leave a message on the absence line (01883 652358 option 1) before 9.10am. Please let us know their full name, class and reason; including any symptoms they may be displaying. We do need to hear from an adult each day a child is absent for safeguarding reasons. Please do not bring your child to school if they have been sick during the night. If your child has been sick or has an upset stomach, children should be off school for 48 hours following the last episode.

To avoid impacting your child's attendance ALL medical/dental/optician appointments should be booked outside of school hours where possible. Thank you for your co-operation.

Leave of Absence

As a school we are only able to grant a leave of absence, during term time, for exceptional circumstances. If you intend to take a leave of absence for your child, please collect a 'Leave of Absence' form from the school office and return the completed form for Mrs Gambier's consideration. Please note that the form should be given to the office prior to the period of absence.

Amazon Wish

[Lists](#)

[Year 6](#)

[Year 5](#)

[Year 4](#)

[Year 3](#)

[Year 2](#)

[Year 1](#)

[Lambs](#)

[Outdoor Learning](#)

[SENDCO Items](#)