



Woodmancote School
Belong · Aspire · Achieve

Newsletter

www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk

Newsletter 2 Friday 18th September 2015



Visit by Kenyan Headteachers

As part of the British Council's Connecting Classrooms Project, Woodmancote, Swindon

Village, Gotherington and Grangefield will be hosting four teachers from four schools in Kenya for the next 10 days.

Mr James Mwangi will be staying with one of our parents and will be visiting our school as part of a joint project to bring about greater understanding between the two countries. He will spend much of his time in school, talking and working alongside our children. He will also be visiting the other schools in the cluster as well as touring the Cotswolds and going to London. We hope that the whole school community makes him feel very welcome.

If you feel that you would like to invite Mr Mwangi to an event during his stay or invite him back for tea one evening, please contact Mr Clark or Mr Tucker. Alternatively, speak to Delphine's mum in the playground (Delphine is in Year 1).

Refugee Crisis

In light of the acute refugee crisis happening in the world at the moment, we would like our school community to be engaged and raise awareness about the situation of refugees and asylum seekers, not only of those along the borders of Europe, but those refugees that currently live much nearer to our homes in Gloucestershire and desperately need some help too.

GARAS - Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers is a local charity that supports refugees hoping to find a new future here in Gloucestershire. A Woodmancote School parent is involved with

this charity and the work it does with supporting refugees from around the world.

We recognise the differing viewpoints that many people have about refugees and migrants, but as a school we believe that to 'BELONG' means to be part of a much bigger community of people who for whatever reason require support and a helping hand at a time of acute need.

We have all seen distressing images in the media of families seeking safety from war and persecution, travelling hundreds of miles by whatever means they can find.

We know that there are many demands made on your time and pockets, but we hope that we can make a difference from simply holding a non uniform day on Friday 2nd October and making a donation as a family or individual.

Year 3 children will need to come to school in uniform as it is their trip day.

If you would like further information about the organisation GARAS visit

[Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers \(GARAS\) - Home Page](#)

Cheltenham Schools Challenge

Children in Year 4 will be taking part in the Cheltenham Half Marathon this year. They have been training hard, both in PE lessons and at home, and aim to complete the last mile (9 mile 13) on the day. Over 600 children are taking part in what is sure to be a fantastic day.

Spelling/Phonics Information Evening for parents

6th October at 6pm

The aim of this evening is to inform parents about the new spelling system and the year group expectations. It will hopefully show how you can support your children and how



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phonics are taught in the Early Years. If there is anything in particular that you want covered or raised, please email Mrs Badham by the 30th September.

sbadham@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk

School Development Plan

Once again the school has drawn up a list of priorities for the coming year and these form the basis of our School Development Plan (SDP). Each year group has drafted a Raising Achievement Plan and these support the overarching priorities listed below.

Each Raising Achievement Plan (RAP) is reviewed termly and teachers will focus on those activities that support the continual process of raising attainment and accelerating progress for all groups of children.

Whilst academic achievement is essential, Woodmancote School also prides itself on the range of sporting, musical and artistic opportunities that it provides. Our involvement in Young Voices this year is a new venture for the Year 5 and 6 children and one that we expect all children in those year groups to attend. We have also had an early success on the playing fields, with our rugby team coming in third at a recent event to mark the beginning of the Rugby World Cup.

Our involvement in such events is due to our enthusiastic and committed staff who wish for each child to achieve all that they are capable of in the classroom and out of it

Young Voices

Parents have until Monday to return permission slips and requests for tickets to the event in Birmingham. If you have any queries, please contact Mr Williams.

mwilliams@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk

Running Club

This is by far our biggest club, with well over 75 children wishing to attend. We currently have three adults running this club, with Miss Steer and Mr Irvine helping myself. We would really welcome support from any adult who could spare an hour of their time on a Tuesday afternoon between 3.15-4.15. This would mean we could accommodate all those who wished to participate, but who couldn't.

If you could help, please contact me as soon as possible.

Tennis Success!

Sam Austin had a busy summer holidays travelling around the country competing and was able to play well and win many tournaments including five Grade 3 regional titles, one highlight being winning both the Torbay Open 8U and 9U events and taking away an impressive pair of trophies (I've attached a photo) for his efforts. He also won at 9U G3 events at Loughborough, Tipton, Swansea and Edgbaston Priory.

As a result of his successes he was able to end the season (which closed 31/8) as #1 in the Gloucestershire 9U County Leaderboard, #1 in the 9U South West Regional Leaderboard and amazingly, ended the season #1 in the 9U leaderboard covering the whole of Great Britain which is an incredible achievement for someone still able to play 9U for another 12 months. Well done Sam!

Class Assemblies

If you are coming to your child's class assembly, may we ask you please to wait outside main reception, as the noise levels with 30 or 40 people waiting and chatting makes it very difficult to hear telephone calls or deal with parents who have queries. Thank you.



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Headlice

We have already had several cases of headlice this term. May we ask you to be vigilant in checking your child's hair and treating any "little visitors" with the appropriate product. Thank you.

Macmillan Afternoon Tea - Friday 25th September from 2pm-3pm.

Please join us in the hall for tea, coffee and cake to raise some money for this fantastic cause.

Cakes and biscuit donations would be wonderful and should be brought into school on Friday morning.

Any remaining cakes will be sold after school.

If anyone would be available to help serve tea and coffee please contact Mrs Baxter kbaxter@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk Thank you!

Request for support with a Research Project

Dear Parents,

We are a research group from the Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of Cambridge, investigating individual differences in how the mind works. Our research aims to provide a better understanding about the brain and behavioural differences within the general population, as well as those who have a psychiatric diagnosis. We are inviting you and your partner (if applicable) to join our research panel of adults so we can collect data that represents the make-up of adults in the UK, across all socioeconomic and educational levels.

You have been contacted because your son/daughter attends a primary school in Gloucestershire, and we are writing to every parent who has a child age 5-11 years old in primary education. We need as many people

as possible to help our research and it will only take you 5 minutes!

If you are interested in being part of our volunteer panel, please go to our secure website at <http://cambridgepsychology.com/psp>. If you register, we will ask you to provide some background information about yourself, and then you can go on to take some questionnaires and tests online. You can complete these at your leisure by logging in and out of your volunteer homepage with your chosen login details and will only need to complete them once. We will also encourage you to invite your partner (if applicable) to register (you can do this from your volunteer homepage once you are registered).

We will also contact you from time to time to tell you about new projects which might be of interest to you. Many of our research projects only involve filling in 5 minute questionnaires or doing tasks online. Some of our studies involve being assessed by one of our team (such as brain scanning studies). You are under no obligation to participate in any of the projects but you may find them fascinating and taking part is an excellent way to see what research is going on in Cambridge University. Any information you provide is entirely confidential. You can opt out at any time and we will remove your details, and any data you have provided, from our volunteer database. If you have any questions about registering as a volunteer, please contact our Volunteers Coordinator Paula Smith (pls28@medschl.cam.ac.uk).

There is also a Participant Information Sheet for additional information ([link](#) to PIS or https://cambridgepsychology.com/docs/Cam_Psych_PIS.pdf)

For more information about our research into psychiatric conditions such as autism, please visit www.autismresearchcentre.com



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Thank you for considering our request.
 Best wishes
 Professor Simon Baron-Cohen
 Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry
 University of Cambridge.

School Development Plan 2015-16

Priority One - Effectiveness of Leadership and Management

Expectations of leaders, and structures for leadership, bring about measurable improvements for identified school priorities.

Priority Two - Outcomes for Children and Learners

Improve outcomes for all children, particularly for focus groups (ie SEN, Pupil Premium and prior low attaining pupils)

Priority Three - Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Promote and develop the characteristics of learning throughout the school

Priority Four - Quality of Teaching and Learning

Improve the quality of teaching in identified areas (ie SPAG, handwriting in Y2, times-tables & number bonds, problem solving in maths, reading in KS2)

Dates

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 30 th September | Prospective Parents Open Morning (9.30-10.30) |
| 6 th October | Spellings and Phonics Evening at 6pm |
| 12 th October | Prospective Parents Afternoon (1.30-2.30) |
| 13 th October | Junior Harvest (2.30) |
| 14 th October | School Photographer |
| 15 th October | Infant Harvest (2.30) |
| 21 st October | Last day of Term 1 |
| Tuesday 3 rd November | First Day of Term 2 |
| Tuesday 3 rd November (3.30-6.30) | Parent Consultations |
| Wednesday 4 th November (4.30-7.00) | Parent Consultations |
| 8 th December 1.45pm 9 th 9.30am 10 th 1.45pm | Infant Play |
| Friday 18 th December | Last day of term |



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