



Woodmancote School
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Newsletter

www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk

Newsletter 15. 12th February 2021

Thank you

I have to begin this newsletter with a huge thank you from everyone at Woodmancote for the support that parents have shown us during this lockdown. We have appreciated all of your kind words, at a time when many of you are also juggling working, home schooling and managing day to day. The children learning at home have been fantastic, with many home classrooms looking OFSTED ready! Those children with us in school have adapted to new rooms or different teachers, with amazing flexibility.

We do not have any information as yet as to when school closures may end and will only find out when it is announced later this month. Whilst we all hope restrictions will be lifted at the earliest opportunity, we just don't know yet when that will be. Until that time we will continue with our current provision.

Mr Tucker

You may have noticed that Mr Tucker has been absent from school this week and this is due to a family bereavement. Apologies for the cancellation of the parent discussion sessions, but this was unavoidable.

Inter-House Whole School Fitness Challenge

On Wednesday afternoon, all the children in school took part in a virtual fitness challenge with Tracey Turner, PE Lead at Cleeve School via microsoft TEAMS. Tracey kindly supports our school with PE and sports events, as part of our membership of the Cleeve Sports Network of schools.

Each child was paired up with another and asked to perform different exercises for 30 seconds each. The exercises were: Star Jumps, Squats, Upward Air Punches, Heel

kicks, Toe touch and jump & Knee to Elbow Lifts. The number of repetitions, for each exercise, by each child, was then 'counted'. The average score for each House was then calculated for each class and points awarded per position in the classroom.

Every child gave their absolute all and enjoyed their thirty minute session. The sights and sounds of children frenetically exercising, counting and recording was something to behold from Reception to Year 6! There were a few teachers and teaching assistants aching afterwards!

The overall **winners** were **MALVERN**. Second were Nottingham and joint third were Cleeve and Leckhampton

Certificates for all the houses were presented at today's virtual assembly. Well done to everyone that took part.

Unfortunately, due to the logistics involved this time, the children who are remote learning at home could not take part in this event BUT, I am thinking of organising a similar challenge for them next term!

Mr Hoyle

House Photograph Competition

It's House competition time again and we would like you to send in a winning photograph with



the theme of 'Hello Spring'. House points will be awarded to all entries with additional points given to the winners. Entries need to be in by Friday 19th March and can be sent digitally to class teachers via Dojo or email. There are already some very early signs of Spring so you may want to make the most of them during half term!



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STEM week 8th – 12th March

It is that time of year again when we all start thinking about explosions, rocket fuel and chicks. That's right, STEM week is creeping up on the 8th March. For any reception parents who haven't experienced our STEM week before, it is a hugely popular and important time for our children and staff where we dissolve the normal curriculum for a week and focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). Usually we are inundated with amazing adults who bring the subjects alive in class with demonstrations and wizardry. But, how do we solve a problem like STEM week when we don't know where we will be or how we will be teaching?

That is where I need all of our fantastic Woodmancote Community members to put your thinking caps on. Of course, we will be planning accessible activities to do in school and at home, if we are still in lockdown, but if there is anyone who would like to record something for a year group or has any bright ideas that we could share please get in contact. Thank you in advance as our STEM community blows me away every year with your generosity and enthusiasm.

Mrs Holding and the STEM team

Please contact:

lholding@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk

Times Tables Rock Stars Competition

An exciting times tables competition is being held for schools in Gloucestershire to be 'Top of the Rocks!' Starting on Wednesday 24th Feb we need you to log in and play, practicing those times tables, trying to get as many correct answers as possible. We will be playing in school, but don't forget to also log on at home.

Mrs McCormack

Little Chestnuts

Our Little Chestnuts have been very busy over the last few weeks. They have been learning some makaton signs to go with their story making and we have been so impressed with their Gingerbread Man story maps, the re-telling of their story and the fantastic Gingerbread singing.

Just a few reminders for parents:

Can we ask that wherever possible children arrive before 9am when the gate is locked. As it is very wet outside please can children bring wellies in every day, these can remain in preschool if this is easier.

Also just a little reminder that toys are not allowed to come in with children at the moment, unless it is an essential comforter.

Year 2 News

This week has been very busy in Year 2. We continued thinking about Children's Mental Health Week and have done lots of activities where we have talked about this. We've read lots of stories to help us understand various aspects of mental health including The Colour Monster, Only One You, The Invisible String and Ruby's Worry. The children have also enjoyed taking part in our inter-house PE competition, making rocky road, and eating pancakes (a week early) to celebrate Shrove Tuesday!



Foodbank Vouchers

As the lockdown continues we are very aware that the financial burdens on families increase!

PLEASE do get in touch if you'd like to request some foodbank vouchers to help meet the needs of your family in these difficult times.

The local Cotswold foodbank are incredibly friendly and supportive when you go to pick up your items **OR** alternatively if you are unable to collect (no transport/self-isolating), transport can be arranged via the school.

To request simply email or telephone **Leanne McNamee** (NEST Lead) who will deal with your matter confidentially.

PLEASE DO NOT GO WITHOUT IF YOU ARE IN NEED!

Email: lmcnamee@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk

Telephone: 01242 674312

WOODMANCOTE POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

Thank you to ALL who have taken part in the challenges so far. It is great to have such a wonderful response from you all both at home and in school! I apologise for not releasing one this week, however Challenge 5 is to start today and will continue over half term.

Challenge 5: Cloud Art

When out and about over half term take a moment to stop, breath and look at the sky. Have a look at the clouds and see if you can see any images in the cloud formations. If possible take a photograph or draw them and send them in - it would be great to see what

images are up in the sky around Woodmancote!



This is a photograph Mr Hoyle took... I could see a giraffe head and Mr Hoyle could see a poodle. What can you see?

Send in your cloud images/drawings to lmcnamee@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk

HAVE FUN AND STAY SAFE OVER HALF TERM ☺

Welfare

We are aware that some people are beginning to struggle with the uncertainty of our current situation. There are a number of fantastic organisations that are available to help. Here are just a few that we would recommend.

CALM

CALM is the Campaign Against Living Miserably A charity providing a mental health helpline and webchat.
Phone: 000 58 58 58 (daily, 5pm to midnight)
Website: www.thecalmzone.net

Mind

Promotes the views and needs of people with mental health problems.
Phone: 0300 123 3393 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm)
Website: www.mind.org.uk



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Samaritans

Confidential support for people experiencing feelings of distress or despair.

Phone: 116 123 (free 24-hour helpline)

Website: www.samaritans.org.uk

Parent Support and Advice line

Support if you are worried about your child's mental health, emotional well-being or behaviour.

Phone: 08006525675 Mon-Wed 5pm-9pm

Tues and Sat 9.30am-1pm

Website: www.ticplus.org/parent-carers



Atlas Camps will be running camps this February half-term at Woodmancote for children of critical workers and vulnerable children. If you are eligible for childcare in either of these categories, please head on over to: <https://atlas camps.co.uk/camps/> to secure your place.

Contact Details

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thepta@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk

woodpeckers@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk

chair@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk

School Website:

www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk

Pre-school Website:

<http://littlechestnutspreschoolwoodmancote.co.uk/>



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