



Woodmancote School
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Newsletter

www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk

Newsletter 19. 23rd April 2021

Welcome back to the Summer Term and the glorious weather!

As many of you are all too aware the summer term is usually a term when children participate in a range of activities in and out of school. The last year has undoubtedly been hard for many, so we are looking forward to planning and running as many activities as we possibly can in the coming weeks, even if there may be some slight changes as to how they are run.

We are obviously waiting upon further guidance from the Government regarding the easing of restrictions, so it may be that we cannot provide you with actual dates and times at this point, but please be assured that we are looking to run Sports Days, Performances, Visits for new Reception children and trips before the children finish in July.

A big thank you to everyone who supported our efforts today. We even had a visit from William Shakespeare himself!



You are always welcome to drop in books you have finished with or buy one of the books from the list sent out on Monday. They all go to help class libraries. If you have ordered a book and it has not arrive, do not worry, just send it in when you receive it.

Race to the Tower for Tommy

Some of you will already know Tommy Squire and his family, but for those of you who do not, Tommy, was a wonderful member of our school community for far too short a time, before his untimely death in 2020.

His family have been surrounded by the love of many of you, but we thought you would all like to hear of how some of our parents are raising money for the Grand Appeal.

<https://www.grandappeal.org.uk/>

In June this year Cat, Clare and George are taking on the daunting challenge of 52 miles, 84km, over 2 days, (that's double marathon distance!) of the challenging Cotswold Way from Stroud to Broadway Tower. This is in the hope that we can raise some money in memory of our friend Lorraine's son Tommy, who passed away in August 2020 aged just 9 years old.

Tommy will always be remembered by his friends at Woodmancote School as a cheeky, fun loving, joke telling, football crazy boy who loved fortnite and had a wicked sense of humour. Sadly, over the course of 5 years, Tommy spent so much of his short life on Starlight Ward at Bristol Children's Hospital. There he was treated by the fantastic team of doctors, nurses and health professionals as part of his long and brave battle with Leukemia. It is important to Tommy's family to be able to help raise money, to be able to thank and give back to the wonderful team on Starlight Ward, to ensure Tommy's name and memory live on, whilst helping other children needing & going through treatment for cancer.

In February 2019 Tommy had rung the bell as an official end to his treatment for leukemia. That spring during a girls trip to Paris, when Cat and Clare were

running the Paris marathon, we hatched the next challenge, The Race to the Tower. We had a great trip with happy memories. Devastatingly not long after this trip Tommy was taken poorly again, his leukemia had returned. Following a bone marrow transplant and 17 weeks in isolation on Starlight Ward Tommy's tired body could not fight any longer and he gained his angel wings.

The official Race To The Tower challenge has not yet taken place. The event was cancelled in 2020 and again in 2021 due to Covid, but not wanting to wait another year, on June the 5th and 6th Clare, Cat and I will complete our own version of the challenge, for Tommy, for Lorraine and for the Starlight Ward. It's 84km of challenging hills with nearly 2,300 metres of elevation to negotiate. It's by far the toughest challenge we have ever taken on. We will run, jog, walk and crawl if we need to and hope to meet Lorraine for the final challenge, the last hill up to Broadway Tower. (Renowned for her cheerleading skills and motivational signs I can't wait to see that cheeky grin when we finally get there!)

Please, if you can, sponsor us, no matter what the amount. The money raised will enable us to buy equipment for Starlight Ward, so that Tommy's name will be remembered for years to come, leaving a legacy to help other children & their families in the place that was

home to him and his family for so much of his short life.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/georgina-bull2>

Photo Competition

Well done to everyone that entered our 'Hello Spring!' house photo competition. All of the photographs made us smile and it was hard to choose between them! All the children that entered have been awarded house points but some additional ones have been given to these year group winners. Congratulations Tate, Barney, Libby, Bella, Seren and Gethin.

The Big Ask



Hi, my name is Rachel de Souza and I'm the Children's Commissioner for England. My job is to speak up for children in England, stand up for their rights, and make sure that the people in power listen to what children need and want.

It's time to give something big back to young people like you after COVID — and we need your help to do it.

This is the largest ever survey of children and young people in England. We'll use what you tell us to show the government what you think, and what children need to live happier lives.

This survey will only take you 5-10 minutes. Choose your age group to get started!

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/>

The Big Ask is a survey for children and young people aged 4-17 in England. We've





split the survey into different age groups, so you can fill in a version appropriate for your age. We've also made easy-read 'accessible' versions as well as a version for care leavers.

Why you should take part

This is your chance to have your say on the things that matter to you. You can tell us what your life is like, what you want in the future, and anything you think is holding you back.

We'll use what you say to tell the people who run the country or your local area what you think needs to change to make your life better.

Your privacy

We won't ask for your name, phone number or email, and we'll keep what you tell us safe and private - it won't be shared with anyone else. You don't have to answer any question if you don't want to.

Frequently Asked Questions

Find answers to frequently asked questions about The Big Ask.

[Frequently asked questions | Children's Commissioner for England](#)
[Children's Commissioner for England](#)
childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

Year 6 Hoodies

It is that time of the year again and Year 6 children can purchase a Hoodie in one of four colours through the school's Parent Pay system. This year the school will be coordinating the process and children can meet with Miss Charlesworth to try on the samples to determine an appropriate size.

Parents will be able to see a Hoodie payment on Parent Pay from this coming Monday.

Year 6 Year Book

We are looking for any parents of Year 6 children who would be able and willing to coordinate the publication of the School Year Book. The school can coordinate payments, etc, but a parental input and coordinating role would be great!

Please email Mr Tucker asap if you or a group of you are interested in this.

Research

From time to time we are asked to promote research amongst parents and children, so some of you may be interested in participating in the following.

My name is Abigail Savory and I am a postgraduate researcher, currently undertaking an MSc in Health Psychology at the University of Gloucestershire. A component of this course is a dissertation project, for which I am investigating non key worker parents/guardians experience of parenting-related stress, in relation to home-schooling, working from home and child behaviour during the last lockdown (January 2021 - March 2021).

I am currently recruiting non key-worker parents/guardians of children aged 4 - 11 years to participate in this study. I appreciate that for some parents/guardians, this may be a sensitive and emotive topic at present. As such, the information sheet and debrief sheet that accompany the questionnaire provide details of organisations to contact should participants feel they need extra support. Participation will be completely anonymised, and participants advised of their rights to withdraw should they wish to, and contact details for myself as lead researcher, and my supervisor provided. Ethical approval for this study has



been granted by the University of Gloucestershire's ethics committee.

There is a surprising paucity of academic literature surrounding this area of research, and as such, I hope to build on this study's findings by using such to recommend bespoke support to families as we leave lockdown. The results of this research will be available to view once it has been assessed by both the University of Gloucestershire and external examiners.

I would be extremely grateful if your school could share this survey with parents/guardians of pupils, I have attached the recruitment advertisement and the link for the study can be found below.

<https://glos.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/parental-stress-research-study>

Thank you very much for your time.
Abigail Savory

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www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk

Pre-school Website:

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



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