



Woodmancote School
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Newsletter

www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk

Friday 17th January 2025



Woodmancote School is working to increase pupils' confidence and resilience with new award from the

Leadership Skills Foundation

Woodmancote has this week been revealed as one of only 15 primary schools in the country working with the Leadership Skills Foundation to trial the Shape Your Skills award; an accredited personal development award for Key Stage 2 pupils. The schools participating in the pilot will be known as "Trailblazers" and will deliver the award from January to July 2025.

Through the Shape Your Skills Award, pupils from Years 5 and 6 will build the essential skills and qualities they need to lead and learn. The award focusses on building five skills (teamwork, organisation, communication, self-belief and problem solving) and will culminate in a final Leadership Challenge, where learners will bring all their skills together in a group project.

The announcement comes as the government looks to prioritise skill development and will ensure the pupils at Woodmancote are well-catered for in terms of personal development; a key part of Ofsted inspection criteria.

The School will work with the Leadership Skills Foundation to provide feedback and insight from both teachers and pupils to help inform the resources and shape the award for its full launch in August 2025.

Richard Norman Chief Executive for the Leadership Skills Foundation said: "We are really pleased to have Woodmancote onboard as one of our Trailblazer centres for the

Shape Your Skills Award. We know from our own and wider research that the earlier we can support children to develop essential leadership skills, the more likely they are to embed these skills and use them to support their learning throughout their educational journey.

We know that greater confidence and self-belief leads to heightened engagement with studies and a more positive outlook on life. We want this for all children and young people, and the Shape Your Skills Award is how we can support that aim from an earlier point in children's education."

Some pupils may use the award to help them take on leadership roles in the school with greater confidence, such as Ambassadors and School Council members. By developing these skills, and the confidence and resilience they foster, the award also aims to help the learners prepare for their transition to secondary school.

The Shape Your Skills Award has been designed with the time constraints facing teachers and teaching assistants in mind. With over 12 hours of delivery through digital presentations and in-class activities, the Trailblazer schools will be encouraged to adapt delivery to suit the needs of the curriculum and their school timetable. It is also flexible enough to be offered as an after-school opportunity.

The Shape Your Skills Award will be available to all primary schools from August/September 2025 so if you too work in a school and are interested [Register your school's interest to deliver the award in the 2025-26 academic year, today.](#)

Leadership Skills Foundation

The Leadership Skills Foundation is a prominent awarding organisation dedicated to the development of leadership skills in young



people. We bring these essential skills to life through practically applied qualifications and accredited awards across the curriculum and beyond, empowering learners with the confidence to believe, the qualities to lead and the skills to succeed.

To find out more, please contact:

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Family Support

Parenting can be overwhelming at times. If you feel you need some support to help with Family Life, the Aspire Foundation are running a number of helpful local workshops. Their Family Support team can help you with issues like: parenting, managing behaviour, finances, routines, ages and stages of development, healthy relationships, how to get support through the graduated pathway and accessing other services. Please see the attached flyers for further information.

School Photos

Thank you to everyone who filled in the recent survey. We had a third of our families respond and out of that approximately 60% were happy with them and 40% were not.

We fed back to the photographer and discussed the concerns that some of you had about the background, the general presentation of the children and the poses that they were in. Our next set of photographs due are in May, when teams and Year 6 children will have photographs. We will be using this as an opportunity for the photographer to respond to your concerns.

We will make a decision about whether we continue with them after May. Thank you to members of the PTA who raised this issue,

but please, if there is anytime when you feel that there is an aspect of our provision here at Woodmancote, that you are unhappy about, please do contact me directly. We would much prefer to hear it straightaway and endeavour to do something about it.

Pallets

We have several pallets by the front door that are going free to a good home! Please come and help yourself! Or simply take them for the wood.

Lost Property

We have four Lost property Bins around the school that contain an array of various items. If your child has lost something, please ask to look in these bins. They are sited in the following locations in the school building

Outside Maple Class (Year 1)

Outside Yew (Year 5)

Next to the Hygiene suite near Cedar class

Outside Pine Class (Year 3)

At regular points we will put these bins outside for parents, but we cannot continue to store vast quantities of lost property, so we do forward unclaimed items each term to local charity shops.

Panathlon

Congratulations to our small, but absolutely brilliant Panathlon Team, who represented the school recently. They did incredibly well to finish a respectable fifth. We hope they enjoyed competing against other schools and being awarded their medals!

Atlas Camps

If you are looking for childcare during the holidays, ATLAS CAMPS will be on the playground on Tuesday 21st January in the morning if you would like to know a little more about them.



Calendar Dates 2025-26

These are now available to parents and can be found on our website and have been attached to this newsletter.

Loose Parts for playtimes

We are once again looking to top up our loose parts and are asking for the following from parents/carers. If you have any of these or related items, please bring them in next week. Class teachers will be happy to accept donations

- Suitcases of any size and type
- Anything on wheels/castors
- delivery crates
- Road signs and cones
- Tools like small spades/shovels, trowels and brooms
- Tubes of various sizes and various materials
- Buckets
- Keyboards/torches/laptops/calculators/mobile phones/desk phones/webcams/cameras that are no longer working
- old shower curtains!
- Foam sheets/bodyboards/camping roll mats/yoga mats
- Guttering
- Noodles (the type you use in the swimming pool!)

Dates for the Diary

January 2025	
21 st	Atlas Camps on the playground before school
23 rd	Year 5 will be able to meet with a Barrister who is coming to school to tell them about what they do.
23 rd	Woodpeckers-Caving Experience

February	
10 th	Year 3 Roman Day
14 th	Year 3 trip to the Corinium Museum
14 th February	Last day of term 3
24 th	First day of Term 4
24 th -27 th	Year 6 Bikeability
25 th	PTA Pancake Flip
27 th	Year 4 to see production of 'In the Net' (online safety)
March	
3 rd -6 th	Year 6 Bikeability
10 th	Racecourse Visit
12 th	Year 5 group to Mock Trial at Council Chambers
17 th -21 st	STEM Week
27 th March	PTA Disco
April	
7 th -9 th April	Year 4 Residential to The Pioneer Centre
10 th April	Last day of Term 4
Monday 28 th April	First day of Term 5
30 th	Year 1 trip to SS Great Britain
May	
1 st	Swimming starts for Year 3
5 th May	May Day No School
8 th	80 years since VE Day
w/b 12 th	SATs for Year 6
16 th	Photographs for classes and Year 6
w/b 19 th	Year 6 Residential to Whitemoor Lakes
23 rd	Last day of Term 5
June	
2 nd June	INSET
3 rd June	First day of Term 6 for children
12 th June	Year 5 Sudeley Castle
July	
18 th July	Last day of Term 6



Staff Emails

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Mr Adkin	padkin@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Howard	nhoward@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mr Evans	revans@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs White	jwhite@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mr Ridal	lridal@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Pearman	gpearman@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs Holding	lholding@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
Mrs McNamee	lmcnamee@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk
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