



Dear Parents and Carers

Well, what a term! So much has happened over this school year, but this half term has been very busy. We have seen some very exciting developments in the school grounds. Friends of Woodlands funded a trim trail for the Lower School, so that both sites now have access to a great space to develop their physical skills outside. This is already being well-used as you will see in this Spotlight.

We have also been part of an incredible 'Big Build' project to develop a Wild Woods area for the pupils. We hope you have seen the updates on our Facebook page. Read more inside.

Classes have had a great term, with Feeling Good week, Sports Day, Singing Hands and even a trip back in time to visit the Tudors at Hampton Court Palace. Enjoy finding out more about it here.

The Children with Special Needs Foundation were kind enough to fund a brand new Eye Gaze device, that we have already put to good use for giving our pupils who need this type of access the opportunity to practice using it, so that they can be assessed for their own device in the future. Huge thanks for Gordon and Ann for supporting us with this.

Lisa has taken on the role of supporting access to technology for all pupils across the school over the last term and has included some information in a new blog in this Spotlight.

None of the fantastic opportunities and projects that our pupils take part in can happen without huge amounts of work and dedication from all of our staff team,

including making videos in their holidays, planning, shopping and preparing resources for exciting events and writing blogs, much of which takes place in their own time. Thank you to everyone for your hard work this year.

Finally, big congratulations to teacher Emma and her family on the arrival of their new baby, Louis. We hope you are all enjoying your time together.

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Rosie and Sarah

## Lunch Time Clubs on offer in the autumn term

### Lower School



Big Bubble Club



Writing & Drawing Club



Ribbon/ Parachute Games



Dance Club

### Upper School



Exercise Club



Lego & Games Club



Ball Games



Dance Club



scan this QR code to listen to this page.



Welcome to our new segment in Spotlight. The start of an AAC PODDcast designed to inspire and create fun opportunities for electronic AAC use at home. After all, communication devices are for life, not just for Christmas.

In today's episode we explore the concept of AI and how it can support those who struggle with the dexterity involved in producing art.

Imagine bringing your ideas to life, adding illustrations to your story, producing artwork for the fridge at home.

All of this is now possible with the power of AI - express your thoughts, feelings and ideas as an image with the touch of a button, push of a switch or gaze of the eye.

I'm asking a question. How?

With a new grid set called Mind's Eye, users of grid 3 can generate images based on typed ideas or a couple of symbol categories, and an artistic vibe. Why not have a go at downloading Mind's Eye, or the Mind's Eye Adapted version which uses symbols, from online grids and see what images you can make.



You can even edit the adapted version with key characters and actions relevant to your child. Pinewood had a go at this for a pupil's birthday - we changed the characters to her TV heroes and made all the actions birthday related. Look at some of the wonderful examples we created.

I think that's. Great!

The Pupils were so excited by the outcome!



Have you got a favourite way of using electronic AAC at home? Send the details to [lisa.akhlacci@woodlands.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:lisa.akhlacci@woodlands.surrey.sch.uk) and you could feature in the next episode of Say What?!

Thank you for reading and remember ... AAC gives voice to the soul — proving that communication is not limited by sound but powered by connection.

## Badgers Class News

This half term our focus has been exploring 'The Zoo'. We have looked at different zoo animals, created zoo dioramas, washed the dirty zoo animals, taken care of the zoo animals and made food for them in the home corner.



We have also been making the most of the nice weather and trying to be outside as much as possible. We love the outside area in badgers and using the water tables and bubble machine. We like getting wet and having fun!



## Hedgehogs Class News

Hedgehogs have been outside this half term enjoying our new Trim Trail – a series of outdoor play and exercise stations that encourage movement, exploration and fun! It has supported sensory regulation, developed gross motor skills like coordination and balance as well as a chance to practise important social skills like turn taking, waiting patiently and encouraging friends. We would like to say a huge thank you to Friends of Woodlands for their fundraising.



## Foxes Class News

In history this term Foxes have thought about seaside holidays of the past. We learnt all about Victorian beachgoers and exploring how holidays during the Victorian era were different from today.

We have enjoyed listening to Punch and Judy shows, learnt about the types of food people would have enjoyed and the clothing worn during seaside outings. We made sandwiches for the Victorian picnic where we had fun spreading butter and jam and assembling the sandwiches. We had lots of fun at our own Victorian beach picnic in the outside learning area.



Foxes had a great time exploring the sand at the 'beach' and using their creativity to build sandcastles. They enjoyed feeling the texture of the sand, experimenting with wet and dry sand and using buckets, spades and moulds to create their own sand art.



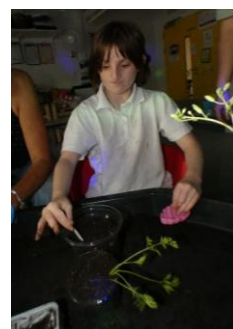
We have had a wonderful time stepping back in time and dressing up as Victorians.

## Squirrels Class News

Squirrels have had a lovely half term exploring our focus of “5 a day”.

We have looked at where our food comes from in geography and what we can make using healthy ingredients!

We have become gardeners this term. We have been growing carrots, radish, cauliflower, onions and tomatoes.



After we explored how we grow our food, we then embarked on a healthy pizza making activity! We used a yoghurt and flour recipe to make the bases and then cut our ingredients up that we wanted to top our pizzas, it was so much fun and of course YUMMY!!



## Woodpeckers News

This term our topic focus has been '5 a day'. Woodpeckers have definitely enjoyed this focus!

In art Woodpeckers have enjoyed making different summer recipes. They have made rainbow fruit kebabs, lemon biscuits and chocolate covered strawberries!



During geography we have been exploring all different fruit and vegetables. We have learnt about where the food comes from and how it grows. We have tasted the different fruit and vegetables as well as planted our own strawberries and carrots.



In maths we have been practicing fractions, specifically focusing on a whole and a half. A few of the pupils have been working on thirds and quarters as well. We have cut different fruit and vegetables in half as well as using foam and playdough!

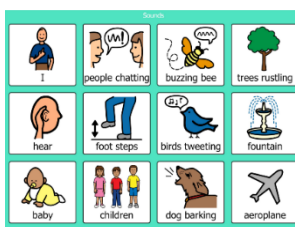


## Rabbits Class News

What a wonderful day Rabbits class had on our trip to Nymans National Trust property! Nymans includes the ruins of the medieval style manor house burned down in 1947 and a stunning garden with unusual plants and beautiful flowering borders.



In science, Rabbits have been learning about sound, and we took along a symbolated ALD to identify the different sounds we could hear – birds tweeting, children playing and an aeroplane zooming. We used our senses to explore unusual plants, feeling large rough heart shaped leaves, wispy feathered fronds and looked at the light filtering through tree branches.



Rabbits enjoyed the woodland play area, exploring wind chimes, stepping stones, and a bamboo house.



At lunchtime, we found the shade of a large oak tree and played some parachute games, ribbons and bubbles. All too soon, it was time to go back to school. We have had great fun in class looking at all our photos and remembering our special day...



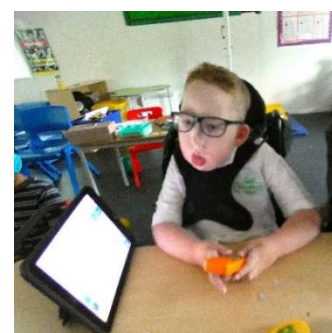
## Owls Class News

Owls Science focus for the second half of the summer term has been “Sound”. We have been exploring different sounds and how sound travels, and identifying common environmental sounds playing sound Bingo.

We conducted different sound experiments, recreating how your ear drum detects vibrations and transforms them into sound, using cling film pulled taut over a container, placing rice on top and making it jump by banging a drum over the top of it.

We also made the classic paper cup and string “telephone” and took it in turns to vocalise into the cup and listen to the message; we were surprised to discover that sound travelled through the string and became clearer the tighter the string was pulled!

Owls have enjoyed experimenting with using our voices at different pitches and volumes, recording and playing back noises, and sometimes making each other jump by playing a variety of instruments and devices at different distances!



## Sports Day 2025

Thank you for all the parents who joined us for a very hot sports day this year! Both upper school and lower school were able to show different skills they have been learning throughout the year including basketball shoot outs, boccia, water obstacle courses and lots more!

We enjoyed working with different classes throughout both upper and lower school sports days with new friendships being formed.

We'd like to say a big thank you to Brooke Reed who took up the job of Sports Day Assistant. Brooke helped to welcome parents and carers and supported taking photos and playing music. Some quotes from visitors on the day was that the event was 'Fantastic' and 'It's great to see all the children enjoying themselves'. Well done Brooke.





### **Woodlands and Santander 'Big Build'**

A few months ago, we were approached about an opportunity to put in a bid for a project of our choosing, to be put forward to Santander for their annual 'Big Build'. We have talked in the past about the how fantastic it would be for our pupils, if we could develop a true 'Woodland' area, that is both accessible and safe for our pupils to use as part of their learning. We had an area of woodland, between two sites, that was over-grown and unused, that seemed the perfect space.

With a very short turnaround time, a group of our fantastic teachers, worked together with their classes, to produce a video to send to Santander as part of the bid process. They then met with the team during February half term, and we were delighted that we were selected as the project for the year.

With a lot of careful preparation and planning from Colin, Jo and the Splash team, who run the project, and work with Santander to fund and carry out the build, we were ready to go!

The weather was very kind to everyone when the Santander and Splash Projects team were on site for a couple of weeks in July. There was a very clear 'buzz' around the school as the pupils were able to watch what was going on and feel part of the process. The finished 'Wild Woods' (as named by the pupils) is an incredible space, that will be used by everyone, for many years to come. We are extremely grateful to everyone at Santander for choosing us and giving up their time and resources to provide this for

us. We are also very thankful to Colin and his team at Splash, for ensuring the project ended up being exactly what we had hoped for and more.



Please take the time to go and have a look if you are in school. It will be great to see how this is being used in the next edition of Spotlight.

A video has been made of the finished project and will be available on our Facebook page soon.



## Elmwood Class News

This term we have been to Hampton Court to enjoy their Tudor festival! It was a very busy day for everyone, and we all enjoyed the activities they had on offer. On the bus trip to Hampton Court, the day was already made seeing two ambulances and a police car! We arrived and were whisked straight into the festival to enjoy music, dancing, exploration of knights armour, jousting! We think Elmwood would fit right in with the Tudors! Our favourite part of the day was definitely the jousting and the dancing.

We would also like to say a big thank you to Karen Thomas, our lovely Governor for coming with us and supporting us on the day.



## Beechwood Class News

The Beechwood pupils have had lots of fun in their art lessons this term. They have used a range of new techniques and tools to create works of art linked to this term's theme of 'water'. The pupils have built 3D works using foam, used straws to spread paint, spray painted canvases and created a class mural by painting with mops. It did get a bit messy at times!



## Ashwood Class News

Ashwood have been learning to sign to a range of songs this term and several students have taken part in regular 'Singing and signing' sessions at the Beeches Care Home on Friday afternoons. Over the weeks we have been going our audience has grown so they have had to start including more chairs. The residents have starting joining in with the singing and signing with us at times. It is a thoroughly enjoyable time for us, and we have been growing our list of songs as the weeks progress by taking requests from the residents. Our favourite songs include 'Sweet Caroline', 'I can't help falling in love with you' and 'This is Me' from the Greatest Showman.



## Careers and Transitions Update

This year we have had a greater focus on creating provider access opportunities for our pupils in the upper school. In the autumn term, a tutor from Orchard Hill College came to school to share a presentation with the pupils about life at their college. Recently, our job coach from Surrey Choices Employability led an assembly to showcase and share the achievements of our pupils who have been out on external work experience placements this year.

In June, some dance coaches from the Freewheelers Theatre and Media Company came to run an 'Ecstatic Dance' workshop with some of our pupils. They really enjoyed trying out some new moves.



Some pupils also went on a visit to 'The Grange Centre' in Bookham to find out about the activities and enterprise opportunities that might be available to them when they leave school or college.



An updated version of the school's transition pack will be sent out to parents and carers of pupils in Years 9 and above in September 2025. Please do read through this when you receive it and keep working on the action points for each year group. **For pupils in the 6<sup>th</sup> form, parents are expected to know their preference for post 19 provision by the year 13 annual review meeting.** We will also be holding a coffee morning with the Surrey Transition team early next term – the date will be confirmed asap.

## Orchard Class News

We have had a great year in Orchard and it has been amazing to see how much the pupils have progressed over the year and to celebrate all of their achievements. We have enjoyed our water exploration, making boats from a range of materials and seeing how many people they could hold before they sank!

We also spent time in maths investigating shapes and working on some simple sorting tasks, as well as always enjoying our favourite counting songs!

This year we have loved our music therapy sessions with Kamilla, and it's been great to see the confidence of the pupils grow and to see the wonderful communication and turn taking that happens during each session.

We also celebrated our RE day and enjoyed learning about some of the beliefs of Christians and the promises of God, and we had fun turning water into wine and singing some of the songs Christians use to remind them of these promises.

We hope you all have a fantastic holiday, and we look forward to seeing everyone in September.



## Pinewood Class News

Pinewood have had an incredible year and have worked very hard to build their communication skills, maintain and strengthen their physical ability and have beautiful meaningful interactions with their peers.

We have used Feeling Good Week as a celebration and a chance to feel proud about the young adults we are growing into.





## Important Dates for Autumn Term 2025

Wednesday 3 September

Thursday 4 September

Tuesday 23 September

Wednesday 22 October

Thursday 23 October

Friday 24 October

School closed – INSET Day

School re-opens for Autumn Term

Meet the Teacher and FOW AGM

School closed – INSET Day

School closed – INSET Day

School closed – INSET Day

**Monday 27 to Friday 31 October**

**Half Term Holiday**

Monday 3 November

Friday 19 December

School re-opens

Break up for Christmas, 1pm

**Monday 22 December to Friday 2 January**

**Christmas Holiday**



We will be welcoming back Sue from Surrey Family Information Service to another coffee and chat next term on Friday 19 September at 9.30 – 10.30am in the lower school staff room. Sue will be here to give you information, advice, and signpost you to local services, groups and activities that could help and benefit your children and family. If you would like to find out more about the help and support available, or if you have been trying to find help and are not sure where to start, or what there is, Sue will be able to give you guidance on services and support. I very much look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

My email address is [nicola.sutehall@woodlands.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:nicola.sutehall@woodlands.surrey.sch.uk).

With very best wishes

Nicola, Parent Support Advisor



## Together Everyone Achieves More

Charity Number: 279504

[friends@woodlands.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:friends@woodlands.surrey.sch.uk)

### Friends of Woodlands – Celebrating a wonderful year

We can't believe it's another year closing for our children and another year of epic fundraising by the team and all the incredible support the Woodlands community offers. From donations for Christmas Hampers to help at the Easter Trail and donations for Bags2School the sum of all the parts really adds up!

Sadly we didn't have enough help to put on a Summer Fair this year so please do consider joining the team next year or offering some help at events only!

### SNOWDON SUMMIT SUCCESS



On 21st June, a team from work colleagues of Ben Kemp at ServiceNow climbed Mount Snowdon to raise funds for Friends of Woodlands. So far they have raised an incredible £2782. A huge thanks to Ben, (Dad of Halle in Badgers) and ServiceNow for choosing Friends of Woodlands to be their charity to support.

### LOTTERY WINNERS

The FoW lottery was drawn recently with 6 lucky winners!

Katherine Rayner won a whopping £130 with 5 other winners (Julie Campbell, Karen Luckman, Venita King, Gill Lloyd and Emma Samuels-Lee) each receiving £30

If you are interested in entering the lottery next year please keep an eye out for information in the new term or email FOW for more information.

### FOW AGM

**Tuesday 23 September at 'Meet the Teacher' night**



## Together Everyone Achieves More

Charity Number: 279504

[friends@woodlands.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:friends@woodlands.surrey.sch.uk)

Thanks to your massive support FOW raised over £29k last year and supported the purchase of .....

### £20,000 TOWARDS A PLANNED NEW SOFTPLAY

### ADVANTA GROUP DONATION OF £2,400 TOWARDS CLASS ACTIVITIES

The Advanta Group have continued to support our school and have just recently agreed a new donation of £2,400 so each class can have an appropriate activity, outing or experience. These will be peppered throughout the next year. We are truly grateful to the Advanta group for continuing to support our children.

### WISHING TREE ITEMS

Items for each class chosen by the class staff were purchased by attendees of the golf day on a special wishing tree which meant they could see what they were gifting

### £2,500 FOR IN-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

FoW has donated £2500 towards in-school activities next academic year - Singing Hands, Theatre Visits and Workshops

### FOW AGM

**Tuesday 23 September at 'Meet the Teacher' night**

## FOW CHAIRS AND TREASURER ARE STANDING DOWN

After five years Ellie Cowe and Sara Podmore (Co-Chairs) alongside Alexandra Austin (Treasurer) will be stepping down from their committee roles.

We invite anyone interested in standing for those roles to consider what is required of each role and put themselves forward for the position. A new chair and Treasurer will be voted in at the AGM which will be held on the same evening as Meet The Teacher (Tuesday 23 September).

A brief outline of each role is below but please email the [friends@woodlands.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:friends@woodlands.surrey.sch.uk) if you are keen to see a full role description.

We have had some wonderful new parents join the team this year and welcome others to join.

### CHAIR

Chair is responsible for directing the committee's meetings, make sure everyone is involved and their views are heard. The Chair ensures all committee members are familiar with the constitution and their roles and responsibilities.

- Chairing FOW committee meetings
- Delegating tasks to other committee members and volunteers, checking they're completed and offering support where needed
- Liaising with the school for all matters
- Ensuring the committee is governed in line with our constitution.
- Ensuring any decisions are made correctly and fit the objectives of the association as set out in the constitution
- Writing and delivering the Chair's report for the AGM
- Signatory on the PTA bank account

### TREASURER.

The Treasurer ensures accurate financial records are kept and that best practice procedures are followed when counting money, making payments and banking.

The Treasurer keeps the committee updated with regular reports and ensures end-of-year reports are completed for the association's AGM.

- Keeping accurate and up-to-date financial records
- Presenting financial updates at each committee meeting
- Managing the PTA bank account
- Ensuring best practice procedures are followed for counting and banking money, making payments and claiming expenses by all committee members
- Making any approved payments on the committee's behalf
- Preparing the annual Treasurer's report for the AGM and arranging an independent examination of the association's accounts



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS MADE THIS HAPPEN - INCLUDING THE TEAM, FAMILIES, FRIENDS & BUSINESSES – THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED, PLAYED, ATTENDED AND BID AT THE AUCTIONS AND RAFFLES, SPONSORS AND DONATORS.**

**FRIENDS OF WOODLANDS GOLF DAY  
2ND MAY 2025**

**REACHED**

**TARGET OF £100,000  
WITH OVER £14,000 RAISED ON THE DAY!  
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE INVOLVED**



**AND ALL MONIES RAISED WILL MEAN OUR SCHOOL  
WILL GET A VERY EXCITING NEW SOFTPLAY!!!!**



## A message from the Therapists

# EQUIPMENT - WHO TO CONTACT:

It is your responsibility to maintain equipment by cleaning regularly, checking all fixings are secure and that any straps including those with buckles or Velcro continue to fasten. Pelvic straps should be used when the child is seated.



- For queries about a child's position or posture in their classroom seating please contact OT. Their email address is [emily.yelland@hrcaregroup.com](mailto:emily.yelland@hrcaregroup.com).

- For queries about a child's position in their standing frame, walker or sleep system please contact physio by emailing [rebecca.fisk@hrcaregroup.com](mailto:rebecca.fisk@hrcaregroup.com).



- For broken equipment or issues with maintenance (standers, chairs, walkers and sleep systems) please call Millbrook on 0330 124 1247.



- For Issues with wheelchairs (including positioning and maintenance concerns) please contact wheelchair services on 0330 124 8210 or by email [surreywcs@rosscare.co.uk](mailto:surreywcs@rosscare.co.uk).

- For issues regarding orthotics (including boots, splints, gaiters, helmets etc) please contact Epsom General Hospital Orthotics on 01372 735 568 or email [esth.orthoticsserviceegh@nhs.net](mailto:esth.orthoticsserviceegh@nhs.net).



- For queries regarding home equipment (including seating, bathing, hoisting) please contact The Children with Disabilities OT Team on 0300 470 9100.

## The Woodlands Fridge

The Woodlands Fridge has been running on Saturday evenings for over a year now.

Each week we take perfectly good food that would otherwise be thrown away and make it available to anyone that can use it. In that time, we have rescued and shared the equivalent of over 25,000 meals.



We never know what we are going to be given until our Woodlands volunteers arrive to collect and each week the content and amount varies, however it is well worth a visit on a Saturday evening, so please do come along with your shopping bags.

Watch out for our text message on a Saturday evening, including the school holidays. This is offered to all of our families and staff.

Dear pupils, parents and staff

There's been a lot happening lately, and I've been lucky to be part of it. Earlier in the term, some of us governors came for lunch. The older pupils served us food they'd helped make – we had yummy pizza bites, salad, and Eton Mess for dessert. The food was great, and the pupils were super friendly and helpful.

Two weeks ago I went to support Elmwood class at Hampton Court for the Tudor festival. The boys listened really well to music played on old instruments, then had fun jousting and learning a Tudor dance.

Just this week, I attended the upper school showcase and was amazed by everything the students had done. The hall was full of fun and energy – it really showed what school life is like.

I hope everyone has a fun and relaxing summer. I'll see many of you in the autumn! And since I've been around the upper school a lot this term, I think it's time I spent more time with the lower school too.

Karen Thomas  
Chair of Governors



Our team at the Ashted Village Day worked very hard and made over £1100 for funds, which is an amazing amount – congratulations to all of you! Catherine’s bottle stall alone took £407.50, and we thank all who gave bottles. Particular thanks go to Michael Perks and Carol Maybury for growing and nurturing so many plants for the stall – days of work beforehand. Thank you also to our committee members who supported this event on the day.

You may have been wondering why there has been no mention lately of the building of our urgently needed larger kitchen and toilet block at Fortyfoot Hall. The “go-ahead” on planning from Mole Valley council was only the beginning. Behind the scenes, our Chairman, Sharon, and members of our committee, with advice from others, have been ploughing their way through the complications of modern planning rules and restrictions, all requiring large fees to be paid, before a brick is laid.

Our **Wednesday club** continues on second and fourth Wednesday evenings. Our club leader is Steve Dyke (07582725073) and he is always ready to welcome new members (over 16) or helpers. We carry on throughout August.

Have you noted our **AGM on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September (7 for 7.30pm)**? Are you hoping to come? There will be a reminder next month.

Another date to note is our annual **Family Fun Quiz** with fish and chips on Saturday **22<sup>nd</sup> November (6 for 6.30pm)**. Supper is followed by our quiz, which includes two rounds of bingo. Our Quiz Master this year will be Phil Harris.

And E-mail [info@sunnybanktrust.org](mailto:info@sunnybanktrust.org) if you would like to join their bowls group on Tuesday afternoons in Alexandra Park, Epsom.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:**

**OUR AGM Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> September (7 for 7.30pm)**

**OUR QUIZ Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November (6 for 6.30pm)**



The poster features a blue background with red and white bunting at the top. On the left is the Best Pup Academy logo, and on the right is the Lions International logo. The main title 'Community FUN DAY' is in large, bold, red letters with a white outline. Below it, a red banner contains the event details: 'Fortyfoot Recreation Ground', 'Monday 25th August 2025', and '12pm - 4pm'. To the right of the banner is an illustration of an ice cream cone. Below the banner, the text 'and DOG SHOW' is written in large, bold, red letters. The illustration shows a girl in a yellow shirt and black helmet riding a grey horse, and two dogs: a black dog wearing a gold crown and a gold medal with the number '1', and a larger tan dog. At the bottom, a white banner lists the event features: 'Stalls • free bus services • Fun & Games • Entertainment • Refreshments'.

**Leatherhead Lions**

**Community**

**FUN DAY**

Fortyfoot Recreation Ground  
Monday 25th August 2025  
12pm - 4pm

and  
**DOG SHOW**

Stalls • free bus services • Fun & Games • Entertainment • Refreshments