



SPOTLIGHT

Together, Everyone Achieves More
February 2026



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the February issue of Spotlight. This has felt like a long half term, despite actually being quite short. We have seen pupils enjoying theatre visits, sports events and lots of wintery activities in their classrooms. We hope you will enjoy seeing what has been going on for everyone.

This is the first edition of Spotlight where our new friends at Cranmere are joining to show their news too. As some of you may remember back in the Summer, we talked about our new satellite provision that was opening up at Cranmere Primary School in Esher. Our new classes have now been open for two half terms and everyone has settled in so well. We are really proud of the new staff team, who have worked hard to get set up from nothing and turn Woodlands at Cranmere into a thriving community.

There are three classes at the site: Bluebells, Snowdrops and Foxgloves (Woodland Flowers). The site is led by Kirsty, the assistant head, who teaches in Bluebells, with Natalie and Becca teaching Snowdrops and Foxgloves. They have a great team behind them, who are getting to know the pupils well. We hope you enjoy seeing what they have been doing. Rosie has increased her days to give leadership capacity at Cranmere and we have a new admin team supporting on the site.

I'm sure there will be some chances later in the year for parents and pupils from both sites to come together at school events and get to know each other. It would be great if some of the Cranmere parents would be willing to join our very active Friends of Woodlands, so please email Rosie or Sarah if you are interested.

Have a great half term and we look forward to seeing you for the second half of the spring term.

Badgers Class News

This term Badgers have been learning about 'The Shops'. We have been busy exploring our role-play corner and enjoying a range of shop-based stories.

We have enjoyed writing shopping lists in literacy and choosing what we would buy at different shops.

In maths, we have been exploring money and playing with coins. We have been counting, printing and using them to buy in our play.



We spent a week learning about the bakery and enjoyed exploring a range of ingredients and decorating biscuits and making bread.

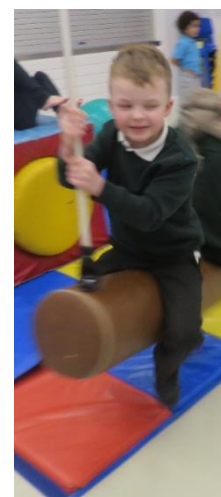
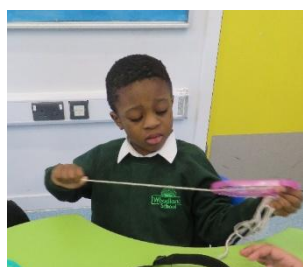
Badgers have been very busy this half term and have had lots of fun! It has been lovely to see the class playing and working hard together.

Great work Badgers!



Hedgehogs Class News

Hedgehogs have enjoyed science this half term exploring and identifying how different materials change due to forces of pushing and pulling. We used the snow we had at the beginning of the year to squash and squeeze, and explored different items in feely bags: pulling, pushing, turning, twisting and stretching. We were able to record what we liked best and use a range of descriptive words. Hedgehogs liked exploring big forces in the hall using the swing, big balls, soft play blocks and the parachute.



Foxes Class News

Foxes have been busy exploring lots of different materials. They have enjoyed sorting materials by how they look and feel and discovering which ones were hard, soft, stretchy or smooth. We have been experimenting with pushing and pulling materials to see how they change shape and had fun freezing and melting different items to see what happened.



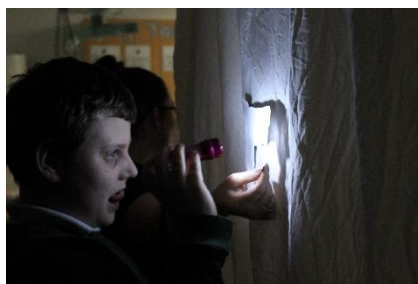
In history we have been enjoying learning about the Aztecs. We have explored different spices by smelling and feeling them, talking about the different scents and textures. We have been listening to traditional Aztec music and have had lots of fun playing along using percussion instruments. Foxes have also been getting creative by making beautiful Aztec jewellery, inspired by Aztec patterns and colours.



Squirrels Class News

This half term Squirrels have enjoyed exploring our focus “How?” We have explored weather in geography, light in science, film theme tunes in music, cooking in art as well as completing our daily literacy and maths. We have been very busy!

One of our favourite activities was creating our own shadows whilst exploring light. We made our own shadows using torches, animal outlines and a bed sheet. The pupils loved trying to guess which animal was being shown!



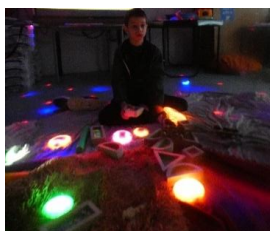
Squirrels class have loved making their spring snacks during art sessions. We have made vegetable wraps, Baby Bel bunnies, Rice Krispie nests, yoghurt cereal bars and Rice Krispie chicks! We tried different foods as well as learning to weigh our ingredients.



Woodpeckers Class News

We have had a very busy half term since coming back from the Christmas break. We have enjoyed exploring our focus area "How?"

We have been looking at rainbows, different types of weather and light. We have very much enjoyed turning the lights off and having fun with torches, sensory lights and playing instruments to match our mood.



We have had so much fun and have been lucky enough to be able to play with "real" snow! We collected it and brought it inside to make a snowman as part of our geography weather focus area. It was so much fun!



Rabbits Class News

Rabbits have been very lucky this half term to benefit from some in-class support from Ilona (Visual Impairment support teacher) and David (Multi-Sensory Impairment support teacher) from Surrey. We are working hard to develop our tactile curriculum across all subject areas.



Rabbits love sensory stories which is a great way to access learning. In PSHE, we have been telling the story of 'The Hungry Caterpillar' as part of our focus on healthy eating and making our own egg box caterpillars, whilst in RE we have been learning about the Hindu story of how the Goddess 'Ganga saves the earth' exploring 'Sweet Pongal' food and listening to traditional Indian music.



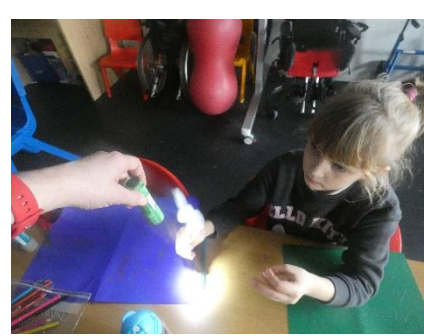
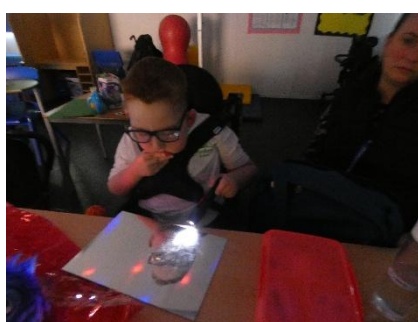
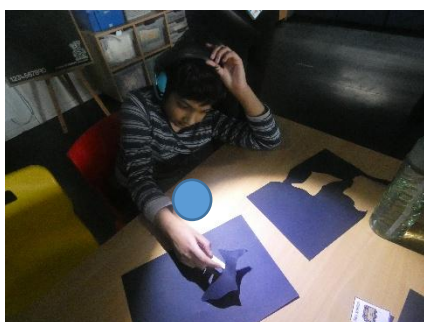
Rabbits have a wonderful class library including tactile storybooks as well as books sent to us from the ClearVision and Living Paintings libraries. These books bring reading alive for Rabbits, and we often spend a few minutes sharing books together. Pupils are encouraged to use their fingers to explore textures whilst listening to an adult read.



Well done Rabbits, keep up the good work!

Owls Class News

Owls class has been basking in the SPOTLIGHT (!) and exploring light, reflection and refraction in science. We created rainbows using a rainbow maker, investigated how light travels through coloured, transparent and opaque materials, and dimmed the lights and put on a shadow animal show in the classroom! We also explored torches and how they work, to complement our half term topic "How?" and practised inserting the batteries the correct way.



Some of Owls were also lucky enough to take part in a sporting event held at NESCOLT college, to warm us up for the Winter Olympics! Owls represented Woodlands in the Panathlon and returned home feeling like champions, decorated with medals!



Bluebells Class News

We have worked so hard in Bluebells this term and our teachers are very proud of all of our achievements. Not only have we had lots of fun with our friends, but we have also been learning lots!



In science we have been exploring different materials. We have

s-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-d, squashed, **pulled** and pushed

different items and used our PODD books to describe their different properties. We enjoyed exploring the properties of Oobleck even though it was very, very messy!



In maths we have been learning to count to 10 and order numbers. We have used Numicon, counting bears and the interactive board to support our independence. We have been learning about 2D shapes and enjoyed ongoing on a shape hunt to look for shapes around the school. There are so many different shapes in our environment!



In RE we have enjoyed listening to different stories. We listened to the story of 'The Giving Tree' and made our own giving tree full of amazing describing words.

Snowdrops Class News

This term, Snowdrops have had a wonderful time learning lots of different things! We are very creative in Snowdrops and love exploring colours in different ways. We used paper and fabric to test our skills at weaving. It was enormous fun using silky fabrics to weave around the legs of the tuff spot tray.



Our Snowdrops musicians have been honing their skills to create their own musical instruments. We repurposed junk and added strings to make guitars then explored loud and soft sounds as well as silence. We do enjoy a good jamming session!



Foxgloves Class News

In Foxgloves we have been learning all about 'How?'

We enjoyed lots of different stories such as 'Let's Bake a Cake' and 'How to Catch a Rainbow'. After reading the story we complete an activity based on the book to further secure our knowledge – we have enjoyed making rainbows independently and as a team. We have also loved practicing our cake making skills – watch out Mary Berry!



In geography we have been learning about the weather – we enjoyed making a raincloud!





Updates from the Friends of Woodlands

Friends of Woodlands would like to give a HUGE thanks to Lavender Cafe in the Swan Centre, Leatherhead for their support in offering the amazing staff a coffee and cake voucher at Christmas, and for kindly allowing us to put a donations box in the cafe in preparation for our Easter trail event. If you find yourself in Leatherhead town centre, please do pop in for a coffee and support a local business.



Reminder that we have our pre-loved uniform shop. If your child has had a growth spurt or you want to pick up a bargain in preparation for when they do, then please check it out here or scanning the QR code:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/pow-pre-loved-uniform-shop-copy>



Additionally, if you do have any old school uniform that is in good enough condition for resale, then please send it in to school on Thursday 26th February as part of the clothes recycling collection (clearly labelled in a separate bag).



Upcoming Events



Thursday 26th February

We are partnering with Little Recyclers to offer a clothes recycling collection. So find some time over the half term to clear out the wardrobes and chest of drawers and please spread the word to family and friends. Please bring your bags in at morning drop off.

Saturday 14th March

Please join us for our Easter Trail event from 2pm-4pm at the Lower School. More details to follow so keep your eyes peeled...



Friday 15th May

FoW annual golf day. Our BIGGEST fundraiser of the year where 22 teams will be competing, followed by a raffle and auction.

June/July (Date Tbc)

We are currently exploring the option of holding a summer fair this year. However, in order for this to be feasible we do require and would LOVE some volunteers. If you are interested in helping, then please drop us an email to friends@woodlands.surrey.sch.uk



**Friends of
Woodlands School
invite you to our**



EASTER TRAIL

**Saturday 14th March
2 - 4pm**

**Prizes, raffle,
biscuit decorating &
Easter crafts**



**£3 per entry
Scan to pay online
or cash on the day**

**Everybody welcome !
Bring friends &
family!**

**Woodlands School, Fortyfoot Road
Leatherhead KT22 5RY**





SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

More clothes -
more funds for
your organisation.
1 kg = £0.45

YOUR COLLECTION IS
ARRANGED ON:

Woodlands Cranmere

Woodlands Leatherhead

Tuesday 24 February

Thursday 26 February

FILL ANY BAGS WITH CLOTHING AND
BRING THEM TO SCHOOL/ORGANISATION
WE WILL COLLECT AND WEIGH THEM

✓ WE ACCEPT

- Good quality clean clothing (adult's, children's, baby)
- Shoes (paired)
- Bags
- Hats & scarves
- Belts
- Fashion accessories
- Swimwear, lingerie
- Jewellery
- Perfumes

✗ WE DONT ACCEPT

- Uniforms
- Dirty, wet, ripped, damaged clothing
- Traditional clothing
- Duvets & pillows
- Single shoes
- Toys, stationery
- Bric-a-brac & electrical items
- Books, CDs, DVDs
- Workwear
- Carpets, rugs, mats, curtains
- Hygiene items, diapers
- Linen & towels

PLEASE NO UNIFORMS & DUVETS!

RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR SCHOOL BY GIVING
AWAY YOUR UNWANTED CLOTHES

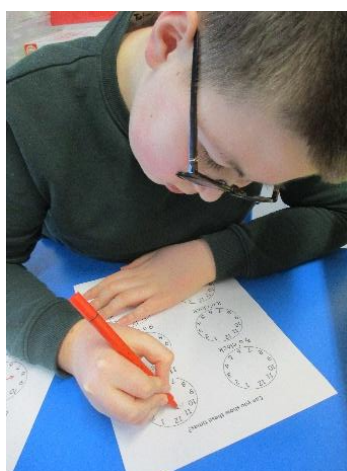
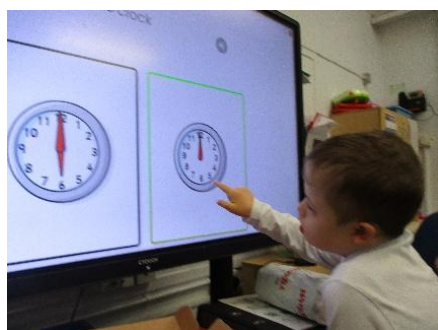
Art Day 2026

This term the whole school celebrated Art and DT by having a fun day or series of activities throughout the week. Classes focused on the book by Peter H Reynolds called *The Dot*, which celebrates simply having a go and making a mark. Classes participated in a group project exploring movement in art and had lots of fun with remote controlled cars, balls and using their bodies to create wonderful patterns and marks on paper and fabric. Working together as a group encouraged turn taking and shared engagement, which was great fun. We also made some design projects involving our senses to for the Wild Woods, with some classes making mobiles or wind chimes out of recycled materials. Pupils loved exploring the different materials and we had lots of fun getting messy and creative together, as well as spending time exploring our emotions and how art and music can be reflected through creativity.



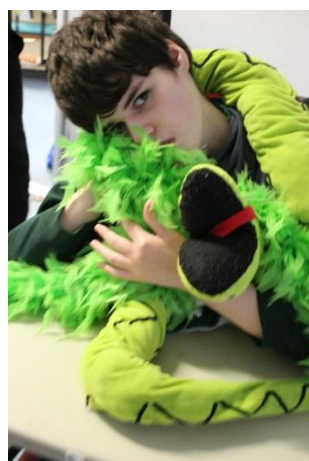
Elmwood Class News

The Elmwood pupils have been working very hard in their maths lessons this term. They have had great fun learning about 'time' and they especially enjoyed using the class clocks and interactive games on the whiteboard to learn to tell the time. Some pupils also learnt to draw some different times they were given onto clock faces or to sequence key times of the day using symbols.



Beechwood Class News

Pupils in Beechwood class have been enjoying a range of learning activities through our topic 'Around the World'. We have read a range of stories from around the world-from China, Africa and Australia. We learnt about tropical forest, the polar animals and admired the beauty of the Great Barrier Reef. We also looked at some amazing man-made structures and buildings from around the world such as the Great Pyramids of Giza and Taj Mahal. We had a go at building a model of the Great Wall of China using wooden bricks and shaving foam. Beechwood class also enjoyed a range of art activities during our special Art Day.



Ashwood Class News

Ashwood students have enjoyed soft cricket sessions this term led by a cricket coach. They have developed their balls skills using a range of different equipment and have had fun in the process.



Ashwood enjoyed their Art workshop day, focusing on the story The Dot. They also worked hard during their art lessons, including reproducing Aboriginal art of their favourite animals. We celebrated Australia Day on 26 January by focusing on Australian animals and their habitats.



Orchard Class News

It has been a busy start to the year in Orchard, and we have had lots of fun learning about the wonders of the world in geography. We explored the Great Pyramids and had a go at making our own out of kinetic sand.



In Food technology, we have been working hard on our Independent Living skills and have been following instructions, using safety knives to chop items and tasting a range of new foods. We made some pancake faces and tried some tasty fruit and other toppings and enjoyed exploring the squirty cream!



This term in PSHE, we have been exploring healthy living and the importance of exercise. We have been very lucky to have a coach come in to help us with Cricket skills on a Thursday morning and in class, we have been working on other skills and trialling a range of different equipment to keep us healthy and active.



Pinewood Class News

Pinewood pupils have been really enjoying table cricket since we came back from the Christmas break. They have been learning to bat and bowl each week with a qualified instructor from Disability Cricket and having lots of fun.





Important Dates for Spring Term 2026

Monday 23 February	School re-opens for Spring term
Tuesday 24 February	Cranmere donations for Little Recyclers
Thursday 26 February	Leatherhead donations for Little Recyclers
Monday 2 March	INSET Day, school closed
Tuesday 3 March	INSET Day, school closed
Thursday 5 March	World Book Day
Monday 9 March	STEM Week starts
Saturday 14 March	FOW Easter Trail
Monday 23 March	Number Day
Friday 27 March	Break-up for Easter, 1pm
Monday 30 March to Friday 10 April	Easter Holiday

Lower School Lunch Clubs



Big Bubble Club



Writing & Drawing Club



Ribbon/ Parachute Games



Dance Club



Music Club

Upper School Lunch Clubs



Exercise Club



Physio Club



Lego & Games Club



Dance Club



Ball Games

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.

- For queries about a child's position in their standing frame, walker or sleep system please contact the physio team by emailing Sharon.Gosling@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.

- 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.



- 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 a Saturday evening for over two years now!

Each week we collect perfectly good food from Tesco's in Leatherhead 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.

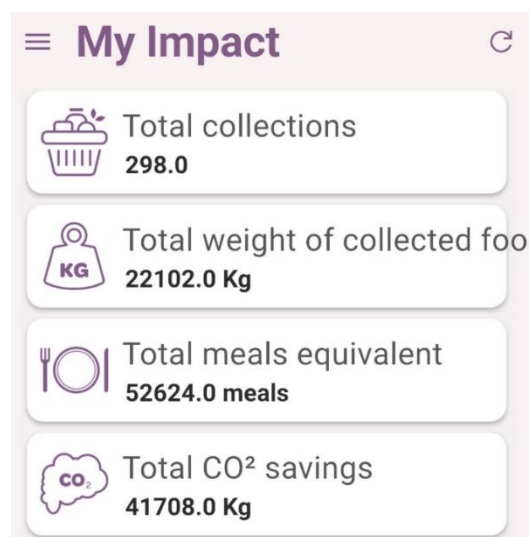
We never know what we are going to be given until our Woodlands volunteers arrive at the store, and each week the content and amount varies. However, it is well worth a visit on a Saturday evening, so please do come along to the lower school in Leatherhead with your shopping bags. Watch out for our text every week, including the school holidays. This is offered to all of our families and staff.

FareShare Go

FareShare Go provides charities and community groups with direct access to surplus food from local supermarkets, including Tesco, ASDA and Waitrose & Partners, wholesaler Booker, and restaurants KFC and Nando's.

The food is good quality food that can no longer be sold for a variety of reasons, such as damaged packaging or a short-shelf life. This doesn't have an impact on the standard or safety of the food items available. Food available often includes bread, eggs and fresh fruit. It will always be within its use by date and is perfectly good to eat.

Since launching the scheme in 2015, we have already connected over 7,500 charities with more than 3,500 stores across the UK.



Message from our Chair of Governors

Dear everyone

It feels like it has been a long, dark and very wet half term but in the last few days the daffodils have started to come out and the trees are budding. However, in spite of the weather there were moments of sunshine at Woodlands School. One very special event was an upper school visit to The Horton Arts Centre where a small group of students participated in an adaptive, multi-sensory theatre experience which was thoroughly enjoyed.

Here's hoping for some better weather during the holiday!

Karen Thomas