



SPOTLIGHT



Together, Everyone Achieves More
December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you all for the cards, presents and Christmas wishes that have been shared over the last few weeks. The pupils are all very excited about the Christmas break and we hope that you will all be able to enjoy seeing family and friends.

The corridors at school have been filled with the smells of Christmas baking - mince pie wheels and gingerbread cake, along with vinegar! (Owls)

The pupils have had the opportunity to watch a theatre production in school – Rumpelstiltskin (LS) and The Selfish Giant (US). This is always a wonderful experience for the pupils and a great chance for them to practice booing and cheering with enthusiastic voices and devices turned up high! We hope you enjoy finding out what each class has been busy doing this half term.

We say goodbye to Louise Sunley the teacher in Rabbits and wish her every success in her new role closer to home. We also welcome back Rosie Clark (Co Head) who is returning from Adoption Leave and I know she is looking forward to seeing you all.

Have a very happy Christmas and New Year. Pupils return to school on Monday 6th January 2024 at 9:15am.

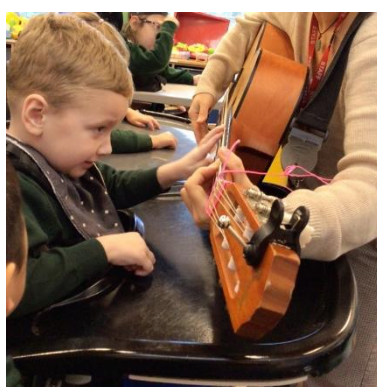
Sarah and Rosie

Badgers Class News

We have been learning about space this half term and have enjoyed exploring space activities in our continuous provision.



Badgers have also been very lucky to have Camilla the Music Therapist come and visit us every Wednesday morning for a lovely music session. We have been practicing our turn-taking, listening skills and had a go at playing the instruments too. We also like to sing and sign along to the songs. We really like music therapy!



Hedgehogs Class News

Hedgehogs this term have been enjoying and focussing on engaging with Stage 3 of the Attention Autism approach – Turn-taking and Re-engaging. They have been learning to shift their attention, participate in interactive activities and take turns. Turn taking is a deeply social skill, which does not make a lot of sense if you are not socially aware. However, if you do it as an attention shift, children with autism seem to be able to learn it much more easily. As they become accustomed to the routine of transferring their attention from watching, to taking part, and back to watching again, they do not actually need to understand the social skill underpinning what they are doing. Once we have both taken turns, you have created a shared experience, which binds you together, making communication and interaction easier



Foxes Class News

Foxes Class have been busy getting to know each other and forming new friendships. During our theme 'Food Glorious Food', we shared our opinions using AAC about our most and least favourite foods.

We have enjoyed writing shopping lists and explored favourite recipes. In maths, we learnt about money and set up a shopping role-play area which we really enjoyed.

In science, we loved tasting different types of food products and learnt new vocabulary how to describe taste and texture of food.

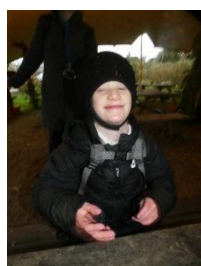
As always, we approached our learning with lots of curiosity and enthusiasm!



Squirrels Class News

Squirrels have had a very busy and enjoyable half term. We have enjoyed looking at our unit space and intertwining all things space into our curriculum.

We very much enjoyed our trip out to The Nutfield Priory Christmas Adventure Trail and enjoyed exploring the lights, the natural play equipment and having smores, hot chocolate and a story in the woods.



In true Squirrels style we have truly enjoyed exploring Christmas and lots of art activities as well as our Christmas cooking session.



We all wish you a very happy Christmas and look forward to the Spring term.

Woodpeckers News

This half term Woodpeckers have enjoyed our topic 'The Final Frontier'. We have been exploring all things space in science. We have made our own cake pop planets in the food technology room which all of Woodpeckers loved! We have also made our own fizzing planets using bicarbonate of soda and lemon juice!



In geography, we have been learning all about different Islands. We have explored the animals which live on the Galapagos Islands, we have explored the culture on the Hawaiian Islands and we have explored Islands that have Volcanos. Woodpeckers enjoyed making their own erupting volcanos!



Owls Class News

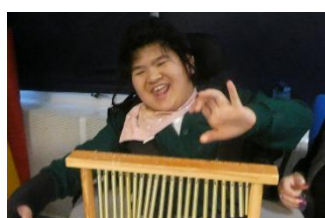
In geography, Owls have been learning about islands this half term. We had a wonderful time exploring tropical islands – our holiday dream! What kind of food would we find on a tropical island. What should we pack in our suitcase. What will the weather be like. Then we made a volcano! Did you know that mixing together baking powder, red food colouring and vinegar produces volcanic explosions?!! Owls also added Mento Mints to a cola bottle, shook it up and wow, it exploded! We loved making volcanoes, well done Owls class ...



Rabbits Class News

Rabbits have been loving our class music sessions on the theme of 'different instruments'. The first part of the lesson uses resonance boards; pupils have access to touch, tap, scratch or rub the boards. Sometimes, everybody copies the actions of one Rabbit! Using repetitive rhymes and rhythmic beats, everybody is greeted; the pupils use gesture, vocalisation or facial expression to request their turn. Rabbits love calling for their turn or even raising their arms! Following on, a tapping game is played for each pupil 'Who's that knocking at the door?' accompanied by lots of laughter!

After the resonance boards, one pupil selects a type of instrument for the group to explore from an Assisted Language Display – the options are strings, keyboard, bells, chimes, drums or something different. A range of instruments is then shared amongst the group to explore. Rabbits particularly enjoyed exploring the stringed instruments as well as the extra large piano – well done Rabbits!



Elmwood Class News

A very busy term has been enjoyed by everyone in Elmwood! We have been exploring our topic of Food glorious food throughout our curriculum and enjoying lots of different food based activities. Our favourite is food tech each week where we have made lots of different dishes including pumpkin soup, chocolate cake, gingerbread, flatbread pizzas, dumplings and lots more!

In geography we have grown our own cress and made egg and cress sandwiches with it and more recently looked at where different fruit is grown around the world and made a Christmas cake and had lots of fun icing it too!

We hope everyone has a lovely Christmas break!

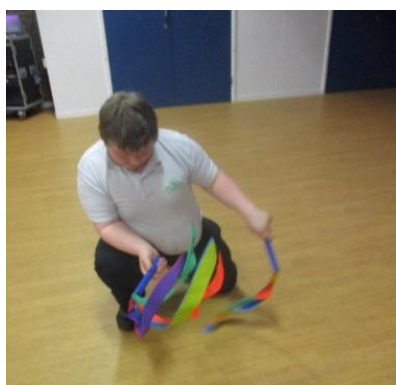


Beechwood Class News

Beechwood have been learning about the importance of exercise this term and have been working on improving their fitness and stamina levels. During their weekly gymnastics sessions at Leatherhead Gymnastics Club, they have developed their balance and confidence when using the different apparatus in the gym.



The pupils have also been having fun with our PE topic 'Rhythm and Ribbons'. They started by learning some Chinese dance moves, then moved on to trying some traditional English folk dancing using ribbons to create different creative effects. We had lots of fun.



Ashwood Class News

Ashwood have been developing their skills for the workplace by helping to spruce up our sensory garden. They have brushed, cleaned and weeded the garden and have planted some bulbs which we are looking forward to seeing in the Spring. We also plan to grow our own vegetables once the weather is warm enough to start planting them. Some of the students have been working hard each week in Tesco as part of their work experience. In food tech the class have practised safely chopping up fruits to make fruit pizzas.

The class also enjoyed practising the Frosty the Snowman song for the Christmas show and participating in art activities.

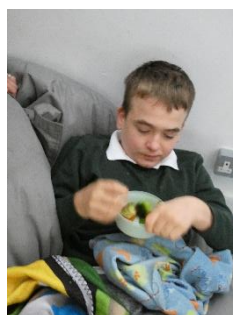


Orchard Class News

We've had a busy term in Orchard, working hard in our small group activities and spending time together learning as a whole class in our Attention Autism sessions.

During our science lessons we enjoyed exploring how plants grow and where we get our food from. We experimented with some celery and food colouring to see how plants need water to grow, and have had lots of fun tasting some exciting foods such as custard, curry sauce, quiche, jerk flavoured vegetables and soup. We are also learning about how to keep our teeth clean and are role playing a trip to the dentist.

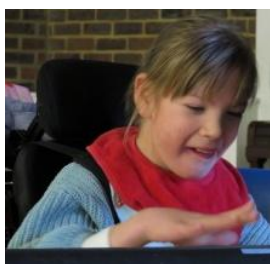
We are so lucky to be enjoying music therapy sessions again, where we get to experience some new and interesting instruments and sounds, like the kazoos and the wooden flute. We also work on our turn taking and awareness of each other in interactive games.



Pinewood Class News

Pinewood have had a wonderful half term exploring new technology on our communication devices that allow us to read independently, control sensory lights and even play phonics games.

We have really enjoyed music this term. We listened to a variety of musicals and added our own compositions to the soundtracks. This has helped us engage our hands more and reinforce our ability to create sound.



Engaging our different senses is a big part of our curriculum and we have used the sense of sight, touch and sound to learn about number and capacity in maths. We have also used our light boards to clean teeth and learn about hygiene in science.



Have a fun filled Christmas break and we will see you in January!

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 the OT team on csh.woodlandsot@nhs.net.

- For queries about a child's position in their standing frame, walker or sleep system please contact the physiotherapy team on csh.woodlandsphysio@nhs.net.



- 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.



Important Dates for Spring Term 2025

Monday 6 January	School re-opens at 9.15am
Friday 24 January	Parent Coffee & Chat at 9.30am
Tuesday 28 January	Parents evening
Tuesday 11 February	National Safer Internet Day

Monday 17 to Friday 21 February 2025 – HALF TERM

Monday 24 February	SPAN INSET Day
Tuesday 25 February	INSET Day
Wednesday 26 February	School re-opens at 9.15am
Thursday 6 March	World Book Day
Friday 7 March	Yr11+ Surrey SEND Transition Fair
Monday 10 March	STEM Week starts
Friday 4 April	Break-up for Easter Holiday at 1pm

Monday 7 April to Monday 21 April – EASTER HOLIDAY

Dear Parents/ Carers

Our next **Parents Coffee and Chat** will be on Friday 24 January at 9.30 – 10.30am in the lower school staff room. I very much look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

My email address is nicola.sutehall@woodlands.surrey.sch.uk.

With very best wishes

Nicola, Parent Support Advisor

Coffee



And Chat

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM THE FRIENDS OF WOODLANDS

friends@woodlands.surrey.sch.co.uk

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Wow, wow and wow!!

Every year we don't think it's possible to surpass the previous year but you've only gone and done it again! We know it's a slog donating each week but that huge effort and all your generous donations allowed the hamper team to make a whopping **42** Hampers.

Audrey Sinclair sold the most tickets and won a cash prize for Elmwood to spend on what they wished. Woodpeckers also won a cash prize thanks to the most tickets sold by staff.

And the total raised - **£3347**.

Along with **£461.50** from Secret Santa this is almost **£4k** ready to spend on our children. Thank you!!!



Fundraising Goals for 2025

We are meeting with school in January to discuss what items they would like to ask FoW to fundraise for in 2025. A reminder we welcome ideas from all parents, carers and staff.

Please contact us by the 16th January if you have any thoughts as the committee will vote and agree what the focus is for 2025 at their next meeting. We will share these goals in the next newsletter.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Next FOW Meeting - Friday 17 January, 0930, US
- Bag2School - Friday 7 Feb
- Easter Trail - Saturday 29 March
- Golf Day - Friday 2 May

Message from Karen Thomas, Chair of Governors

As we approach the end of term at Woodlands I wanted to highlight the remarkable work that Woodlands does to ensure that every children has a “voice” whatever that looks like for them. This aspiration runs through everything they do and was front and centre of the Junior School show that I attended last week. I was also moved to see pupil engagement and confidence was as much on display as the story of the first Christmas. A big shout out to Ruth Hill (and her little helper) and the class teams. I know how much work goes into producing an event as wonderful as this.

I hope you all have a good break whatever that looks like for you. See you next term.

The Woodlands Fridge

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

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

We never know what we are going to be given until our Woodlands volunteers arrive to collect. Each week the content/ 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.

Any donations of strong re-useable carrier bags would also be extremely useful. Please drop any bags to the school office.

