



SPOTLIGHT

Together, Everyone Achieves More

May 2025



Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you are making the most of the sun and enjoying the warmer weather. It's so nice to be able to get out and about more and it's lovely to see the pupils spending lots of time in their outside areas for their lessons.

It's great to look through Spotlight and see the range of activities our pupils have been doing over the Spring term so far. It looks like Lower School have been enjoying lots of delicious food, exploring skeletons and diving under the sea to find out about an underwater world. Upper School have been exploring the topic of 'water', so the nice weather has meant lots of getting wet!

Science (Lower School) and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) (Upper School) week was a highlight for some pupils, as they were able to get hands on with a range of animals and try out some different experiments and activities. They worked well together in teams and class groups to come up with solutions to problems.

It's been lovely to see the Upper School pupils doing their work experience in the Lower School classes, supporting pupils with their music therapy and reading stories.

The rest of Summer Term is looking very busy, with Feeling Good Week and Sports' Day. Pupils will also be starting to transition to their new classes once these have been finalised.

We are looking forward to some exciting new projects being finished including the Lower School trim trail. We are also very lucky that we were successful in a bid to Santander, who are working with Splash Projects to build an outdoor Woodland Classroom in the area between the two sites.

We will share picture with you when it's all finished.

Have a great half term break and enjoy the rest of the Summer Term.

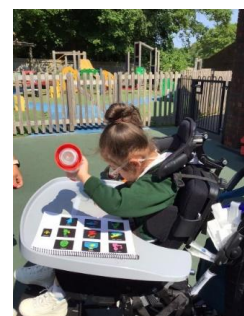
Rosie and Sarah

Badgers Class News

This half term our focus has been exploring food with the unit 'Ready, Steady, Cook'. We have looked at different foods, healthy foods, foods from around the world, investigated where food comes from and made some food.



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 Class has especially enjoyed finding out about the skeleton and bones in science this half term.

“Bob” the skeleton visited the classroom more than once and we learnt we had to be careful with him, as he was prone to coming apart! We liked the song “Dem Bones, Dem Bones” and the story “Funny Bones” too and putting together our own skeletons.

We have identified different body parts, engaged in personal care routines, and explored healthy foods – a fun and busy unit.



Foxes Class News

Foxes Class have been very lucky this term to be joined by two Ashwood pupils for their work experience. They have joined us weekly for Music Therapy and have helped us to join in, sung us songs, supported us to follow the school rules and develop our thinking and listening skills.



This term we have really enjoyed getting back in the pool. We have worked on our independent dressing skills, splashing our hands, kicking our feet, washing our faces and interacting with our peers. We have had lots of fun!

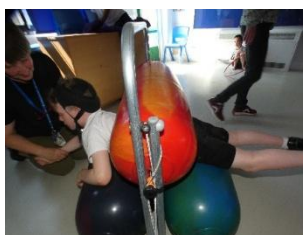


Squirrels Class News

Squirrels Class have been busy this half term with lots of different activities. We have enjoyed our focus “messing about by the river;” exploring different rivers, how items sink and float and making boats in art.

The weather has been lovely which has allowed us to be outside more, which we love, and we have had lots of fun with sand and water-based activities.

We have been engaging with ball games, sensory circuits and having fun with different PE equipment.



We enjoyed celebrating VE day. We learned about the meaning of the day and had our very own Squirrels VE Day celebration. We listened to some stories of children evacuated during the war and some of the animals that also served to support the military.



Woodpeckers News

This term our topic focus has been 'messing about on the river'.

In geography, we have been exploring both rivers and mountains. We have enjoyed making our own paper mache mountains as well as making boats to float down our river we made outside.



In maths during our "using and applying" lessons, we have been exploring money, looking at both coins and notes. We enjoyed playing a game of coin snap and setting up our own shop.



In PSHE we have been learning about ocean pollution. We have explored how this can hurt the animals in our oceans, so we need to remember to put our rubbish in the bin! We had fun making our own sea animals such as jellyfish.



Rabbits Class News

The theme for this half term's PSHE is 'Ocean pollution'. Rabbits have watched the short animation 'Hope works, a Whale's Tale' on YouTube which highlights how sea creatures are affected by plastic pollution, before reading 'Somebody Swallowed Stanley', a book about a plastic bag lost at sea.

We have then searched through sea materials to find and gather plastic bottles and have made a variety of sea creatures such as jellyfish and crabs. We have also made a small world ocean with sea creatures and plastic rubbish in a cardboard box. Rabbits love activities around the sea, such as water play in our outside area and getting wet under the water spray, particularly in this hot weather! Rabbits have responded thoughtfully to this topic about our world



Owls Class News

Pupils in Owls class have been enjoying our science topic of “Sinking and Floating”. We have been making predictions about which objects will sink or float and what materials they are made from. There have been some surprising results, particularly when observing how fruits and vegetables behave in water. Can you think why for example, a lemon floats but a lime will sink?! Apparently, lemons have air pockets within their pulp that make them less dense than water, allowing them to float!

We have also got creative and made our own lava lamps, marvelling at the effect of adding first the oil, which floated on top of the water, then the sensory result of bicarbonate of soda, vinegar and food colouring. “Dancing raisins” were also a hit; we experimented with dropping them into plain tap water, then fizzy water to see the difference; the raisins will first sink, then float to the top, and keep going! Our raisins had a rave that lasted the whole lesson, and we were mesmerised!



Parent Coffee and Chat

It was lovely to welcome Sue from Surrey Family Information Service at our last coffee and chat. I will be inviting her back in the autumn term, date to be confirmed. Our next coffee and chat will be on Friday 11 July 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 as I think it would be a good opportunity for parents to find out what support is out there.

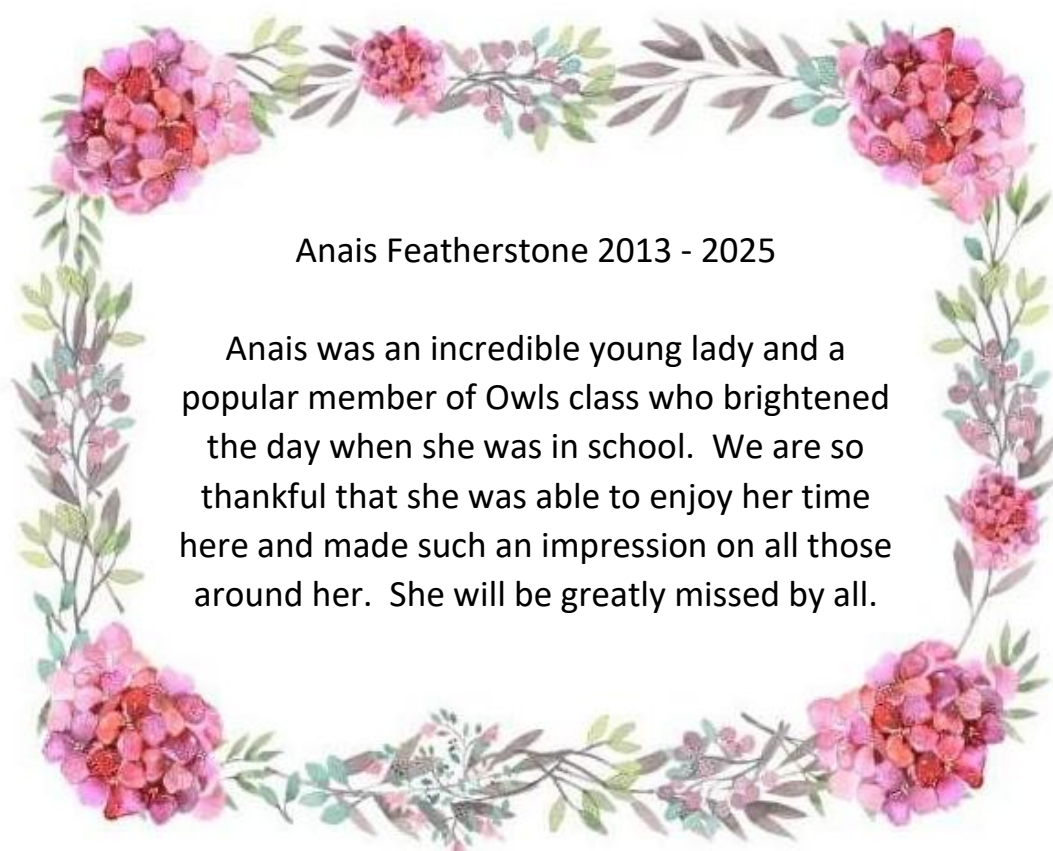


And Chat

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

With very best wishes

Nicola, Parent Support Advisor



Anais Featherstone 2013 - 2025

Anais was an incredible young lady and a popular member of Owls class who brightened the day when she was in school. We are so thankful that she was able to enjoy her time here and made such an impression on all those around her. She will be greatly missed by all.

Science week

The theme for this year's science week was 'Change and Adapt' and all the pupils at Woodlands had great fun embracing this theme while they engaged in a variety of activities and workshops during the week.

In PE, classes took part in deep sea yoga sessions where they adopted poses that resembled ocean creatures e.g. a starfish and a seahorse pose.

We had a visit from the animal man who brought lots of different animals and creatures for us to learn about and handle. Some pupils were even brave enough to hold a snake and let a gecko run up their arms!

All the pupils took part in a science workshop with Robert to discover and describe how some objects and gadgets can change speed, direction, colour and sound.

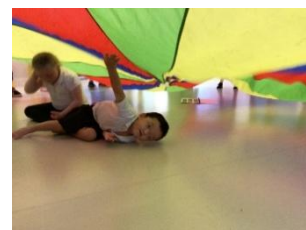
Other activities included scientific experiments to time how long different types of sugar took to dissolve in water and to learn about how animals have adapted to live in different climates and habitats.



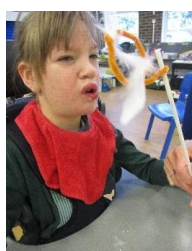
Mental Health Awareness Week 2025

Mental Health Awareness Week ran from 12-16 May this year and the theme was 'Community'. As such, classes across Woodlands School teamed up to share joint activities, make new friends and have fun.

Ashwood, Badgers and Foxes enjoyed parachute games and songs in the hall.



Rabbits and Pinewood made 'breath catchers' together.



Pupils across the school also completed a survey on 'Zones of Regulation'. This uses a colour system to help pupils identify their feelings and choose a strategy to help their regulation. Some pupils wrote about what made them feel happy, sharing their ideas with their friends.

We also thought about our community, family/ carers, school and class and made cards to thank people who help us. Well done Woodlands School community for sharing, making friends and caring for each other.



Elmwood Class News

This term we have been exploring our new topic of 'Water'. We have been learning about how boats float (and some sink) as well as different shapes of boats that we can see. In literacy, we have been reading different books with the theme of water; our favourite so far is Bringing the rain to the Kapiti Plain. In art we have been exploring different Impressionist artists and so far, have explored the work of Van Gogh and Monet and then creating our own using water colour. We enjoyed using the spray bottles to create a watercolour background for our artwork. We have also used different computer programs to create pieces of artwork using stamp tools.

We would also like to say thank you for our butterflies who are all growing very well and turned into chrysalises. The pupils are enjoying watching them grow every day and learning each stage of a butterfly life cycle!



Beechwood Class News

Beechwood pupils have been making good progress with their maths and ICT skills this term. In maths, the pupils have been working on adding & subtracting, identifying & describing 3D shapes and sorting & matching by quantity. They have even managed to use some of their maths skills in our Orienteering PE sessions, where they have been following instructions which included positional and directional vocabulary.



Ashwood Class News

Ashwood Class have been working hard this term at Polesden Lacey for their work experience. They have also delighted in seeing that our seeds have grown in the sensory garden at school and they have been involved in watering them carefully. We are hoping to be able to grow some vegetables and herbs that we can enjoy in Food Tech. We have planted some strawberry plants, carrots and potatoes to name a few.

The jobs they have been involved in have been weeding, watering and even 'bush whacking' at Polesden Lacey, to cut back the bracken.



Orchard Class News

We have been having lots of fun with our exploration of water as part of our topic this term, sharing time outside in the lovely sunshine.

We used our AAC to choose items to experiment with water dispersion in science, enjoying the splashing when our choices were heavy enough to spill all the water out of the containers. We also looked at water in different forms, feeling the cold ice and feeling the mist from the water sprays, which was especially welcome on some of the hotter days!

During our maths sessions we have been making groups of one and lots, using our water resources to catch one or more fish, and taking turns with peers to find the same items in the water.

We've had lots of fun and have only needed to use our spare clothes occasionally!! We were so happy to be able to get back in the swimming pool this term and are looking forward to more exciting opportunities to explore water.



Pinewood Class News

Pinewood Class are enjoying our new topic of “water” this term. We have themed our maths lessons around our favourite bodies of water – rivers, ponds and waterfalls. This is a great way for us to explore numbers and it builds anticipation as we discover which of our familiar activities are behind each number on the choice board. Water has been the centre of our science experiments too, as we chose different locations to put our solid ice lolly to melt and turn back into a liquid. One of our pupils even placed it in a staff member’s car – it was so hot in there it melted in minutes!



The sunshine has once again taken our learning outside as we partner up activities that make us happy with key communication skills like an accept and reject response. “More swing? Looking at me, yes”. “More swing? Looking away, no”



Important Dates for Summer Term 2025



Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 2 June	School re-opens, 9.15am
Monday 16 June	Parent PODD training, LS hall
Tuesday 17 June	US Sports Day
Thursday 19 June	LS Sports Day
Tuesday 24 June	Parents Evening
Friday 11 July	Parent Coffee & Chat, LS staff room
Monday 14 July	Feeling Good Week
Tuesday 22 July	Break-up for Summer Holiday, 1pm



Thank you to the Friends of Woodlands for another fantastic golf day – in all the years they have been running this event over £100,000 has been raised!
Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the years.

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 emily.yelland@nhs.net.

- For queries about a child's position in their standing frame, walker or sleep system please contact the physiotherapy team on rebecca.fisk@hrcrgcaregroup.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 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 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.

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

