



Woodfield Newsletter

Creating opportunities, discovering success

Spring 1: January
2024

Staffing updates

Welcome to our first Woodfield newsletter.

We have a few new staff at Woodfield this academic year who are all passionate about working with young people and supporting them through their educational journey.

Mrs Wilson, Principal and Miss Heyes, Deputy Principal bring between them 50 years' experience of working across the country in schools in different contexts. Mrs Wilson is a teacher of French and secondary senior leader and Miss Heyes is a scientist and has worked as a senior leader in independent all through schools. They will continue to work alongside Mrs Sandie Cross who will be responsible for admissions and safeguarding, among other responsibilities.

Mrs Faye Gladstone is our secondary science lead, and she has worked across the state and independent sector. She also teaches employability skills, and really enjoys the weekly stretch out, as opted for by our upper school pupils.

Ms Helen Manley is a TA and works with upper school pupils. She brings an array of key character traits, especially the transferable skills of patience, calmness, and nurture from her many years as a veterinary nurse.

Our TA, Miss Natasha McCue joined Woodfield in September and holds a qualification and a wealth of knowledge around mental health; she's also a great all rounder who is often found helping in the kitchen and with displays.

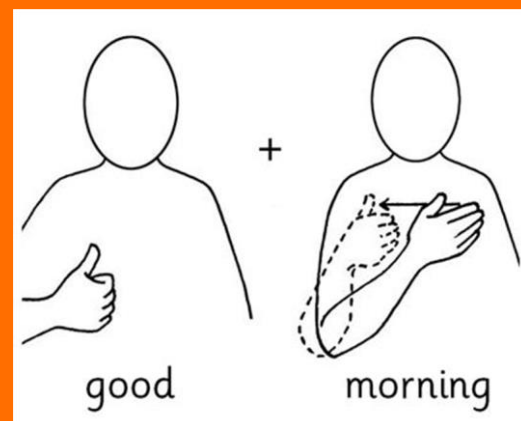
Mr Tom Cooper arrived in August with 9 years' experience of working in Primary schools across Leicestershire and Warwickshire. He is a dynamic teacher who builds great relationships with Woodfield pupils.

Good communication is important to us -

At Woodfield, we are passionate about ensuring we communicate effectively with our pupils. Each week, all staff will be learning a new Makaton sign which we will also teach to all pupils.

Research tells us that feeling included and that you belong, allows children to feel safe and able to learn effectively.

This week's signs are:



Key dates

Spring term 1:	Monday 8 January – Friday 16 February
Spring Term 2:	Monday 26 February – Friday 22 March
Summer Term 1:	Monday 8 April – Friday 24 May
Bank Holiday	Monday 6 May
Summer Term 2:	Monday 3 June – Tuesday 9 July

Attendance

Moments matter, attendance counts

You may have seen the recent government strap line to raise the profile of attendance. It certainly is the case that improving school attendance is everyone's business and, to tackle the challenge we face, we need to work together.

At Woodfield, we have made some tweaks to the school attendance policy.

Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing.¹

We will monitor attendance daily and report to you as parents/carers each term. Where there are concerns, we will get in touch so that we can work together to ensure a regular pattern of attendance.

We will actively promote the importance of regular attendance with all pupils, through communication, discussion, celebration and reward.

At Woodfield, being on time to school is key so that we can all start the day in a positive frame of mind and without interruption – we know that our pupils can struggle to settle if everyone is not in their seats and ready to learn.

Please support us by ensuring your child arrives by **8.45am** every day and is collected by **3.00pm**.

Should your child be absent from school due to an unplanned absence, please ensure you have contacted the school by 8.45am.

Planned absence during term time will only be granted at the discretion of the principal. Please contact the school for an Absence Request form.

Thank you for working in partnership with us to provide the very best opportunities for your child.



That moment they found a new best friend queuing up for pudding. That time fractions suddenly clicked. That day cavemen came to live in the playground. That science lesson when a mento and cola 'rocket' sprayed everywhere. Breaking a school record on sports day. When they helped catch the escaped rabbit. Helping to build props for the school play. When they baked cupcakes that were actually edible (just). Performing that encore at the school concert. From the first day of term to the last, each moment, big or small, makes a big difference to a child's wellbeing. Positive, real, life-changing moments. And in a school year there are hundreds of them. What a difference a school day makes.

We're supporting CMH Week from Monday 5 Feb – please see the attached handout to talk over with your child

Into our Behaviour policy we have added **ASK**. An easy to use and remember set of principles which will guide how we work every day.

All pupils can demonstrate the character strengths from ASK by working hard, showing resilience and determination, listening to each other, being curious and showing kindness.

We all follow the ASK principles:

- We have **ambition** for everyone at Woodfield and we try our best in everything we do
- We **support** each other: we listen, we are respectful and polite
- We show **kindness** in our everyday actions so that everyone feels valued and part of something special – the Woodfield family

¹ <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/abs/mental-health-and-attendance-at-school/mental-health-and-attendance-at-school/4F91A32FBB0561EEC3537D5FE5183A2A>