



Woodfield Newsletter

Creating opportunities, discovering success

**Spring 1- January
2025**

Focus on Orange Class

There are currently 6 pupils in Orange Class, 5 boys and 1 girl. They are currently following a thematic approach to learning around fairy tales. Their current story is the Gingerbread Man so they have made gingerbread biscuits in their cooking lesson and will be completing story sequencing and speech bubbles.

All pupils have their own desk and seat, and on arrival each morning they hand in their bag/packed lunch and have some regulation time. They are spending more and more time in a morning in circle time so that staff can share the day's activities with them and check-in on how they are feeling using the Zones of Regulation.

Desi Pavlova, the class teacher has been at Woodfield since September 2021; she is an experienced teacher, adept at delivering phonics as a key part of the daily routine. We are using Bug Club phonics and those pupils that can are learning Phase 3 set 10 and currently focusing on words with ar and or. She is supported by Louise Cannon and Laura Tacey, who have experiences in different care settings with children aged 3 months to 14 years.

Effective communication is a huge part of their work. All pupils have their own PECS folder which is used to facilitate communication to and from child to teacher. Sensory activities are a regular feature of their day; cooking and exploring about food is always a winner.



*Effective
communication is
important to us*

As you are aware, being able to communicate well with our pupils is essential to our work, as then pupils can feel heard and valued in our school.

We have set staff some homework: as a minimum expectation all staff will know how to sign the following Makaton signs by half term:

Hello

Good morning

How are you?

Welcome

More

Please

Thank you

Help

Online safety

Please see the attached guides on keeping your child safe online.

Pupils in Cherry, Conker and Upper School all have a Digital Skills lesson each week and they will all be issued with an Office 365 account so that they can save their work. We'll be talking to them more about their digital footprint and making safe choices online.

Spring Term dates

Functional skills exams

Children's Mental Health week

End of Spring Term 1

Tuesday 7 January – Friday 11 April

29 January, 5 and 12 February

w/c 3 February

Fri 14 February

Reminders for Cherry Class – remember your kit for swimming on Tuesdays after half term

National careers week

Red Nose Day

Parent events

w/c 3 March

Fri 21 March

Wed 9 and Thurs 10 April

General updates and information

It was great to see so many parents and carers at the Christmas service in December, and afterwards for mince pies and to see children's work. Our next parent engagement event is in April, but of course when you have an annual review you are also very welcome to have a look around. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the chance to go on their December trips; Orange and Cherry Class had a great time seeing Santa at his grotto at Dobbie's Garden Centre, Conker Tree went to the Curve, and Upper school saw a film at the cinema. Our pupils were excellent ambassadors for Woodfield School; they listened and followed instructions, used their manners and asked questions – it was a real pleasure to be able to share their excitement. We're looking to explore more opportunities in the Spring and Summer Term; Cherry Class are currently planning a trip to the Space Centre in February.



Safeguarding

We have a strong culture of safeguarding at Woodfield School. Sandie Cross is our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). We also have 5 other trained Designated Safeguarding Leads. Safeguarding is discussed weekly between the Principal and DSL and as an agenda item at Leadership meetings. We use CPOMS to record all concerns, and work with Leicestershire Local Authority as our safeguarding partner. Our review in October evidenced that we are effective in our approach. Pupils are taught how to keep themselves safe and what positive friendships look like through our day-to-day interactions, and also through our PSHE curriculum. They will cover more explicit age-appropriate content about relationships in the Summer Term through Jigsaw PSHE.



We are looking to improve the front and rear of our school over the next few months so that we can be more easily identified in the local community and pupils have access to increased opportunities to learn and play outside. If you visit us, some areas of the school may not be accessible and there may be some scaffolding erected. We will ensure the site continues to be safe for all pupils and staff. Watch this space for more news...

Attendance

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Very well done to our pupils in improving our overall school attendance to 89.4% which is in line with special schools nationally for the Autumn Term. We know that we have further work to do around ensuring all pupils attend school as much as they can. In the first week back after the Christmas holidays, 19/26 pupils achieved 100% attendance, which is terrific!

The names of our Attendance super stars, pupils with 100% attendance each week, are displayed in Reception.

If your child is due to be absent through illness, please call us by 8.30am and if you have a planned absence for which you are requesting permission, please call the school or email the principal at principal@henrydavidlearning.co.uk.

We follow government guidance on carefully considering requests for absence, and holidays during term time are unlikely to be authorised.

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

We follow our 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