



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been an incredibly busy and exciting term, with so many events, activities and opportunities available to all. Our first annual Junior Bake Off was a great success, as was the recent Festive Fair. A big thank you to Ms Chamberlain who, as always, is at the heart of all the organisation and preparation, and to our parent volunteers, who tasted cakes and helped to sell the bakes to everyone.

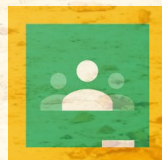
PE and Music opportunities have seen our choir performing at multiple events and our pupils represent the school across several sports. The future is bright for Woodlands PE and Music and this is due to the incredible work of Mr Grant and Mr Jones who organise the events and support the children to prepare. Mr Jones has also been instrumental in organising our end of term shows where all year groups were represented and able to share their talents with the school community.

All our pupils (and teachers) are working hard to close the gaps created by the pandemic and we are seeing some fantastic improvements across the school. I know the last few weeks have been challenging in terms of attendance, and that many of our pupils have been suffering from various bugs and viruses. However, it remains important for everyone to attend school as much as possible when they are well. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school from 4th January to continue the hard work.

Mrs Kanval's Bookworms and BBC are inspiring our pupils to get involved with Reading and the enthusiasm in the children is clear to see. The creativity and ambition of our staff and pupils never ceases to amaze me and I am very impressed with all the fantastic work they have been doing this term.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the staff, to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year! I look forward to seeing you all back in school next term, Have a lovely holiday.

Ms Hasker



From The Chair Of Governors

Welcome

We would like to welcome all our new families who have joined Woodlands Academy this term and welcome back all our other families who have been working with us in previous academic years. We would also like to welcome our new Executive Headteacher, Nathan Walters who will be joining the Grand Union Multi Academy Trust (GUMAT) as Executive Head and Headteacher of Featherstone High School at the start of the Spring Term in January. Mr Gerry Wadwa, our current Executive Head will be retiring at the end of this term after 14 years as Head of Featherstone High School. We wish him and his family all the very best for the future.

The Governing Board

Our responsibilities are to work in partnership with the Trustees of the GUMAT to:

- ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for Woodlands Academy
- holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of Woodlands Academy and its pupils and the effective and efficient performance management of staff
- overseeing the financial performance of Woodlands Academy and making sure its money is well spent
- to exercise the strategic oversight of all aspects of safeguarding

This term we have met twice as a Full Board to fulfil our statutory duties and receive reports from each of the committees. We have ratified many school policies including Safeguarding and Child Protection, Behaviour, Complaints, Online Safety, Social Media, and School Uniform. We have also received and agreed the Sports Premium Report, the Pupil Premium and Catch- Up Strategy Report and the SEND Information Report. All these can be found on the school website.

We have 3 committees which the Governing Board has delegated authority to for certain aspects of our responsibilities:

- ❖ Resources Committee: responsible for monitoring finance aspects, staffing, premises and Health and Safety
- ❖ Curriculum Committee: responsible for monitoring pupil outcomes, quality of teaching and learning and the broad and balance curriculum that we offer all our pupils at Woodlands.
- ❖ Pay Committee: Responsible for monitoring the implementation of the appraisal policy for all staff to ensure that it is fair and effective; monitoring the implementation the pay policy for staff and carrying out the annual review of performance pay for staff.

In Resources this term we have focussed on monitoring the budget and taking action to mitigate the impact of the energy price rises and the national pay awards for teachers and support staff which were higher than originally planned for. Both the internal and external audit reports have been positive and the recommendations from the Health and Safety Audit, carried out in the Summer Term by the Local Authority, are being addressed. Safeguarding visits have continued.

In Curriculum Committee, we met twice this term and we have received the detailed outcomes for pupils at the end of the Summer Term in both statutory year groups (SATs) and non-statutory year groups. We have also looked at the implementation of the new phonics scheme " Essential Letters and Sounds" in early years and key stage 1 and how we can support our pupils who have English as an additional Language (EAL)

In Pay Committee, we conducted our Annual review of Pay for Performance and the effectiveness of the appraisal system in October. We noted that the national agreements for teacher and support staff pay were higher than originally planned but we have implemented them in full.

Thank you

We would like to thank you for all the support you give the school and hope that many of you enjoy the coffee mornings and school events that we have thankfully been able to hold in school again this term. Thank you also for encouraging your children to take part in our clubs, choir, educational visits and their home learning. We really value what you can bring to our community. I would also like to thank all the staff for their fantastic commitment to the school and the outcomes for our pupils. It has been a difficult year in terms of absence with so many viruses and bugs going round school and they have suffered as well. Catching up after absence for pupils is vital and I know they have worked extremely hard to ensure that our children have not fallen behind. We wish them, their families, you and your families a happy, healthy and restful festive break.

Shirley Kenworthy-Wright
Chair of Governors





Music News



It has been a very busy and productive term of music making at Woodlands. With the start of some new ensembles and the return of our school choir, there have never been so many opportunities to get involved and I'm so pleased to have so many children taking part!

As ever, thanks to parents for supporting your children in music and if you have any questions about available opportunities, please contact the office!

Now, take a look at some of this terms highlights of our term below!

Singing In The Rounds 2022!!!



We started the year with 'Singing in the Round'. Y6 were our very worthy winners, singing 'Hey Mr Miller'



In September, KS2 had a visit from London Youth Choir who taught some new songs and singing techniques.

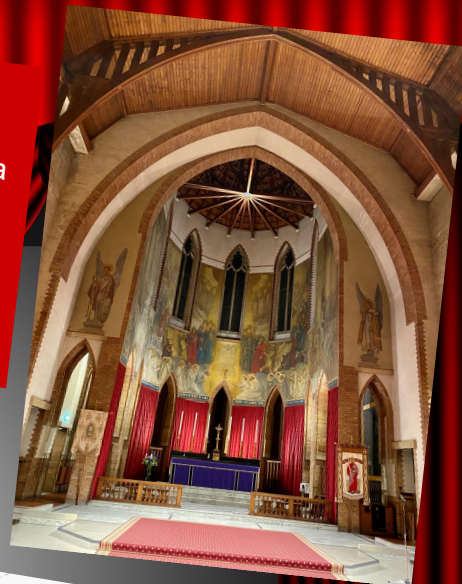


The KS1 Christmas production 'Bethlehem's gone Barmy!' was a hit! The children did a fantastic job, even taking on multiple parts to help out when children were away - what a cast! Well done to them and also to the staff who helped in all aspects!





Woodlands Choir are back! After a two year break because of you-know-what, the choir have had a great term with some fantastic concerts! Well done to all choir members for their commitment and dedication. Keep your eyes peeled for next terms performances!



The Choir on Broadway (Ealing Broadway)



Year 5 Jsax ensemble in action



Our new recorder ensembles first public performance!

Congratulations to Adrian in Y5 who recently passed his Grade 3 Saxophone Exam with Merit! Keep up the good work Adrian!



Bella in Y6 performing solo Saxophone at our Winter Concert!



Our staff musical performance





Sports News



Bowling



Featherstone SSP Ten Pin Bowling competitions with Mr Grant. Woodlands finished 2nd overall and have been entered into the London finals in 2023!

Dance workshop - Yr 4

Christina Marks School of Performance arts attended Woodlands Academy to run a morning dance workshop with year 4 pupils.



Panathlon Tournament



Pearl shield - football year 5&6



Brentford FC - Joy Of Movement

Year 5 took part in a six week programme with Brentford football club looking at the joy of movement and the importance of being health and physical exercise.





Forest School



We have been learning new skills in Forest School this term as well as learning about the animals and plants around us.



Making shelters - Great teamwork!!



Using a bow saw



Climbing trees



Balancing on the rope bridge

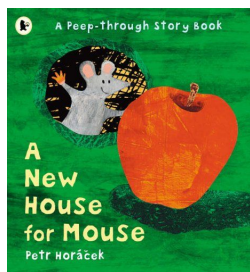


Whittling the sticks with a peeler



Bug hunting





Nursery

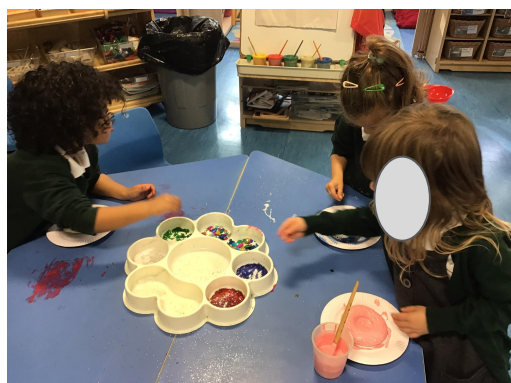
Our topic for Autumn 1 was 'Let's Explore and Build it Up'
We talked about our homes, families and community.



We looked at different houses and made our own using different resources.



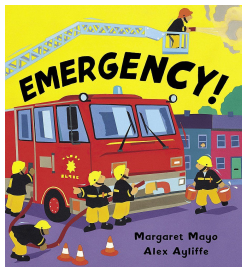
We made new friends and learned how to play together.



We learned about how people celebrate Diwali and made salt dough divas.

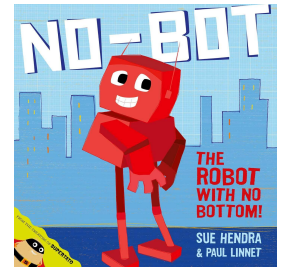
We have been learning about different communities and enjoyed cooking plantain and making African style necklaces to celebrate Black History Month





Nursery *continued...*

Our topic for Autumn 2 was 'Marvellous Machines'. We learned about how different machines help us and talked about the machines we know. We also learned about puppets and enjoyed making our own and putting on puppet shows for our friends.



We were excited to look at this marvellous machine!



We read No-Bot the Robot and made our own robots using recycled materials



While making gingerbread men, we learned to measure, rub in, mix and roll.



All aboard the train!
We pretended to go on holiday to the campsite!

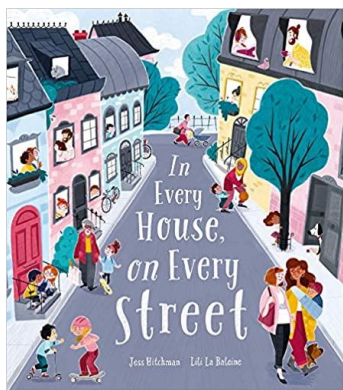


We enjoyed our first school trip to the church where we received a very warm welcome and made our own star puppets



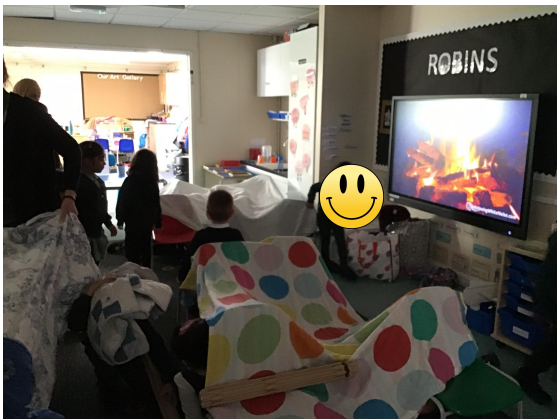
Puppet show and making puppets





Reception

Our topics for Autumn 1 were 'Let's Explore' and 'Build It Up.' We learnt about different homes as well as our local community in the past and present. We drew maps of different journeys and became architects and builders!



We enjoyed learning about different cultures and celebrations. We baked Shakarpara snacks for Diwali as well as lanterns and divas! We also learnt how to say hello in Hindi!

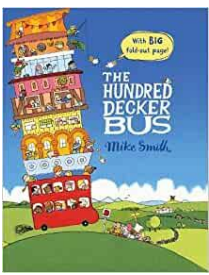


In Maths, we have been learning about numbers to 5 and counting using 5 frames as well as shapes.



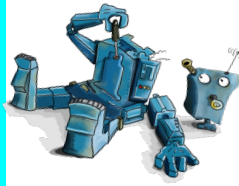
We celebrated Black History Month. We designed our own African necklaces and wore these while learning some traditional dances. We looked at the history of African art and replicated these. We also know how to say hello in Swahili!





Reception *continued...*

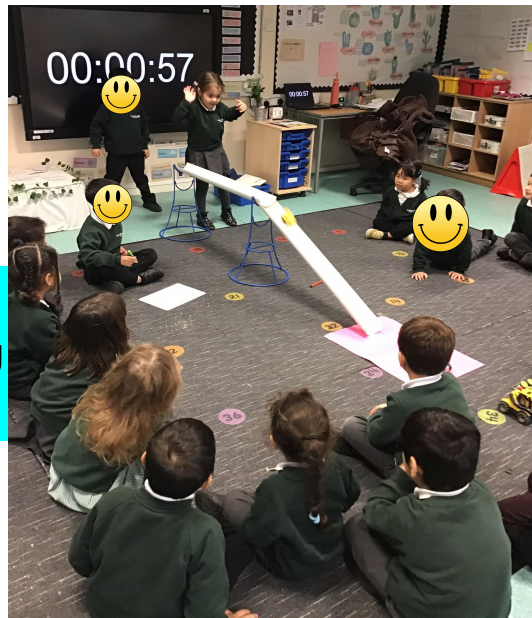
In Autumn 2, our topics were 'Marvellous Machines' and 'Puppet pop-ups.' We enjoyed learning about different machines and how they work as well as putting on puppet shows!



We learnt all about using technology to take photos and videos as well as designing our own machines.



We explored different vehicles and did a science experiment to test which toy vehicle can travel the furthest distance at the highest speed!



We are doing so well in our Phonics and becoming amazing readers!



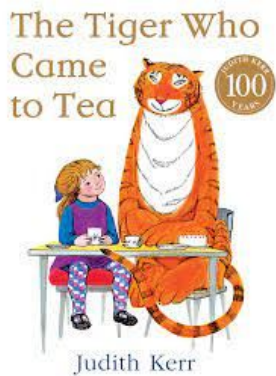
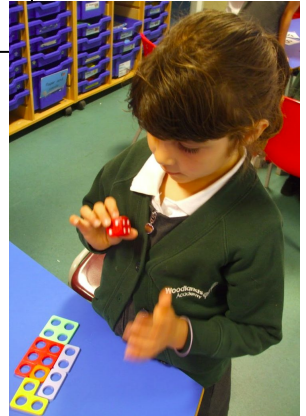
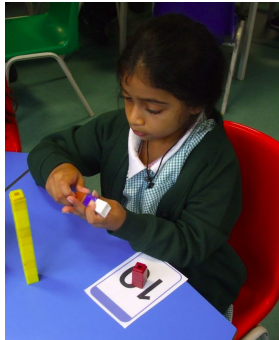
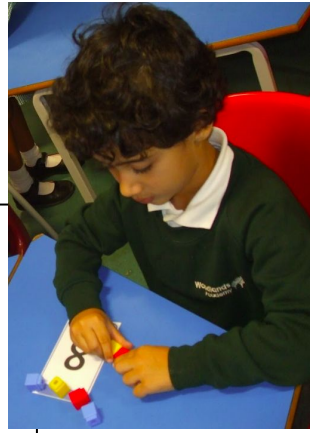
We loved making music and practising singing for our Christmas concert. The children sang so beautifully and made us so proud. What a lovely way to end the term!



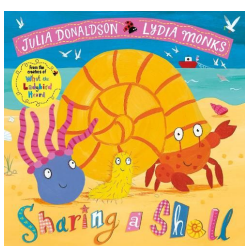
Year 1



We have focused in Maths on knowing our numbers to 10 and using part whole model and 10 frame to solve addition and subtraction problems within 10. We have used lots of objects to understand what each number represents.



We have been very busy in English. We started off the term looking at the book 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' by Judith Kerr. The children wrote and designed their own invitations and then wrote their own version of the story. We ended the unit by having a Tiger Tea party. We followed instructions on making jam sandwiches and then got to eat them and play party games. It was lots of fun!

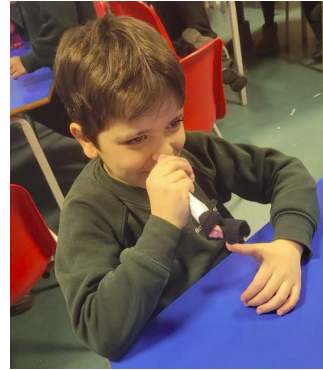


This half term we have read the book 'Sharing a Shell' and looked at non-fiction texts such as fact files. We wrote our own fact file all about hermit crabs.

Year 1 *continued...*



In Science we have been learning about animals including humans. We found out about different animal groups and sorted them into groups. We also sorted animals into groups by their diet and learnt the terms carnivore, herbivore and omnivore. We discovered most of us were omnivores.



We then investigated our senses. We went on a sound hunt around the school. We heard lots of interesting sounds. We also tested our sense of smell to see if we could smell better when we couldn't see what it was or if we could.



This term in History we thought about our families and the words past, present and future and what they mean. In Geography we looked at maps of our school and even drew our own.



In Art we drew self portraits. We then looked at some portraits by Pablo Picasso and drew our own self portraits in the same style. Can you tell who is who?



In RE we found out more about Christianity and what Christians believe about God. This half term we have found out more about Islam. The children have enjoyed sharing their beliefs and finding out more about what their friends believe in.

Year 2



In Computing we have been learning about what a computer is and its different parts. We role played being digital recorders, shoppers and cashiers to understand the role of computers in a supermarket.



In PE, we have loved playing domes and dishes, pirates and sailors and are great at ball rolling skills!



In Science, we have been investigating materials and their properties. We know materials can be hard, soft, rigid, flexible, absorbent and waterproof. We also know that materials can change shaped if they can be twisted, squashed and bent. Our scientists have tested wood, metal, plastic, paper and fabric to find out our properties.

Year 2 *continued...*



In the second half of the Autumn term, we had our first trip to the Intu in Brent, to celebrate the Film Festival. We watched the movie screening Sonic the Hedgehog 2! Our return journey with two buses was an adventure too!

Our Christmas nativity play was a super success. We joined forces with Year 1 and the feedback from the performances was brilliant. We consider ourselves actors now!





Year 3

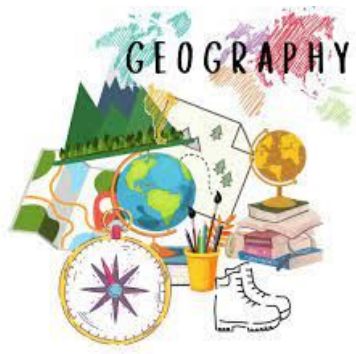
At the beginning of the year, our focus in Science was **'Plants'**. We worked in groups to explore different types of plants and their parts. We also did a water transportation experiment.



Stone Age Cave Painting

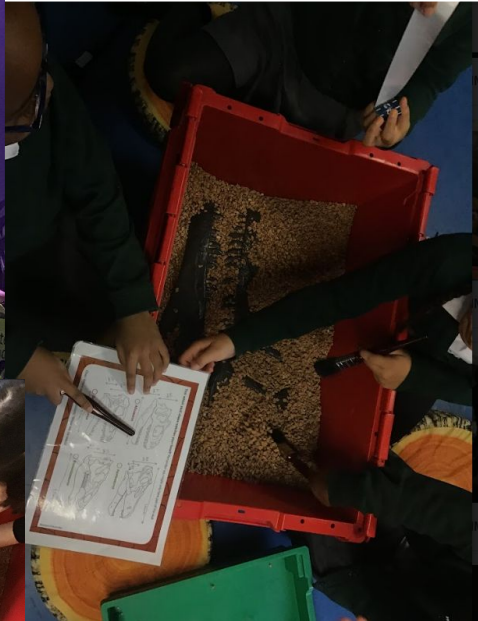
In Autumn 1, our History topic was 'Stone Age'. We explored different, impressive cave paintings around the world. Being inspired from one of the most famous cave paintings in the world, the Cave of Hands in Argentina, also known as Cuevas De Las Manos, we've created our very own Cave of Hands.





Year 3 *continued...*

In the second half of the Autumn term, and during our first trip Year 3 became proper paleontologists. We had an amazing time exploring the dinosaur gallery and making our own dino dig.



We've also explored the 'Volcanoes and Earthquakes' gallery, which was connected to this term's Geography topic.

