



**Friday 11th October 2024**

### **World Mental Health Day**

To mark this day, all children took part in a meditation activity, some mindful time to slow down and relax and also physical activity in the form of music to dance to on the playground. Ask your child to teach you these techniques and have fun together with some of their activities.

### **Parents' Evenings**

As advertised, these will be on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 3.30 – 6.00 and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 3.30 – 7.00, both in the school hall.

The booking system on ParentMail will go live at 6.30pm on Monday next week. If you have already had a Pupil Profile Meeting with your teacher (this will not apply to all parents) you do not necessarily need to book a Parents' Evening appointment but if you would like to, you are more than welcome.

### **Harvest**

Thank you to those who sent in harvest donations. The boxes were delivered, by Willow Class, around the village today. We have already received a thank you note from one of the people we visited. We would like to share this with you.

“Thank you to Willow Class.

This is my thank you to you and to your Headmistress and teachers who delivered to my door today yet again a splendid gift of food in a splendidly crafted box what's more, to celebrate the harvesting of the farmers crops. The poem that you wrote in the card was most appropriate and I have read it over several times- well done. Thank you all.”

We will receive many letters of thanks over the coming weeks and are delighted to keep this relationship with our local community.

If you know of anyone you feel should be on our list for future years and events, please let the office know.



### **School Photographs**

Individual photo proofs were sent home earlier this week. All orders must be placed online by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October or brought to the school office ready for collection on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October.

## Photograph permissions

A form was sent out via ParentMail, please can you complete asap.

## Student Update forms

Please can we remind you to return the student update form even if there are no changes. Thank you

## Cross Country

This was the first one of the season which took place at Stoke Row recreation ground. The course is very challenging with an uphill finish for the year 3 / 4 boys and girls. They gave it everything they had which made for a delightful contest. Ivy was given the Olympic Value for determination in the year 3 / 4 races. The children in year 5 and 6 had to run their race to the finish in the opposite direction, which meant uphill instead of down!. Will came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the boys' race and Martha was 1<sup>st</sup> for the girls. Alex was awarded the year 5 / 6 Olympic Value for determination, she really gave it everything she had. The children showed true Woodcote grit and were fabulous ambassadors for the school. Well done to them all.

## Maths Challenge

A team from Maple class represented Woodcote Primary at the Oratory Maths challenge held on Thursday at the Oratory School. They were given some very tricky questions but coped admirably Well done to the children that took part and represented the school.

## Class Updates

<b>Oak</b>	Thank you so much to everyone who came in last Friday for story time the children were so excited to see their families in the classroom. Please let us know if you'd like to come in to be our secret reader. The children have had another great week and we are so impressed with all their learning in phonics and maths. We have sent home some copies of the letters and words that we've been learning. They can show you how they are learning to sound out and blend together to read the words. Any practice that you can do with them at home would be great. Next Tuesday we will send home their reading books with a letter explaining how the reading books will work. The children were all very excited to walk up to the church for the Harvest festival on Wednesday. We were so proud of them all. They walked up and back really sensibly; sang the songs we had been learning and volunteered lots of answers the questions that Rev'd Benskin asked. When they got back to school, they enjoyed a well-deserved treat for filling up the class pom pom jar. We have enjoyed making more bread rolls in interesting shapes this week and making microphones to use on our stage. On Thursday we made lots of yellow collages for mental health awareness and enjoyed dancing to music out on the playground with the rest of the school at the end of lunchtime. The children are really enjoying junk modelling so if you have any small cereal boxes or yogurt pots etc that the children could use we'd be grateful for any donations. We hope you all have a lovely weekend.
<b>Hornbeam</b>	This week in Hornbeam we have been learning all about capital letters. We have learnt that all our names start with a capital letter, names of places start with a capital letter, sentences start with a capital letter and everytime we write the word 'I' it also has a capital letter – so to demonstrate our learning we have written a letter from the Big Bad Wolf to Little Red Riding Hood saying sorry for all the mean things he has done. In maths we completed our learning about place value, looking at number lines learning to count on and back. Finally (and most excitingly) we have designed our own village in geography. We have been looking at maps and symbols over the past few weeks and this week we have combined all our knowledge to design our own village.
<b>Beech</b>	Beech class enjoyed going to the church on Wednesday to celebrate harvest festival. All the children worked so hard to learn a poem and two songs by heart, including the Makaton signs to go with them. Thank you to all the families who brought a donation for harvest. In maths, we have been comparing numbers using

	<p>real objects and solved some tricky problems involving place value. We have also been looking at the properties of 3D shapes, counting the edges and vertices. In science, we created information posters about the life cycle of a chicken and we look forward to presenting these to the class next week with our partner. During our Art lesson we have looked at the work of Cezanne, and learnt how to mix colours in order to create our own still life paintings.</p>
<b>Ash</b>	<p>In Ash Class this week, we have been investigating in Science how muscles move our skeletons. We created model arms and used elastic bands to contract and relax to replicate the muscles. In our English lessons, we have been thinking about Direct Speech Punctuation. And in Art, we have created our own Monet style collage plates, using his lily pond paintings for inspiration.</p>
<b>Rowan</b>	<p>We had a fabulous time on our walk around Woodcote. We were being cartographers, looking for places of interest that should be included on a map of Woodcote. The map we had was from the year 2000 so we were looking out for anything that is different now. Our next challenge in geography is to produce an updated version! We also really enjoyed listening to, and dancing to, music on the playground at the end of lunchtime yesterday. This was part of our learning about mental health on World Mental Health day. We also did a mindful breathing exercise to help us add to our 'toolkit' of strategies that help us develop our resilience. We do these regularly in Rowan Class; mental health is important on every day of the year. If your child would like to do these at home, the ones we have been using are from 'The Mindfulness Teacher' on Youtube. We will be focusing on our 4 x tables in the next couple of weeks. Please support your child in learning these for quick recall. Have a lovely weekend everyone.</p>
<b>Maple</b>	<p>It's been another eventful week here in Year 5. We kicked off our week writing Kennings, an old Anglo-Saxon style of poetry that is closer to riddles in many ways. We chose to write some of them themed around harvest so we could share them in our Harvest service later in the week. They'll be up on display around the school soon so do keep an eye if you happen to be dropping in! In Maths we have been diving into addition and subtraction calculations, this week looking at rounding to estimate an answer and starting to look at inverses for checking. We'll be continuing in this direction over the coming weeks. In Science we completed an investigation where we built our own parachutes to see what would slow down our test subjects the most (small plastic dinosaurs) while Topic saw us looking at how Christianity was brought to the Anglo-Saxons and the evidence we can still see that shows this. We wrapped up the week with another great ukulele lesson and the chance to share more of our poetry in sharing assembly!</p>
<b>Willow</b>	<p>After all of the hard work creating poems, writing them out in our best presentation standard and decorating them as well as using our knowledge of nets to cover the harvest boxes, we finally got to deliver the boxes today. What a beautiful day it was too and we truly loved meeting the residents that we delivered too. The boxes were gratefully received by those we delivered to. In Maths, we have looked at cubing and squaring and how these also link to our times tables. In English, we have begun to write our autobiography's so please make sure you have spoken to your child about their early years or the day they were born. We have booked our residential and a letter with more details will be with you next week. We will be asking for a deposit of £75 to confirm that you would like a place. Please come and ask if you have any questions about residential.</p>

## Harvest Poems from Year 4

*Harvest Recipe*  
*A wagon of fresh crops*  
*A pinch of kindness warning everyone*  
*Soft golden squishy harvest loaf*  
*20 people singing and saying prayers in*  
*church*  
*Everyone sharing a lovely harvest feast*  
*The last bit of golden sunshine*  
*Lots of hardworking farmers*  
*Cool showering rain*  
*Plenty of delicious food to store*  
*Cold breezes starting to flow*  
*Golden yellow wheat*

*Sophia*

*Harvest Recipe*  
*A house full of kindness,*  
*A giant feast of foo,*  
*A town full of harvest songs*  
*A mansion full of children laughing*

*Lucy*

### Important dates

Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Oxford Half Marathon
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	FOWPS Disco with DJ Ethan – tickets now on sale, see the link below
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Parents evening – 3:30 – 6:00 in the School Hall
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Open Morning for September 2025 intake 9:30 & 11:00am. Bookings need to be made via the office.
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Year 1 and 4 After School Cake Sale
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	FOWPS AGM 3:30pm
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	FOWPS Christmas Planning meeting 4:15pm
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents evening – 3:30 – 7:00 in the School Hall
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	FOWPS shed tidy (volunteers please) – time to be confirmed
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	INSET Day – no children in school
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Applications close for secondary school places
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Applications open for September 2025 reception intake
Saturday 9 November	FOWPS Community Coffee Shop and Second Hand Uniform Sale
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Open Morning for September 2025 intake 9:30 & 11:00am. Bookings need to be made via the office.
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	FOWPS Christmas Fair
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Closing date for reception 2025 intake

## **FOWPS**

### **JUST ONE MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

DJ Ethan is set to host our first **FOWPS Disco** of the year on **Friday 18 October**, but we can't do it without the support of our wonderful parent volunteers. Please sign up here: [volunteersignup.org/JFAKJ](http://volunteersignup.org/JFAKJ) Tickets can be purchased [HERE](#)

### **Asda Cashpot for Schools' initiative**

**Thank you we have got off to a great start and you have already helped to raise £67.32** If you haven't already joined all you have to do is - download the Asda Rewards app, opt in to Cashpot for Schools and choose Woodcote Primary School RG8 0QY. For each customer that registers Woodcote Primary School, FOWPS will receive £1. Plus, every time you shop online or instore using your Asda Rewards app before 30 November, FOWPS will receive further donations. Please encourage your friends and family to sign up too. Thank you!

FOWPS would like to hold a Christmas Raffle to support our fundraising for the term. We have raised up to £1,000 in previous raffles. However, we need some help to do it. Can you spare a couple of hours emailing or popping into potential local sponsors? Perhaps you're a dab hand with cellophane and ribbon and can you help present our prizes? If you can help at all, please contact Caroline Tye on 07879676421. Thank you for your support!

Our first Community Coffee Shop will be on Saturday 9 November. If you are happy to bake/buy a cake or have any new tombola gifts please pop in to see Mrs Heath in Oak Class.

### **Other News**

#### **YOUMOVE**

Low Cost Family activities to enjoy during half term – more information can be found on the attached flyer