Friday 6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have had a wonderful first week at Woodcote. While I am still learning names and faces, I am very grateful that they have all been friendly and welcoming! I must say a thank you to Mrs Wornham who has been helping me find my feet and answer a thousand questions, but I must also say a thank you to all the Woodcote staff who have made me feel so welcome. There is still so much to learn as I take on the role as your new Headteacher, however, I am incredibly impressed with what I have seen so far. I am excited to get stuck in and I look forward to getting to know everyone better.

Mrs Smyth

Year 3 & 4 Football tournament
On the 4th November 11 boys from across Year 3 and Year 4 went to Langtree to take part in a football tournament. The boys were full of enthusiasm and team spirit, encouraging each other and they all put in lots of effort. Kodi and Rupert were both presented with an 'Olympic value' medal for determination, and they also scored a goal each. All the boys represented Woodcote Primary School excellently and we were very proud of them and their positive attitudes towards both each other and their opponents.

Christmas Lunch orders
Christmas lunch will be on Wednesday 16th December, so please place your order via ParentMail. It is always a fun event for the children who are served by the staff, it would be great if all children could take part. The Catering company cannot offer any other lunch options on this day. If you have already ordered lunches for the week commencing 14th December please refer to the communication sent out via ParentMail as lunches for that week will need to be reordered.

After School Clubs
Bookings for After School clubs are now live on ParentMail, please book early to avoid any disappointment.

Free School Meal families - Holiday Activities & Food (HAF): Winter Holiday Provision 2026
Bookings open on Tuesday 10th November, for more information please read the ParentMail which was sent out on Tuesday 3rd November.

Year 5 & 6 Residential – date change
In case you have not yet seen the ParentMail, due to unforeseen circumstances the Residential dates have changed to Monday 21st June 2027 to Friday 25th June 2027 for Year 6 children and Monday 21st June to Wednesday 23rd June 2027 for year 5 children. Deposits ned to be paid by today

Beech class parents
The Stay and Play session has changed to Friday 20th November instead of Friday 13th, the time remains the same.

Gifts for children in the John Radcliffe hospital
Please refer to the ParentMail sent out yesterday for more information.

Clothing
As the weather is getting much colder, please ensure your child has a warm coat, hat, gloves etc in school. All items must be named.

Cake donations
A reminder that School Council have arranged a Cake Sale after school on Friday 13th November for Children In Need. Please can all nut free cake donations be dropped off in the Kitchen chalet on Friday morning. Children are also encouraged to dress in yellow in exchange for a £1.00 donation. Thank you for supporting this fund-raiser.

Data Collection forms
If you haven't already done so please can you ensure that you have checked all the information we have for you/your child is up to date, sign and return the form to the school office by the end of next week. Thank you.

From the last newsletter

Amazon Wish Lists Relaunch
Our individual class and whole-school Amazon Wish Lists have now been refreshed for the new term!

Each list includes optional items that help teaching staff top up resources, enrich topic learning, and support day-to-day classroom activities.

Teachers have updated their lists this week, and you'll see them linked below. There is absolutely no expectation to purchase anything, the lists simply offer a way for families who wish to support the school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community.

WPS Acorns
WPS Oak
WPS Beech
WPS Ash
WPS Rowan
WPS Maple
WPS Willow
Whole School

Acorns	Our focus this week has been on Bonfire Night and keeping safe. We have talked about holding hands and wearing bright coats as we go out into the dark nights. The children have learnt new songs, including *On Bonfire Night at 5 O'Clock*, and we have asked them to sing them to you. We have read non-fiction books about firefighters and paramedics, looking at what they do and how they help us. We are developing our listening skills by playing stop-and-go games and challenging the children to follow two- and three-step instructions, focusing on their understanding. Now that the cooler weather is upon us, please ensure that your child has a warm coat, hat, gloves and waterproofs (if you have them), as well as wellies and a spare change of clothes, including a few pairs of socks. All items should be named. In maths, we have looked at repeating patterns and pattern-making. We had fun using our music sticks and encouraging the children to follow patterns made by clapping, tapping, jumping and stomping to music inspired by one of the Acorn Ladies. If you are attending any bonfire events over the weekend, please have a little safety chat, decide on a meeting point in case you become separated, and have lots of fun. Stay safe.
Oak	We hope everyone had a good half term. The children have come back happy and ready to learn which is great. In phonics Oak have been learning the c and k sounds and developing their confidence in applying their phonics knowledge to reading. Cherries have been learning that the ea sound can sound different in words eg as in bread and in beach. In maths Oak have been doing lots of work around the number 5 and looking at how it looks on dice! Cherries have been adding one more using a number line to help them and have been looking at number stories. In Literacy we have been thinking about firework safety and writing instructions to stay safe for our posters. In science we enjoyed thinking about exercise and we also enjoyed thinking about lots of different forms of transport and looking at pictures of transport from now and from the past. We have noticed that lots of the children's clothing is still unnamed. Please add your child's name to every item of clothing. Sharing time is next Friday, you are welcome to come

	into Oak class at 2.50. Please can the children bring in a photo of their house/home by Friday 20th November. We hope you have a good weekend.
Beech	Beech class have been working hard in science to learn how exercise keeps our bodies healthy. We thought of different exercises to do and talked about which sports and exercises we like doing. We then felt how our heart rate had increased after different exercises and measured this as a class. In maths, year 1 have been adding using a number line and solving some tricky word problems, year 2 have been adding multiples of 10 and counting in 10s. In phonics, year 1 have been learning the 'ee' and 'ea' sounds and year 2 have been learning how the suffix of some words change if there is more than one. In English, we wrote firework night safety posters ready for firework night. We spent this week singing firework songs, creating firework art and even made edible sparklers!
Ash	In Ash class this week, we have been learning to add and subtract two 3-digit numbers using column addition and subtraction. In Geography, we have started our new topic on Egypt and the River Nile and in Science, we have been learning about the human skeleton; identifying and naming the largest bones. We are looking forward to our Rivers workshop next Tuesday. If anyone is available to help with the morning workshops, we'd very much appreciate a volunteer. Thank you!
Rowan	It's been a fantastic first week back here in Rowan Class! English has seen us taking a look at the book Fox by Margaret Wild, a surprisingly deep picture book that has really helped us dig into the reason people sometimes make poor choices. We'll be using it to produce a variety of pieces of work over the next few weeks. In Maths we've started looking at area, counting the number of squares within a closed 2D shape. You'll get a chance to see what we've been up to in this weeks homework! This week has also been spent collecting information about our local area through some online research, which gave us a chance to decide if we trust the answers provided by Google's AI. We've decided it's always worth checking their sources, just in case! We wrapped up the week with a variety of PE (Gymnastics, Swimming and Football!).
Maple	This week, Maple Class have been working hard in English to develop their use of appropriate language, including Standard English, when writing a successful news report. The children revisited the use of paragraphs to organise their ideas more clearly and practised sharing their improved versions of a sample news article. Alongside this, the class explored the values of friendship and the feelings associated with both positive and negative experiences. They discussed what makes a good friend and took part in role play scenarios to help them consider thoughtful, kind and respectful ways to respond in different situations.
Willow	This week in Willow class our focus in English has turned towards Remembrance Day. We have been studying a variety of poems from the war, analyse the different poetic devices used and what impact they have on the reader. It has been a real split in our class as to which is the favourite, In Flanders fields or Dulce et Decorum est. In Maths, our focus has been on fractions, in particularly being able to compare and order fractions, learning techniques such as finding the common denominator and simplifying has really helped to develop the children's understanding. In our wider curriculum we are continuing on with Ancient Greece. On Monday, we had a large class debate. After, learning about how citizens were treated in different city states (Athens and Sparta) we had to decide which state we would all move to - needless to say it was a very close thing with Athens marginally taking the victory 10-9. In French this term we are learning about common pets, learning the names of the pet and how to describe their appearance and character, we had some fantastic dialogue on Thursday and played some games that helped us learn the names of animals.

Important dates

Tuesday 15th September – Tuesday 1st December	Year 4 swimming lessons start, no lesson on Tuesday 20th October
Tuesday 10th November	Year 3 Rivers workshop
Tuesday 10th November	Year 3 & 4 Girls Football tournament at Langtree School
Friday 13th November	Oak families are invited to come in and listen to firework songs that the children have learnt – 2.50pm

Friday 13th November	Children In Need Cake Sale & wear yellow to school
Monday 16th November	Any gift donations for the John Radcliffe Hospital need to be in school today
Friday 20th November	Beech families are invited to come in for Stay and Play at 2.50pm
Sunday 29th November	FOWPS – return of the Jingle Jog https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fowps-events/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=124270
Thursday 3rd December	Acorns and Oak – Christingle service in Church
Friday 4th December	FOWPS Festive candle making workshop
Saturday 5th December	FOWPS last Coffee Shop of the year
Monday 7th December	KS1 Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 8th December	EYFS Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 9th December	KS1 (Years 1 &2) Christmas play @ 2.00pm
Thursday 10th December	Acorns & Early Years (Reception) Christmas play @ 2.00pm
Friday 11th December	Whole School visit to St.Leonard's Church for Christmas Carols.
Monday 14th December	Christmas Carols in school – time tbc
Monday 14th December	IRock Concert – 2.30 – 3.00pm – parents invited
Wednesday 16th December	School Christmas lunch
Friday 15th January 2027	Closing date for Primary School application for September 2027
Wednesday 3rd February	Young Voices – year 5 and 6 – please see the ParentMail sent out today for more information
Monday 21st June – Friday 25th June	Monday 21st – Wednesday 23rd June Year 5 Residential PGL Liddington Monday 21st – Friday 25th June – Year 6 Residential PGL Liddington

FOWPS news

Thank you one and all for your generous donations to the chocolate and sweets tombola today - we filled four huge bags of prizes for the Jingle Jog! Tickets for the Jingle Jog on 29th November are live now and you can even pre-book your visit to Santas Grotto: https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fowps-events/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=124270

Volunteers Needed!: We are re looking for just **five volunteers from each class** to help make this year's Jingle Jog a fantastic success! Every helping hand makes a difference, so please get involved and help us make it a festive event to remember. The sign-up sheet is live now and has been shared on your class pages. Please sign up today – we'd love your support! https://volunteersignup.org/AXDPP

Tickets are also live for our festive candle making event on 4th December. Slow down, get creative and make something magical with your own hands! Choose your own fragrance and hand-pour a beautiful 30cl candle under professional guidance. You'll also have the opportunity to decorate a pre-made candle (from a selection of seasonal fragrances) with crystals and yule themed botanicals to take home with you on the day. All materials and refreshments are included in the price - no need to bring anything other than your curiosity (and perhaps a notepad if you would like to write anything down!) The perfect gift or activity to share with friends https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fowps-events/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=125457