



Woodland Grange Primary NEWSLETTER December 2019

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It's Chrrrrristmas!

Welcome to our festive final newsletter of the term. It's difficult to believe that we are approaching the end of 2019 and that Christmas is just around the corner. It has been a very busy time at Woodland Grange and there is much to share. On Friday 29th November we welcomed at least 217 adults into school for decorations day. It was lovely to see so many grown ups supporting the children to make (in some cases quite tricky!) Christmas decorations. The results were amazing and the school looks very festive indeed. As well as organising their Christmas shows several year groups have been out on trips and visits in December. Year 5 classes visited Beauchamp College for a drama workshop and Year 3 walked to Manor to watch their Christmas concert. Preschool and Foundation Stage also had a terrific time visiting Curve to watch The Gruffalo.

We are now in the season of goodwill: Christmas is a time for giving as well as receiving. We have been overwhelmed in school with the generosity of our parents and carers. From Food Bank and toy donations to the enormous amounts raised for Children in Need and Leicestershire Air Ambulance charities, it really enforces that key message at this time of year...

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



FOWG: End of term report

The Friends of Woodland Grange have had another busy term organising events and raising money for the school. Following the ever successful **Hallowe'en** discos they planned a brilliant **Diwali** event which was very well supported.

Who could forget the return of **Samosa Friday** (yum, yum) which is always very popular with staff and parents! Their most recent event was the Festive FOWG event to celebrate all things **Christmas**. The children had a great time working on craft activities, enjoying delicious things to eat and drink and listening to the school choir sing some festive favourites. A huge thank you to all of FOWG for making such a positive difference to our school. To everyone that's volunteered, organised, sorted and planned—Thank you!

This year the Friends are raising money for many things at school including new reading books across the school and interactive screens and visualisers for classrooms. We would also like to thank **FoWG** and **CGI** (a company nominated by one of our parents and member of FoWG) for a generous donation towards the Woodland Wheelers. We have been able to finance a maintenance course for the instructors as well as high-visibility clothing for the club. A special thank you to everyone that donated toys and games to the Friends (on behalf of the Salvation Army).

Christmas Productions

It was wonderful to see so many pupils involved in our Christmas performances. Preschool and Foundation Stage treated us to a 'Wiggly Nativity'. Everyone sang and acted with great enthusiasm, it really was brilliant. Key Stage 1 travelled to St Peter's Church in Oadby. It was lovely to see so many grown ups enjoying the celebrations. Thank you to everyone at St Peter's who made us feel so welcome. Year 3 were invited to Manor High School to watch their Christmas show this year. It was a wonderful mix of music, drama and dance. Finally Year 4 & 5 put on a very special pantomime; 'Cinderella Rockerfella' was a triumph and there were many positive comments from parents. The songs were catchy, the acting was brilliant and the ugly sisters were strangely familiar... An extra special well done to all the children that made it back to school for the evening performance, fantastic support. A huge **THANK YOU** to **EVERYONE** who made each of these productions such a wonderful experience for the children. The hard work that goes into organising these things is huge and it would not happen without your dedication.

Leicestershire Air Ambulance



Thank you to everyone that made a donation to our chosen Christmas Show charity. The Air Ambulance crews do an amazing, life saving job every day. Through your donations we were able to raise an incredible **£330.06**.

Parking at school

We are receiving more and more photographs from parents who are increasingly concerned about cars parking on the zig zag lines outside school. We would urge parents to keep these clear at all times and park in a respectful way. This car (right) was parked across the end of Wright Lane (emailed in 21/11/19) blocking local residents and parents dropping off their children. We have recently updated our Road Safety page on the website including a guide for parents.



Anti Bullying Week & Odd Socks Day 2019



This term our school has been supporting Anti Bullying Week. The theme this year was 'Change starts with us' and centred on the difference that we can all make. Change starts here, change starts now, change starts with us. As part of the week we encouraged children to wear odd socks to celebrate our differences and underline the message that we must treat everyone with the same respect.

'Whether it is verbal, physical, online or in-person, bullying has a significant impact on a child's life well into adulthood. By making small, simple changes, we can break this cycle and create a safe environment for everyone. Because together, we can challenge bullying.'

We followed up our assemblies during Anti Bullying Week with work in the classroom and will continue to constantly monitor how we tackle bullying at WGPS. More info can be found on our website, just visit the **'Keeping Safe'** pages.

National Road Safety Week 2019

We have also recently supported National Road Safety Week (organised by BRAKE). Being safe when out and about is something that we hold in the highest regard and we want all our children to be safe every time they leave the house. Our Junior Road Safety Officers were busy during the week; checking that everyone was parking correctly, surveying parents about their travel habits and handing out information about different aspects of road safety. They did a brilliant job and will continue to promote road safety in school.

We were also lucky enough to link up with Cycling UK and the 'Sam Says' campaign. Sam Boulton was sadly killed near Leicester Train Station whilst on his bike. His family have campaigned for the 'Dutch Reach' to be implemented across the UK. This simple practice (reaching around to open your car door with your furthest hand) can save the life of a cyclist. More information (on any aspect of road safety) can be found by visiting www.brake.org.uk



Our JRSOs in action

Children in Need 2019



A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone that donated to Children in Need 2019. The children looked very colourful in their rainbow inspired outfits and there were (as ever) some very creative efforts. A special thank you to Molly Pickering who (together with Miss Murdock) baked some 'tasty treats' for the staffroom raising **£41.87**.

Owl's Hoot also had a cake and biscuit sale which made **£241**. The staff at Owl's Hoot also donated all the cakes and biscuits from their own pockets. It was lovely to hear about children bringing in pocket money from their piggy banks too—truly inspiring!

In total we raised an incredible **£908.46** across the school. A truly amazing amount which will benefit children across the UK. It is astonishing that parents and carers give as much as they do every year to Children in Need. Thank you.

Maths Bulletin

Supporting your child with their maths at home can make a massive difference to their attainment and progress at school. **Miss Rose** has put together a monthly **Maths Bulletin** for Key Stage 1 pupils. It contains lots of fun things to try at home including recipes, puzzles and links to maths apps. There are even competitions for children to enter (with prizes for the winners!)

Watch out for more **Maths Bulletins** coming out in the New Year!



ModeShift Stars

Parents may be aware that we have recently been awarded the Bronze Star ModeShift Stars award for promoting sustainable transport at school (inc. walking to school, cycle training). We were lucky enough to be invited to a regional event in Birmingham where we received our award were inspired to continue our work towards a silver (and maybe gold!) award.



Oadby Food Bank

We would like to thank parents for all the donations to Oadby Food Bank this year, especially the extra efforts in the run up to Christmas. The Food Bank is open over the holidays on 20th December & 3rd, 17th and 31st January.



Mr Flanagan and Mr Pickering took 2 pupils to Birmingham for the ModeShift Stars event.

Important dates:

20th December: Main & Preschool closes

2nd January : Preschool returns

6th January: Preschool closed (Teacher day)

7th January: Main & Preschool returns

5th February: Parents' evening

6th February: Preschool Parents' evening

10th February: Parents' evening

12th February: Parents' evening

Wb 17th February: Half term break

All dates can be found on the school website. Visit www.woodlandwideweb.org.uk and click on the calendar on the homepage...

