



Woodland Grange Primary NEWSLETTER January 2020

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www.woodlandwideweb.org.uk

 @Woodland_Grange

New Year, New Start...



Welcome back to a new year at Woodland Grange. We hope that you had a peaceful holiday and your batteries are fully recharged ready for the Spring term. Welcome also to the first newsletter of a new decade, 2020 has begun!

It was lovely seeing so many smiling faces returning to school. Lots of stories and news to share from the holidays; friends meeting up again after the break full of excitement for the upcoming term. The beginning of 2020 seems like a perfect time to make those New Year's Resolutions. We often talk to the children (in the classroom and in assemblies) about the importance of not only making a positive change but also the willpower that it takes to maintain that change.

Poetry by Heart

Poetry By Heart is an inspiring competition for students in schools and colleges to learn and recite poems by heart and Woodland Grange is getting involved. We will be offering every child (or class) the chance to recite a poem in front of the school. We will also select individuals from Year 5 & 6 to represent our school in a county wide challenge, and maybe even the National Finals!

Look out for more information coming in February.



PE at WGPS

We are looking forward to some sporting competitions happening very soon. In February there will be a county trials race for the cross country finals. There are also dodgeball, basketball & gymnastic competitions happening very soon (more info in next newsletter). Finally there is an opportunity for a GALS (girls active lifestyle) day which is happening very soon.

Reading Champions

Congratulations to our most recent set of Reading Champions. The children (specially selected by their class teachers) are all avid readers and are great adverts for 'reading for pleasure'. Reading is a vital part of any child's education and the ability to select, read and comment on a book is incredibly important. As part of their role we ask all Reading Champions to write about their reading choices, favourite books or authors or just simply about their love of reading. Each term we will also pick a winner of a £10 book voucher (funded by FoWG) from all our autumn Reading Champions. We will announce the winner in assembly.

We want all children to follow their example and get reading. We will be choosing a new set of Reading Champions before the half term break—good luck!



Well done to one of our Year 6 pupils who has recently won a silver medal in the 50m freestyle event of the County Champs! Dishan (who swims for Oadby & Wigston) was also chosen as swimmer of the year for 2019. Congratulations on an amazing achievement! He is looking forward to more success in 2020, and we'll keep you posted.

2 members of our school were lucky enough to attend a Leicester Tigers match recently. They were both selected by Ash from the Tigers following her work on keeping healthy.



The gift of a book

We would like to say **Thank You** to 'The Bookshop' in Kibworth for a book that has been given to the school. **Lost Words** has been written by Robert Macfarlane and illustrated by Jackie Morris is a magical book which celebrates the words we use to describe nature.

Through sponsoring their customers, the staff of the



book shop have raised enough money to offer copies of the book to schools in Leicestershire. It is a beautiful book and our children will enjoy looking at it.



The Friends of Woodland Grange

FoWG is our school/parent's association. They are a voluntary group (charity number 1028219). Run by parents, the money that they raise every year goes to benefit every child that attends our school. During the school year they organise discos, quizzes, fun days and celebration events. Their commitment to school is huge and we are all eternally grateful for everything that they do.

Over the years they have raised staggering amounts of money which we have used for many projects around school:



From interactive screens in the classroom to reading and library books. From our adventure playground to farm trips and theatre visits, **FoWG** have made it happen (pics include some of the items paid for by FoWG 2012-2019)

This year the Friends are raising money for:

IT equipment including visualisers (document cameras) for the classroom.

Money to support reading initiatives in school, including class readers & Reading Champions.

Money to go to 'Food for Life' resources including cooking at school, new equipment & training.

The Friends are always looking for new ideas and extra volunteers. Can you help? Volunteering at events is great but we want our parents to commit to stepping up, organising and running events and taking an active role in FoWG. Remember every penny that is raised comes back into school for the benefit of all our pupils. Get in touch by emailing: fowg@woodlandgrange.leics.sch.uk or pop into the school office. Thank you.

Breaktime snacks

Having a mid morning snack is very important at school. Studies have shown that fuelling up during the morning can improve concentration, attitude and productivity (very important at school!) However we are seeing an increasing number of children coming into with unhealthier snacks (many with non-recyclable packaging). Please only send in fruit or vegetable snacks. Yoghurt or cheese snacks are also ok. If your child has any specific dietary requirements, speak to the class teacher or the school office.



Messy Christingle

Leicester Cathedral will be holding a special 'Messy Christingle' service on Saturday 25th January at 3pm. To book tickets, click on the link: <http://leicestercathedral.org/events/messy-christingle-service/>

DON'T FORGET

If you are celebrating your birthday soon why not gift your class a book. It's cheaper than individual gifts and is something that future classes will enjoy too! Speak to your child's class teacher for more information on what to buy.

Important dates:

20th January: Year 6 to visit Warning Zone
5th February: Parents' evening
6th February: Preschool Parents' evening
10th February: Parents' evening
11th February: Safer Internet Day 2020
12th February: Parents' evening
Wb 17th February: Half term break
28th February: FOWG Book event
5th March: World Book Day 2020

Don't forget: All dates can be found on the school website calendar. Visit www.woodlandwideweb.org.uk and click on the calendar on the homepage...

At Woodland Grange we recognise the importance of good aspirations. We work hard to make sure all our pupils are equipped to deal with every aspect of their learning both academically and in other more general ways. We know that if a child has resilience, creativity and the ability to think and work independently then their journey through school will be far more rewarding.

In our Friday celebration assemblies we will be awarding leaves on our own Aspiration Tree. These may be awarded for specific things that have happened in the classroom. But they will also be for a general attitude to learning. We also want to reward children who shine by doing some, most or all of these without the focus just being on the academic. This poster is on display in the our classrooms. We would like you to have your own copy to discuss these ideas at home.

