



# Woodland Grange Primary

## NEWSLETTER ~ February 2021

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[www.woodlandwideweb.org.uk](http://www.woodlandwideweb.org.uk)

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We now know that all children will be returning to school on Monday March 8th. Great news for everyone connected with our school. Whilst it has been lovely to welcome some pupils back to school this term, it has been quieter than usual. We look forward to the school becoming whole and complete once again when everyone returns. We also hope that infection rates continue their downward trend and we can continue with school operating normally. It is crucial, now more than ever, that everyone continues to play their part. We must follow the government's guidance, minimise contact and protect the NHS. We are, as ever, thankful to all our key worker parents and carers for their continued efforts, especially during the vaccine rollout.

We would also thank non-key worker parents and carers for doing a fantastic job at home. It is difficult to juggle work and home learning, especially when for an extended period of time. Missing one assignment or being slightly late for one live lesson is not the end of the world and teachers understand and are thankful for the positive attitude of parents and carers in supporting their children at home.

We are also proud of all our pupils, whether in school or at home. The way they are coping with the ongoing, ever changing situation is amazing. Dealing with segregation from other year groups, missing best friends that are not in school and having to be accountable for their online learning has not been easy. They have remained mature and sensible throughout.

Finally we would like to praise everyone working at school. There have been so many examples of staff going above and beyond their role to support your children. We know families will join us in saying a heartfelt 'Thank you' for their care and dedication.



A HUGE thank you to the lovely people at **Scholastic books** who have given school over £200 worth of BAME books. There is an imbalance in the world of children's fiction with less characters from black or minority ethnic backgrounds. We are looking very carefully at how we can improve the choices of reading books at school and will promote authors and illustrators from BAME backgrounds. Thank you to Miss Smith and Miss Benjamin for helping to secure this lovely set of new books for the school.



**Please remember to wear a mask before entering the school site. We are asking everyone to remain socially distant on the school site, especially in the playground.**



### Remote Learning Update

Our online learning routine is now firmly established at school. As we prepare for a return for pupils from March 8th we know that arrangements will change again and any online provision regarding live or recorded lessons will stop. We may choose to use MS Teams for such things as homework or additional information for parents. Your child's class teacher will confirm any arrangements.

We would also like to say thank you to all parents and carers for supporting their children with their online lessons. We know how difficult the last few months has been and are grateful for the kind comments and positive attitude that you have demonstrated to your children. We would like to remind you of some key messages as we move into the final weeks of our online provision. Please remember that any messages to school staff via Teams will only be answered during school hours. Please also remember to mute yourself during all LIVE lessons.

The Spark Arts Festival has been running again this year during February.

Unfortunately, the festival had to organise all events online this year, rather than visiting schools. However, we have still been able to offer to children in school (and at home) the chance to sample what was on offer. The annual festival combines dance, music and drama into commissioned shows and experiences. Although the shows were online, we hope that the children still enjoyed them. It is more important than ever to celebrate the arts and offer children experiences they wouldn't normally get.

Thank you to Mrs Chadwick for organising the events in school.

**the spark**  
arts for children

## Reading at home

Reading is one of the most important ways to support your child's learning at home. There are lots of resources and reading schemes available (many of them are now online) but the best way to make sure your child grows up with a love for reading and books is to follow these handy steps.

- **Quality (not quantity):** Don't worry about the 'what' or 'how' of reading each day. Comics, leaflets, recipes—everything counts!
- **Ask lots of questions:** Shared reading means 'reading with' not just 'reading to' (even for older children). Ask lots of 'wh' questions (e.g. what, why, when, who).
- **Make predictions:** Look at the front cover, read the blurb. Talk about what might happen before you read.
- **Summarise:** When you finish the book, talk about it. Describe it, act it out. What can you remember?
- **Write about it:** Writing or drawing pictures can help your child to recall and retell a story. Reading can help with writing.
- **Share:** Make books part of the family. Talk about them, share them, enjoy them together.
- **Motivate:** Talk about the joy of reading. Make time to read and put them your child in charge of their reading.

Taken from the *Education Endowment Fund*: [7 tips to support reading at home](#)



Children who love reading have everything within their reach.

## Books, Books, Books!

World Book Day will be taking place again on **March 4th**. There will be lots of book related things happening during the day, whether your child is in school or learning remotely at home. Year groups will set their own activities so look out for announcements on Teams and Tapestry.

We are also organising a Book Character trail around the local area (with the help of FOWG). Families have signed up and will display clues to a well known book character (paper clues, dressed up toys or even homemade models). Children will be given a map showing the location of each character and a space to record who you think the clues relate to. Entries can be returned to school and a winner picked at random! There will be a small charge to enter the competition.

*World Book Day promotes reading for pleasure and through the free book tokens scheme they are able to ensure that every child has new books to read. It is celebrated in over 100 countries around the World.*



## FOWG NEWS

A reminder that the Friends are organising a monthly draw through the School lottery which will run throughout the year. To sign up, click [here](#). Remember, the more tickets we sell, the more money we raise for school.

The Friends are also supporting our World Book Day celebrations this year. We are organising a 'Book Character Quest' around the local neighbourhood. Families can pay to enter the quest, walk around the local area and spot clues to find different book characters. Winners will be announced following World Book Day (see right).

**FOWG is a voluntary group who donate their time and energy to organise events and raise money to benefit every pupil at WGPS.**



Congratulations to Zainab for her entry to the 'World Food Day' competition. Her entry was selected from over 100 countries (the only one from the UK) as a finalist in the 'Food Heroes' competition which was organised by the UN. The contest was designed to celebrate food heroes such as farmers, drivers, shop assistants, and food bank workers. We think it's an eye catching picture. →



## ONCE UPON A TIME...

February 26th is going to be the day for 'happily ever afters' as it's National Tell A Fairy Tale Day! We will be marking the day at school with 'traditional' story times as well as hoping that there will be opportunities to share some stories at home. Reading is one of the most important activities to support your child with at home (see above) and we know that many children love to listen to traditional tales and well known stories, sometimes we can retell the story without the book!

**THE END**

## Dates for your diary

26/02: Fairy tale day  
04/03: World book day 2021  
08/03: All children can return to school and preschool  
19/03: Comic Relief 2021