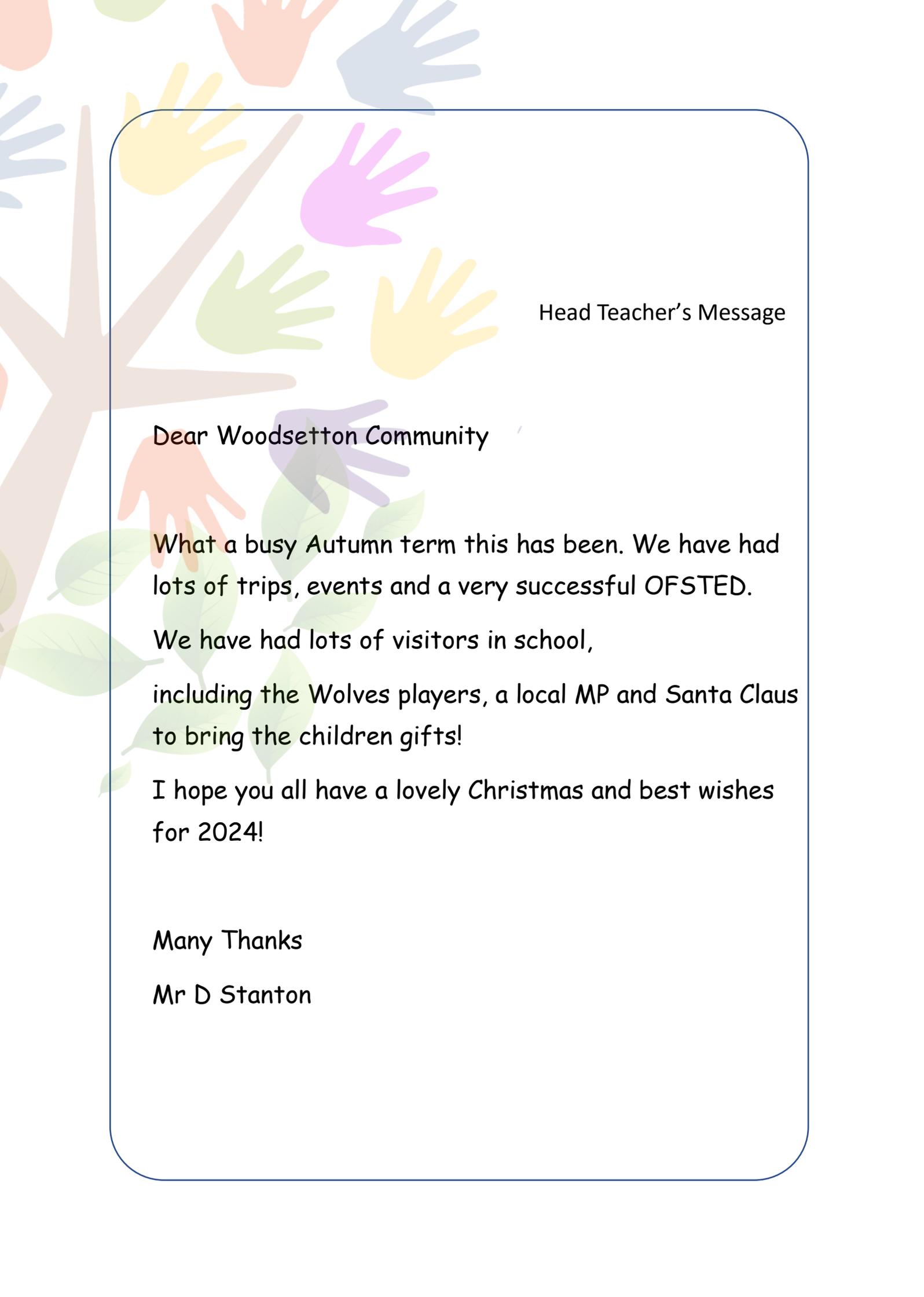


21/12/23

The Woodsetton School Newsletter

WINTER





Head Teacher's Message

Dear Woodsetton Community

What a busy Autumn term this has been. We have had lots of trips, events and a very successful OFSTED.

We have had lots of visitors in school, including the Wolves players, a local MP and Santa Claus to bring the children gifts!

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and best wishes for 2024!

Many Thanks

Mr D Stanton

Butterfly Class

Mr J Robinson

During this term Butterfly Class have worked on the topic 'Marvellous Monsters.' We have learnt about Animals, the Human Body and Ancient Greece in our afternoon sessions. We created artwork in a range of media around this theme, including designing and making our Medusa head dresses and designing our own Greek Mosaics.



In English we focused on the following texts: The Colour Monster, Monsters – An Owner's Guide, Monsters Love Underpants, Billy and the Beast, It's Behind You – A book of monster poems. As well as these stories, we looked at a range of Ancient Greek Myths, including The Minotaur, Medusa, Hercules, and The Trojan Horse. We are pleased to see the range of stories covered have been enjoyed by all of the children this term.



Butterflies and Squirrels visited Halesowen Town Hall to watch the production of 'There's a Monster in my show.' This was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and the children smiled all of the way through.

Within Humanities, the children explored the location of Greece, tasted food and learnt important facts about the country. During the second half term, the children learnt about life in Ancient Greece and how it wasn't always the same for boys and girls in the past. The children really enjoyed learning about the different Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Greece, and finding out what they were the Gods of. We have taken part in many celebration days, including 'Spanish Day,' 'Children in Need,' 'Odd Socks Day,' 'Remembrance Day,' and 'Jolly Jumper Day.' The children also produced a lovely Harvest Assembly back in October.



It has been a busy term, finished off with a visit to Sycamore Adventure, and the school Christmas Production of 'The Twinkly Nativity.' The children have all worked really hard this term and have earned a well-deserved rest!

The class staff and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. See you all in 2024!



Squirrel Class

Mrs C Guest

It has been a very busy and enjoyable Autumn term in Squirrel Class. Our topic Marvellous Monsters has taken us to Greece, where the children have learned about modern day Greece as well as Ancient Greece and the clues to their lives left behind. The children have enjoyed tasting Greek food and learning about childhood, buildings and the Gods and Goddesses that were worshipped by the Ancient Greeks. In English we have stayed with a monster theme, reading some wonderful stories and poems, these include; 'The Colour Monster', 'Monsters Love Underpants', 'Monsters: An Owners Guide' and a selection of poems from the book 'It's Behind You'. In the second half of the term our focus has been on Greek Myths and Legends, the children particularly enjoyed meeting the monsters Medusa, and the Minotaur. During our English lessons we have been developing our vocabulary and understanding of texts. We have written our own descriptions of characters and settings, thinking about adjectives and verbs. We use Colourful Semantics to support the children's speaking and writing, developing their grasp of grammar.

In Maths we have worked on our number and place value knowledge, with all children making good progress in this. We have then begun applying this knowledge within our addition and subtraction and multiplication and division. The children have enjoyed exploring fractions, shapes, measure as well as money.

During our science lessons the children have learnt about different animal groups and have been learning about the human body and how our organs work. The children enjoyed making a heart and lungs to see how blood pumps around the body and how our lungs look when we are inhaling and exhaling.



We have been thinking about who we are and how we fit in to our school, and how to treat others and how to deal with conflicts in a positive way during our Jigsaw PSHE lessons. Whilst in Life skills we talked about the importance keeping safe and identifying dangers at home and in the wider community, including crossing the road safely. We have also talked about the importance of good hygiene and why we need to wash and keep ourselves clean.



The highlights of our term have been our visit to Sycamore Centre to see Santa and receive a gift from him, our Christmas performance, 'Twinkly Nativity'. As well as our visit to Halesowen Town Hall. We enjoyed experiencing a live show; 'There's a Monster in My Show.' We joined in dancing and singing and had a really good time.

We look forward to more exciting activities and learning opportunities in 2024. Until then we wish you all a very happy Christmas and healthy New Year!



Owl Class

Mrs R Cook

Through our topic 'Changes over Time', we have learnt about and explored seasonal changes, weather types, climates, continents and also some key historical figures such as Christopher Columbus and Captain Cook. We have read and explored various stories and texts together that link to our themes. Some of these have included, Elmer's Weather, Don't Hog the Hedge, Skip through the Seasons, Abracadabra it's Spring, One Snowy Night, Squirrel's busy Year and The Snowman. Through our English sessions, we have completed many activities that have supported and developed our language and communication skills. We have worked on our writing, spelling, and fine motor skills and have completed daily phonics sessions to support and develop our reading skills. In Maths, we have worked on our number and place value skills and have explored shape, size, capacity, mass, position and direction, pattern, time, money and symmetry. We have also completed focused learning tasks to develop our using and applying skills to promote our life long skills.

In Science, we again explored seasonal changes and the weather. We have also covered learning linked to light and dark, temperature, colour and plants. We have worked scientifically through experimenting and investigating themes and objects.

In PE, we have enjoyed developing our throwing and catching skills and have learnt and developed skills linked to Cricket from working with a cricket coach.

Learning through our topic has involved us in creating pieces of artwork, exploring and using technology and outdoor exploration linked to the weather and seasons. We had a fantastic time at the SnowDome to finish our topic work!



Frog Class

Mr T Robinson

Frog class have had a fantastic first term. The children have enjoyed our topic 'Changes over Time'; they have been learning and exploring seasonal changes, weather types, climates, continents and also some key historical figures such as Christopher Columbus and Captain James Cook.

We have been reading and exploring various stories and texts together that link to our topic. Some of these included, Skip through the seasons, Elmer's weather, One year with Kipper, Don't Hog the Hedge, Abracadabra, It's Spring, And then comes Summer and One Snowy Night.

Throughout our Literacy lessons we have developed our skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening through a variety of activities linked to our topic. We have had daily phonics sessions and this has enabled the children to further develop in their reading and writing.

Our work in Maths, has continued to be based around the areas of number and place value, shape, space and measure. The using and applying of our maths skills linked to all of our work and learning opportunities and enabled us to promote our life long skills linked to maths.

In Science, we have learnt about temperature, weather and light and dark. We have also discovered what plants need in order to grow.

Our activities and learning throughout our topic have involved creating pieces of artwork and exploring technology. In art this term, the children explored seasonal colours and have had opportunities to mix colours and observe the changes.

In PE this term, we have developed our throwing and catching skills. We have also worked with a coach to learn and develop skills linked with the sport of Cricket.

The children have shown great enthusiasm and curiosity during the topic. We have enjoyed two fantastic trips to the SnowDome and The Sycamore Adventure playground. We are sure that this was a memorable experience for all.



Bee Class

Miss A Smith

Our topic for this half term has been 'It's good to be me'. We have been working hard but also having lots of fun. We have learnt about 5 senses, the names of our part bodies and different celebrations festivals such as Diwali, St Andrews Day and Black History.

We have read and explored various stories that link to our themes. Our favourites were 'Brown bear, brown bear, what can you see? And Polar bear, polar bear, what can you see?'. They loved looking at the different animals in the story. We have completed many activities linked to the stories to develop their language and communication skills. Through our writing session we have been working on writing our names and letter formation. We have completed daily phonics session to support and develop our reading skills.

In Maths, we have worked on our number and place value skills through using practical resources and songs. We have explored 2d and 3d shapes, ordering objects of different sizes, sequence different parts of the day, learn about the clock faces and role played with money and identifying the different coins.

We have completed lots of science activities, finding out about light and dark, listening and identifying different sounds and making quiet and loud noises. We have explored the 5 senses and have identified our head, shoulders, knees and toes.

Part of our topic this term in PE we have worked on climbing and travelling in different ways such as crawling, jumping and rolling.

One of our favourite activities this half term has been our trip to soft play. We got to have lots of fun crawling, going down the slide and watching materials move in the air.

We hope Bee Class and their families have a wonderful Christmas break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2024!



Ladybird class

Mrs E Lampitt

This term we have had a super time working on our topic, Good To Be Me. We have learned about our features, made self-portraits and enjoyed exploring our senses. In Science we have explored the names of different body parts; and as part of our RE work we have looked at different festivals celebrated by us and our friends.

During our English lessons we have worked hard to practise writing our names and are continuing to develop our pencil control, mark-making and letter formation skills. We have explored lots of lovely stories linked to our topic this term, such as Funny Bones, The Little Red Hen, Brown Bear Brown Bear What Do You See, Polar Bear Polar Bear What Do You Hear and Dear Santa.

In Maths we have engaged with numbers practically, through play and song. We have also worked on developing our counting skills and explored ordering numbers, as well as taking part in learning based on addition, subtraction and sharing. During our shape, space and measure work we have matched and sorted 2D shapes, role played with money and explored sequencing time. We have also taken part in learning based on time and measuring length, capacity and mass. In Science this term we have worked on labelling body parts, exploring our senses, light and dark and electricity.

During our PE lessons this term we have focused on developing our gross motor skills by climbing on and through apparatus, we have also enjoyed travelling in different

ways across pieces of PE equipment. Ladybirds had lots of fun during our trip to the soft [play room](#) at Crystal Leisure Centre; we applied our physical skills brilliantly!



Woodpecker Class

Mrs S Lappage

We have had a great start to the academic year in Woodpecker class. What a fantastic Autumn term it has been! Our topic for this half term has been 'It's good to be me'. We have explored the 5 senses and have identified our head, shoulders, knees and toes. We enjoyed exploring toys we like and dislike.

We have looked at lots of books and stories. One of our favourites was 'Brown bear'. The children enjoyed exploring the colours and liked looking at different animals in the story. We have enjoyed developing our communication skills during English and Reading sessions. We love having a story read to us!

In Maths, we have looked at our numbers to 10 and beyond. Counting and nursery rhymes have helped us learn the sequence of numbers. We have explored 2D shapes in the environment and have been creative with 2D shape pictures.

One of our favourite activities this half term has been our trip to Sycamore. We got to play outside, pedal on the bikes, climb apparatus and explore sensory toys. What a fun time we had!

We have enjoyed taking turns as part of our music sessions. We even performed in the Christmas Nativity. We really were super stars!



Hedgehog Class

Mrs C Dimmock

We have had a wonderful term in Hedgehogs!

Our topic this half term has been 'Good to be Me'. The children have explored a range of books within our English sessions. A particular favourite was 'Pete the Cat's Lunch'. The children handled different foods to communicate which they liked and disliked. They also made their own sandwiches. Within Phonics, the children have learnt some level 2 sounds. They have handled objects that contain the phoneme sound as well as trying hard to make marks to represent the grapheme. During maths, we have developed our number recognition and counting skills. The children have worked within their own number range to explore quantity and a range of visual representations. Within our topic sessions, the children have learnt about places that are familiar to them. They have enjoyed travelling on the minibus to look at our local area whilst visiting Sycamore Adventure. They have also been exposed to a range of people from the past. We looked at 'Guy Fawkes' during our bonfire night celebrations and made our own using different materials.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed our music sessions. Using a range of instruments, they have performed in front of their peers. They have also loved listening to Christmas songs and practicing for our Christmas play.

The children have worked so hard this half term and the staff are very proud of the progress they have made. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas.



Badger Class

Miss K Drake

Our first term in school has been exciting. As part of our topic 'Rhyme time' we have been reading and exploring various stories and nursery rhymes including – 'That's not my' books, We're going on a bear hunt, Jack and Jill, From head to toe, Humpty Dumpty, Ellie's magic wellies, Farmer Duck, Twinkle, twinkle little star, Where's Spot, 'Where's Spot at Christmas' and Dear Santa.

In English we have completed many activities that have supported and developed our communication skills. We have also been learning Makaton signs and how to use ALD boards to enable us to communicate in lots of different ways.

Our daily phonics sessions have entailed lots of new songs and we have been introduced to the phonemes S a t p i n. As part of our English work we have also been practicing letter formation plus recognising and writing our names. In Maths we have worked on number recognition to 10 and beyond. We have enjoyed counting rhymes and songs to help us learn sequence of number. We have also explored 2d shapes and pattern. We practice applying our maths skills through practical activities such as sand, water, play dough and role play.

One of our favourite activities in Badgers is visiting the Crystal Leisure centre for soft play. We love to develop our physical and social skills by jumping, climbing, sliding, balancing, sharing and interacting with each other. We also love the mini bus ride!

We have enjoyed lots of other sessions such as knowledge and understanding of the world, Expressive Arts and design, Music, PSE and Life skills.

Our main focus this term has been settling into school life and routines and our teachers think we have been amazing!

Now we can enjoy a lovely Christmas break and look forward to more exciting learning in the Spring term.



Caterpillar Class

Miss J Beckley

What a busy Autumn term we have had in Caterpillar Class; from building brick walls for Humpty Dumpty to trying different cheeses for the Three Blind Mice, we have explored so many different Nursery Rhymes during our Autumn topic of 'Rhyme Time'.

The children have been huge fans of getting on board the mini-bus every other week and heading to Crystal Leisure Centre to go wild at their soft play centre. It has been truly amazing seeing the children's confidence grow in the short amount of time that we have been attending and we cannot wait to head back there in January. The children have continued developing their gross motor skills on the Tower and Adventure Playground at school – their balancing and climbing skills are pretty impressive – go Caterpillars!

One thing that I have learnt about all of the Caterpillars this half-term is that they love learning with food – whether they are beginning to count a number of biscuits to making marks in trays of cornflakes, Caterpillar Class just love food. This has allowed the children to try a range of new healthy foods through out JIGSAW PSHE lessons, although the children weren't too pleased with the taste of the lettuce or tomatoes.



I think that all the children have done amazingly well settling into a new classroom with new faces (adults and children) and they all deserve to have a fun and relaxing Christmas holiday. I feel so proud to see how they have settled and how they enjoy the daily routines – some children have also been my little helper too making sure I remember to do our good mornings and good afternoons!



I hope you all have a truly wonderful time with your families over the Christmas period, I look forward to seeing you all again in January so that we can explore our new "Once Upon a Story" topic. I wonder who we will meet this time, The Three Little Pigs or perhaps the Little Red Hen!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all,

Miss Beckley

Parental Engagement



It has been a very busy term and the whole school community has taken part in some amazing events and activities. 'Thank you' for your support.

Over the past term we have invited parents in to take part in some workshops, class assemblies and to watch our amazing performance of 'Twinkly Nativity'. We hope you have enjoyed coming into school to share these activities with us and we welcome your feedback on upcoming workshops and any organisations and professionals you wish to come into school to support your family.

- Macmillian Coffee morning supported by the PSA followed by parents visits into new classrooms to meet staff working with their child.
- Harvest Festival assembly led by Pathway 4
- Remembrance Assembly led by Pathway 3
- Maths and Phonics parent workshop
- Sutton School staff coming into school - meeting with parents to support transition
- RSHE Parent Information Session
- Children in Need

Ofsted

On 10th & 11th October 2023, school was given a graded section 5 OFSTED Inspection. The inspectors that visited our school carried out their inspection over the two days, which included deep dives, lesson visits, discussions with staff/pupils, meetings with school leaders and scrutiny of work undertaken by children. They met with teachers, support staff, non-teaching staff, members of the governing body, other external agents, spoke with parents, and reviewed documentation provided by the school.

The inspectors concluded that Woodsetton School the overall effectiveness is Good in all areas.

- The quality of education - Good
- Behaviour and attitudes - Good
- Personal development - Good
- Leadership and management - Good
- Early years provision - Good

As a school we consider this an excellent achievement for the whole school community and are exceptionally proud of all staff and pupils. The report is extremely positive, and although there have been some areas highlighted for continued

- improvement, school leaders have already started to work to develop this and we continue to AIM high for all of our pupils throughout school. Congratulations everyone!

Extra-curricular activities



After school Clubs

This half term in after school club we have had lots of fun taking part in different activities. We enjoyed Multi skills and Cookery, Sensory and Sports with the Wolves Foundation, Arts, crafts and Wellbeing. We used a variety of talent to participate in these sessions, developing different areas of future life skills.

Lunchtime Clubs

Lunchtime clubs continue to run successfully in school. We continue to also have sessions run by the Wolves Foundation 2 days per week that are accessed by classes from Pathways on different days. The children throughout school also have a choice to join in with activities run by school staff in Makaton, singing, sensory and art clubs.

Special visitors

Recently we have had some special visitors in school to deliver some very special gifts. The Wolves foundation visited us to give all children in school a Christmas gift. We had a visit from 3 Premiership players.



Kye Guest in Butterfly class is a runner up in Marco Longhi (MP) Christmas card competition from 700 entries.. Well done Kye!



Parent School Association (PSA)



The PSA have continued to support school with fundraising events and buying gifts for the children. They supported school with the Macmillan Coffee morning and have organised and raised £298 from the Christmas raffle to buy the Children Christmas gifts with a visit from Santa! They will be hosting more events through the rest of the school year and would welcome any additional support from parents and families that have a little extra time. Please contact the school office if you are able to do this so we can pass on your details...thank you.



Spring term 2024 dates

Monday 8 th January	INSET day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 9 th January	School reopens @ 9am for all pupils
Thursday 18 th January	Communication workshop with Lucy Creed (SaLT) @ 9.30am – all parents invited
Friday 2 nd February	NSPCC Number day – Fundraising
Wednesday 7 th February	Online Safety workshop with Juliet Joy (RM) @ 2pm– all parents invited
Friday 9 th February	Break up for half term
Monday 19 th February	School reopens @ 9am for all pupils
Wednesday 6 th March	Parents Evening
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Friday 8 th March	Mother's Day coffee and crafts
Friday 15 th March	Comic Relief - Fundraising
WC 18.03.24	Easter activities – TBC
Friday 22 nd March	Break up for Easter

