

Woodfield School

Malmes Croft, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP3 8RL

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear parents and carers,

It was lovely to see so many of you in school last week as part of our Harvest Week celebrations. We had good attendance at the Sing and Sign Assemblies, and we all had a chance to try delicious food from around the world on Thursday. We also received very generous donations for the DENS Charity, which we will be dropping off early next week.

We are very excited that many more of our classes are now going out and about every week. We are in the process of putting in place a regular weekly slot for every class. Have a look at the lovely photos below of some of our pupils enjoying off-site learning.

I can also give you a RAAC update - the officer visited us this week on behalf of Herts County Council and confirmed verbally to us that the buildings built between 1990 - 1995 that they were looking at contain no concrete. We will receive an official report and I'll send a letter to parents once we've had that sent to us.

Finally, I hope that you and your family enjoy the unseasonably warm weather over the weekend.

Best Wishes,

K. Mann. Gair

DIARY DATES

Mon 23rd - Fri 27th October - Half Term

Coffee Mornings - visitor dates

- **Wed 18th Oct- SPACE Hertfordshire**
- **Wed 1st Nov - Up on Downs**

More details later in the newsletter.



Headteacher Awards

	29th September	6th October
Class 1	Lottie	Charlee
Class 2	Wilfred	David
Class 3		
Class 4	Tyler	James
Class 5	Alesha	Jamie
Class 6		
Class 7		Maida
Class 8		Aiden H
Class 9	Jaden	
Class 10	James	Ella
Class 11	Taofy	Benji
Class 12	Lauren	David
Class 14	Isobel	Ethan

Well Done



FAMILY MENTOR LEAD



Hi, my name is Emma, I have recently joined Woodfield as a Family Mentor Lead.

I also have a daughter Lottie who is in Class 1 and has been at Woodfield for nearly 3 years.

I am married to Anthony and have 2 grown-up children.

My role as Family Mentor Lead is a new role to Woodfield and is currently being piloted.

I am excited to make this role my own and will welcome any suggestions and feedback on what you would like to see my role include. I will be sending out some surveys over the next couple of months to see what you would like from me.

My intentions are to build relationships with parents/carers. I would like to offer emotional support and advice from an "I get it " place, that maybe during Coffee morning on a Wednesday or a phone call home, or however you would like that that to look.

I also have a wide range of knowledge on accessing services that people may need help navigating, such as social care, respite and multiple charities that provide funding for special needs equipment and lots more!

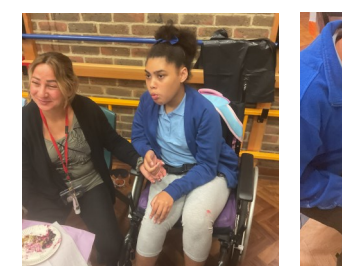
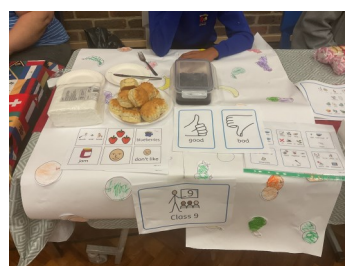
I am looking forward to helping arrange charity events and fundraising for the school - it would be lovely to have as many parents involved and volunteering around the school as possible.

I intend to help the school build positive relationships between home and school and look forward to meeting as many parents/carers as possible.

If you would like to meet with me, just drop me an email – **emma.king@woodfield.herts.sch.uk**

Harvest Festival Week

At school we have had a successful Harvest Week, and we would like to thank all parents for their generous donations of items for our local charity 'Dens'. The produce and hygiene products families have kindly donated will be taken to Dens to help our local community. We started the week with Singing and Signing groups with Nyree, learning songs about harvest and different cultures. We were very pleased to see some of our families join us. We also would like to thank all parents that were able to support our 'Harvest Food Festival' and enjoyed tasting the different foods the pupils have been learning about and preparing in their classes. Classes presented a wide range of different foods from different heritages and from around the world.



Community Access

Class 6 visited Adeyfield Adventure Playground and had lots of fun.



Macmillan Coffee Morning



We would like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you for all your donations of cakes and money.

We raised £205.00 for Macmillan at our coffee morning.

THANK YOU



Donation to the School

We would like to say big thank you to the Derwent & Ullswater Road Neighbours. They had a street party for the Kings Coronation and raised £175 which they have donated to our school.

NEWS FROM THE LOWER SCHOOL

Class 1 have had a good time at school, settling into school life at Woodfield. They have done lots of interesting activities such as touch and smell, the sensory exploration of a variety of fruits, and using toothbrushes, nail brushes and towels to practice the routines of self-care. As well as the above, the children also enjoyed mark making sessions, using tools or different body parts to do the mark making with sand, cornflour, crispy rice or paint. The children have also taken part in shapes activities, learning more about simple shapes and trying to recognise different shapes in daily life.



Class 2 have had a terrific time learning about ourselves and others. We have been developing our awareness of ourselves and making choices. The classroom activities have reflected the pupil's cultures and traditions. We have been exploring different foods from around the world, listening to a variety of genres of music and sharing photos of our families. We enjoyed taking a trip to the coffee shop last week in support of the MacMillian Coffee Morning.



Woodfield School

Class 3 have been busy working away to develop a greater understanding of their Learning Pathway targets over the last few weeks. During PE we enjoyed our first outing around the school grounds to complete a distance involving the Daily mile. Class 3 have also spent their first session in the gym, exploring the equipment, the new surroundings of the gym and going on the trampolines. The children have also enjoyed Italian week where they have explored Ragu (veggie), Pasta, Pizza and Gelato.



Class 4 have been exploring the provision in class over the last few weeks. We have been learning to share spaces with others and build new and different relationships in class. Alongside this we have been learning about shapes and the number of sides different shapes have.

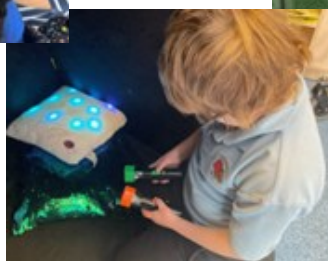
In line with our topic of Heritage this term we also tasted foods from different cultures. The children all liked the Plantain chips and some also tried Pineapple juice.



Class 5 have had a fantastic week of learning. October 1st is the start of Black History Month so over the next month, we will be shining an extra bright light on diversity. An activity we really enjoyed was learning about traffic lights and the representation of each colour. The traffic light was invented by a man called Garret Morgan.

We have been working with lots of shapes in Maths and looking at shapes in materials, as well as putting shapes together to create big and small towers.

Class 5 also set up a sensory den to experiment with lights. This was to start to show understanding of light and dark.



NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Class 6 have been doing lots of lovely activities to do with heritage and autumn. We have also started a tuck shop in class every Thursday which the children are really enjoying. We did leaf stamping using autumn colours and painted some autumn trees. We have also been really enjoying our weekly trip to Adeyfield adventure playground where we have been playing football, ping pong, foosball, pool, and using the climbing frames and trampoline! In touch and taste we are exploring foods from different heritages. Last week we looked at foods from Pakistan and the children really enjoyed these foods.



Class 7 have had a busy couple of weeks continuing to learn about our own and other's heritage. We enjoyed our singing and signing assembly where parents joined us learning songs and Makaton signs with Nyree. We have been making Jewish rainbow challah bread and mango lassi for the Harvest Food Festival. We have been busy making challah dough, we had fun to mixing and kneading the dough. We have been learning to make mango lassi and tasting it! We explored a Jewish Sedar plate for our touch and taste session. We especially liked tasting the egg and dates and using our communication to share our opinions. We have been enjoying exploring and sorting shapes. This week we have particularly enjoyed choosing different shapes to paint and identifying them. We have also enjoyed the visits from the ponies, walking and petting them.



Class 8 have been making 3d models with construction straws and brick shapes. We made a windmill, car garages and houses for our Lego people. As part of black history month we have enjoyed listening to carnival music and dancing together. We also made masks and jewellery.

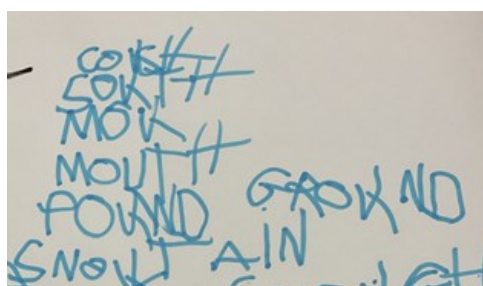


Class 9 have been looking at food from around the world over the last few weeks and we have made Kenyan mashed potatoes, fresh pasta and also tasted food from different countries. Over the next two weeks we will be listening to rhymes and songs from around the world.



NEWS FROM THE UPPER SCHOOL

Class 10. As part of Black History Month, Class 10 have been learning about the journey taken by the ship Empire Windrush and talking about how long that journey would take. As part of this we worked on our fine motor skills and following instruction skills by making our own boats which we then tested to see if they would float on water. We also worked on our fine motor skills by using paints in spray bottles to make large art works as a team. We have also been working on our phonics work and some students have been looking at words with the 'ou' sound.



Class 11. In class 11 the students have again had a busy couple weeks enjoying different activities and learning different things about our topic Heritage. In class the students have been learning about themselves and designing a passport and practising signing their name. We also enjoyed the Ponies coming into school on Wednesday and some students enjoyed taking them for a walk around the playground.



Class 12. The last two weeks class 12 have explored areas of self care and independence, brushing their teeth, combing their hair and cleaning their nails, in preparation for adulthood. They have also used task related communication boards to help them prepare daily snacks and complete cooking tasks. The class really enjoyed getting ready for the Harvest festival last week and we followed Lauren's family Irish soda bread recipe and a successful bake from the students meant we could have the loafs on our stall for others to try. The students made flags from their family heritage to display on the stall and in the classroom and used great fine motor control to draw and decorate them with colouring pencils and paints. The class have also continued to explore 2D shapes, using shape games and puzzles and finding them around our environment too. We have embraced the seasonal changes and the students have loved going on sensory walks to collect natural materials, such as leaves, twigs and bark. These materials have then been used in art sessions to print with and make fantastic, colourful autumn scenes.



Class 14 have been very busy developing their preparing for adulthood skills whilst engaging in Black History Month and our school topic. We were very lucky and honoured to have one of our class members send in their prayer mat from home and some of their delicious home cuisine. We really enjoyed tasting this and learning about how the prayer mat is used. This was very special for us all. We have also worked on our functional life skills like mopping and window washing. Some of us enjoyed a visit from the ponies for Pony Therapy! As part of Black History Month we have chosen some core texts to explore. This has included 'Hair Love' and 'The Anti Racist Baby.'



The Daily Mile

A number of pupils have really enjoyed taking part in our Daily Mile course. We have developed our course to include two different routes around the school site and the pathways within the local community. Some of the classes have started to trial both routes to explore which route they prefer. The fresh morning air has given everyone a very invigorating start to the day, and we are looking forward to expanding this activity to all pupils within school.



Woodfield Family Support Ambassadors**Autumn term visits during Coffee Mornings.**

On the **18th October** we have the team from Space coming in. Here is a link to their website. <https://spaceherts.org.uk/>

On the **1st November** we have Up on Downs coming to see us, here is a link to their page. <https://upondowns.com/>

Parents coffee morning

Every Wednesday

9.00am – 12

(Term time only)

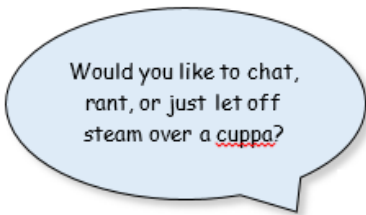
@ Woodfield Coffee Shop

Malmes Croft, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8RL

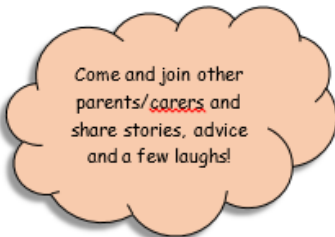
Contact: Gemma.Tuff@woodfield.herts.sch.uk

Lauren.Lettis@woodfield.herts.sch.uk

Tel: 01442 253476



Would you like to chat,
rant, or just let off
steam over a cuppa?



Come and join other
parents/carers and
share stories, advice
and a few laughs!

Whether your child is at mainstream school or a special school,
Diagnosed or undiagnosed, you are welcome to come along and meet
Other parents, talk to professionals, or simply drop in for a coffee and
meet new friends who also have a child with special educational needs.
We also hold a range of informal workshops on a range of topics free of
charge.

ALL WELCOME – JUST COME ALONG

Free tea, coffee and biscuit! Fancy something special?
Our coffee shop has a lovely range of teas, coffee and treats.
We accept cash and card.

In Other News

Bovingdon mum raises £3,000 for Hemel's Woodfield School

(Article taken from the Watford Observer)



A local mum undergoing "very hard" chemotherapy has found a way "to make the situation positive" and raised thousands for her son's school.

Marie Maye, who lives in Bovingdon, took on a charity head-shave with her brother Steve Maye last Monday (September 11) in aid of Woodfield School for Special Needs, after being diagnosed with breast cancer earlier in the year.

The former Watford barber and lifelong local said: "Basically it was really difficult, being a hairdresser, going through it as my hair was coming out in massive lumps.

"I found it very hard, and I needed to make the situation positive to deal with it."

The decision paid off even more than she had hoped as, despite aiming for around £200 raised, when that target was smashed immediately expectations quickly needed to be bumped to £3,000.

As of September 18, even the massively raised target has already been beaten, with £3,165 raised from 143 supporters.

"The fact I can go and take my children and see the equipment really warms my heart," Marie explained.

"I cried such happy tears when it hit three thousand."

She says that it is so important that Woodfield is given the funding it needs for new equipment because of how few places there are that can meet its learners' needs.

The school, in Malmes Croft, Hemel Hempstead, has around 125 pupils aged three to 19, with severe and complex learning difficulties, including her son Tyler, 9, who has severe autism.

However, she said, because the kinds of equipment that best support the learners are usually highly specialised, they are also often "super expensive".

"The children have had a really difficult few years," the mother of three said, adding that after Covid and other challenges it will be even better to bring something they will enjoy.

One item she had hoped to help fund, accessible to all the school's kids including those in wheelchairs costs £2,500, and so it can now be completely paid for from the donations.

The school are apparently "really excited" about the fundraiser and the new activities that will be possible.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/marie-maye?fbclid=IwAR27bJ17ypOLdvw8pMuvI3JmOoUq-bHzZk_pXv6MmurkvZ5IbBn8pXJpg5k