

Woodfield School

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear parents and carers,

Here is our Christmas Bonanza Newsletter! We have had such fun learning Christmas songs, visiting the Winter Wonderland, running the Christmas Fayre, seeing Santa and enjoying spending time learning in class as well.

Thank you for all your Christmas wishes and gifts; we wish all of our families a good break over Christmas and New Year, we will see you in 2023!

K. Mann. Gae



DIARY DATES



Thursday 5th January 2023 - Return to school

10th & 12th January - Opening Event for the half term—Art Burst company in to run colour-themed workshops

6th to 9th February - Closing event—Colourscape in school



Headteacher Awards

Awards - Thursday 1st December

Class 1 Charlie
 Class 2
 Class 3 Khadijah Nola
 Class 4 Harley Jamie
 Class 5 Amber Ava
 Class 6 Daniyal Aiden H
 Class 7 Jamie-Lee
 Class 8 Archie Stan
 Class 9 Abdullah Benjy
 Class 10 Abby James
 Class 11 Toafy
 Class 12
 Class 14 Ben

Awards - Friday 9th December

Class 1 Edward
 Class 2
 Class 3 Alesha Vincent
 Class 4 Joshua
 Class 5 Holly Xavier
 Class 6 Albie Khaya
 Class 7 Archie Maida
 Class 8 Hannah Ibrahim
 Class 9 Zaid Christian
 Class 10
 Class 11 Sienna H
 Class 12 Ayaan Declan
 Class 14 Naomi

Awards - Friday 16th December

Class 1 Lukas
 Class 2
 Class 3 Rafe Ibrahim
 Class 4
 Class 5 Jenson Corey
 Class 6 Aaron
 Class 7 Samuel
 Class 8 Alessia
 Class 9
 Class 10 Ella
 Class 11 Zohi
 Class 12 James Sapphi
 Class 14 Mejwad Hajab



AMAZING

NEWS FROM THE LOWER SCHOOL

Class 1 - The last few weeks we have been focussing on learning to mark make. We have used a variety of media to make marks with including paint, crayons, icing, magnetic writers, flour and whiteboards.

We also worked really hard manipulating coloured icing into dots to put onto biscuits and exploring different textures through senses e.g. ice, hot (warm) water bottles, lemon and lime slices in water and pouring with coco pops. The children have really enjoyed exploring the different smells, sights and textures that have been out this week.



Class 2 have had a wonderful time learning all about our senses. We have been exploring a wide range of media and materials. Pupils enjoyed using their whole bodies to experiment and make marks. We have had a particular focus on number rhymes and songs. This has continued into our water tray this week with 5 green speckled frogs. Pupils enjoyed the active learning experience of seeing the frogs 'splash' into the water.



Class 3 have been exploring winter scenes and making lots of decorations for the Winter Wonderland. We have enjoyed exploring the snow and also staying cosy inside with books about winter.



Class 4 have been exploring their senses over the past few weeks. During our touch and taste session we were able to explore a variety of different foods, including jelly, pomegranate seeds and custard. In our role play area we have set up a café where the children have been able to take orders and pretend to make food and drinks for each other, this has been great for the children in developing their spoken language and pencil control skills. Class 4 have also been practicing the skill of turn taking and sharing with peers, we have enjoyed basketballs games as well as pop up pirates during this time.



Class 5 we have had lots of Christmas activities. We have been making child friendly mulled blackcurrant and painting lots of Christmas decorations for our tree. Class 5 have had a week looking at personal care. We have been learning to brush our teeth, brush our hair and clean our faces independently. We have seen lots of progress this week and we hope they can show their newly acquired skills off at home.



NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Class 6 have had a very busy few weeks getting ready for Christmas and the end of term. We have had lots of fun activities and had some great visitors into school. The children have all been very excited and are all ready for Christmas. We can't wait to hear about their Christmas holidays and all the fun they had.



Class 7 have enjoyed preparing for Christmas and have loved getting in the festive spirit. We have done lots of arts and crafts as well as decorating Christmas biscuits. This week we have made Santa Claus using paints and cotton wool which everyone enjoyed feeling the texture of the wool to make Santa's beard, as well as pretending we had beards too! Class 7 loved their Christmas dinner and there definitely wasn't much left over. We all enjoyed our time at the winter wonderland enjoying the twinkly lights and festive music.



Class 8 have been continuing to enjoy our topic 'Senses'. We have engaged well exploring different spices to flavour bread and using our communication to describe what they can smell and communicating our own preferences of spices. We have been focusing on problem solving including counting and sharing chocolate drops between our peers. We have been using different scented playdough to make and decorate cupcakes using our counting skills. Pupils in class 8 have particularly loved using different instructions and guides to build Christmas themed models and used their communication to develop their prepositional language.

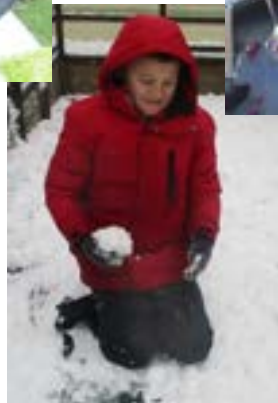




Class 9 have been learning about Christmas. We have been learning to use our communication, number and fine motor skills to make Christingles.



Class 10 have been enjoying lots of Christmas themed learning over the last couple of weeks! Pupils have been using all of their senses to explore the festive tuff trays and sensory playdough. This week we made and decorated Christmas trees using eucalyptus scented playdough. We had orange slices and cranberries in our tuff tray, which we mashed and mixed together. Lots of wonderful festive smells! Pupils have also been using the computer to locate and play their favourite music, which we have enjoyed listening to. We have also taken our learning outside into the sensory tent and this week pupils had great fun in the snow!



Class 11 the students have been doing their Physical Education within our classroom using the bowling equipment to independently push the ball down the ramp.



In **Class12** we have been doing lots of Christmas activities using our senses. We have been creative making decorations and Christmas cards. We have also been exploring the snow that fell earlier this week.



Class 14 have been enjoying exploring our Senses topic. We have been learning to explore colours and smells through senses communication groups. Some of us have also been learning to create self-portraits using different materials. We discussed the parts of our face and the senses linked to each feature.

We have also been developing our independent living skills and employment skills. Some of us enjoyed visiting 'The Range' and have been learning different community skills. Everyone enjoyed the Christmas displays on show! Some of us have been learning to vacuum and complete different life skills such as taking out the recycling and cleaning the kitchen.



IT'S CHRISTMAS !

Christmas Fayre

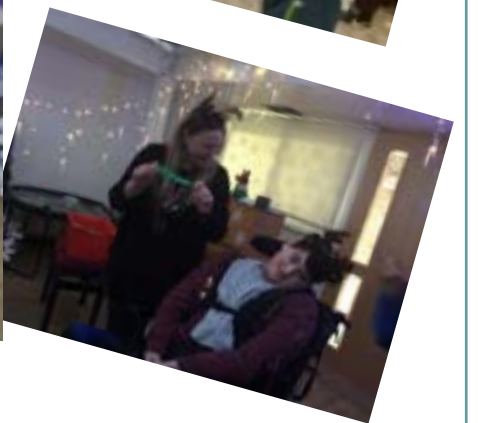
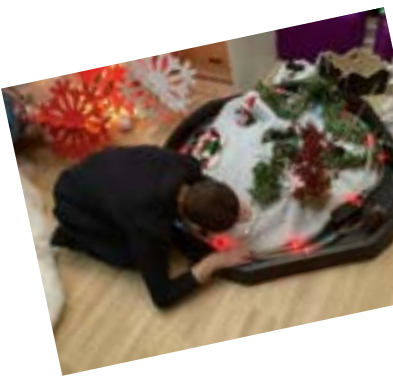
We were delighted to be able to hold our annual Christmas Fayre in person this year . We were overwhelmed by how many parents and carers were able to support us through attending the event and also families sending in orders from our brochure. Classes were very busy creating and preparing a wide range of different products linked to the learning they have been doing in class. Some students helped with the stalls by setting up and communicating with customers as well as learning money skills. We raised an amazing £569 for resources for our students.

We were so thankful to all the families that donated items for our Raffle. These were packaged up into 15 beautiful hampers as prizes. The raffle raised £373 for the school.

Thank you to all our families for your continued support for Woodfield.



Winter Wonderland and Father Christmas



Winter Festival Song Recordings

Students and staff have been busy learning and preparing s different winter festival songs in their classes over the past few weeks as part of our 'senses' topic this term. Kelly and Tim from Hertfordshire Music services have been supporting classes with the recordings of these songs. We are very happy to share the wonderful videos of your child's class, please take a peek, the students have worked very hard on them to share with you. There is lots of learning from drumming, singing, dancing to Kazoo playing. We would like to say a special thank you to Tim Elmer who has supported us in editing our videos to share with you. We hope you enjoy watching them as much as we have!

These videos are available to view via the one drive, please see the link attached to the email.

Closing Event — Jummi the Dancer

As a closing event for our topic 'senses'. Jummi the dancer visited Woodfield running dance workshops with lower, middle and upper school. Fun was had by all. Jummi certainly got students engaged and got them moving and using different dance steps to a variety of different music. Students definitely enjoyed learning and copying movements and moving to the beat. Some pupils created their own movements for others to try. We were very impressed with how students engaged in the workshops and by the end of each session how students responded to linking dance movements together that they had been learning. It was lovely to see all students that attended, engaged and enjoying these highly energetic dance sessions. We hope to have Jummi back again delivering more dance sessions soon.



IN OTHER NEWS

Donations

We would like to say a big thank you to Ted Everett and the West Hertfordshire Provincial Grand Lodge for their amazing donation of £3,200.



We would also like to thank our anonymous donator for the £1,000 we have received.

Both of these will be used to equip our new sensory room.

Update on staffing changes to the Speech and Language Therapy

Team at Woodfield

Mhairi Mason will be leaving the school in January.

Ruth Blake Speech and Language Therapist and Sally Hinds Speech and Language Therapy Assistant will continue working with communication needs.

Jodi Binnersley will return to the school to work with communication needs.

Lucy Williamson will continue working with eating and drinking needs.

We will keep you updated with future changes.

Message from Mhairi Mason

Thank you to everyone at Woodfield, the children, parents and staff who have made my time here so special. I have loved working at Woodfield and will miss you all.