

Woolenwick Junior School

Newsletter: February 2019

Current House Point Totals:

Cheetahs

2586

Lions

2556

Panthers

2601

Tigers

2622

1st

It was a very busy Spring 1 half term with Internet Safety Day, Children's Mental Health Week and also a fabulous Music Week. The children have had so many wonderful experiences and developed their learning during this time; they certainly needed a well-earned rest. They have come back to school refreshed and ready for another exciting few months of learning.

We have another packed half term, with Year 4 enjoying a Greek day on the first day back, Science Week for the whole school next week and then lots of 'Learning Experience' assemblies scheduled in. Thank you for all of your continued support, Mr Hawkins.

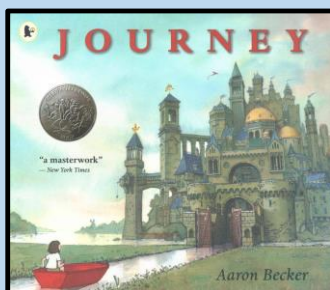
Kind Regards,
G Hawkins
Mr G Hawkins
Headteacher

WHOLE SCHOOL 'JOURNEY' WRITING PROJECT

For the first few weeks of this term the whole school participated in a writing project, in conjunction with several other junior schools in our new 'Junior Heads' Partnership'. The project was based around the book 'Journey' by Aaron Becker and children, in all year groups, thoroughly enjoyed writing their first person narrative and also explored the work of the illustrator. (Examples of their work can be viewed when Parents' Evening occurs later this term.) Three winners were selected by staff in each class and children were presented with either medals or trophies (depending upon the award type) in our own 'Woolenwick Awards' Ceremony'. Award categories were:

1. 'Best Writer'-given to a child in the class whose writing was exceptional.
2. 'Endeavour Award'- an award for one child who has persevered and worked hard on their writing (although they may have found it difficult).
3. 'Progress Award'-for a child, regardless of ability, who has made the most progress from their starting point.

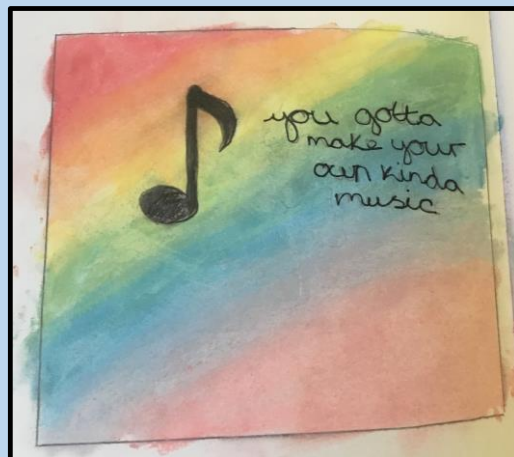
There were also overall school winners who were invited to attend an extra celebration event at the Icknield Centre in Letchworth. Congratulations to all our winners!



MUSIC WEEK

From 11th-15th February we held our 'Marvellous Music Week' in conjunction with the University of Hertfordshire and Soundwave learning. Throughout the week, every lesson had a musical theme. Children wrote musical Maths songs, designed musical wallpaper in Art. Some children explored the history of music and appraised a piece of music. There was even a drumming by numbers workshop for certain classes.

Students from the University of Hertfordshire (UH) taught children songs from a new musical called "The Jungle Safari Ride" which was rehearsed and performed live to all our school governors at the end of the week. The children (and staff) had the opportunity to play the gamelan too, which was exciting. It was a well organised fun-packed week which definitely enriched our school community. Special thanks to David Smith from UH and Jessica Kuffour, our Music Subject Leader, for putting together such a fantastic and creative week.

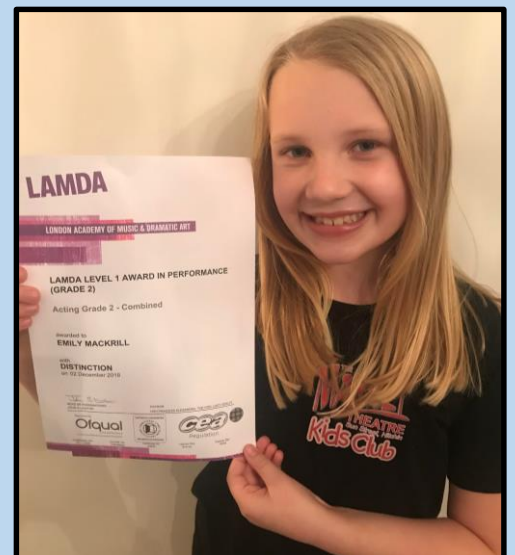


CHILDREN'S ACHIEVEMENTS – OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

Congratulations to Emily, Year 5 for achieving a distinction in her Acting Grade 2 exam-this is amazing!

Please continue to email us with details of your child's successes. We love to help them celebrate their outside achievements in the school newsletter and you are welcome to send in a photo of the event. We will endeavour to include this in our next newsletter. Remember - no success is too small!

Email to Miss Armstrong:
admin@woolenwickjm.herts.sch.uk



SAFEGUARDING INITIATIVE: TALK TEAM

Following on from a very successful Children's Mental Health Week in February we are thrilled to launch our new school "Talk Team" here at Woolenwick. This will provide children with more opportunities to talk to members of the Senior Leadership Team about any worries or concerns they have, and will strengthen our ability to ensure all of our children are supported, safe and happy.



**WOOLEN Wick
TALK TEAM**

**Need to talk?
Follow these steps..**

- 🗨️ tell a trusted adult about your worry

If your concern is more serious..

- 🗨️ put your peg on the emoji
- ✉️ put a note in the postbox

Someone from the talk team will be there for you.



Any whole school patterns or trends (which may be positive, or if there are issues that need addressing) will be analysed and feed into weekly Senior Leadership Team meetings and our Strategic Designated Safeguarding Team meetings. This will enhance our already strong safeguarding provision at the school.

KEY DATES FOR THE SPRING TERM

BOOSTER SESSIONS – YEAR 6

These will continue each week from 3.30pm-4.20pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If your son/daughter will not be attending these please can you let the school office know. If you have previously given permission for them to walk home, but this has changed, please let the school office know of any new arrangement.

MAGICAL MATHS

This club started on Wednesday 27th February and we had an amazing 34 children sign up. If you would like your child to join this fun club please register and pay for this using the following link: www.magicalmathsclub.com or call 01923 418019.

SCHOOL VALUES

As a school we have signed-up to a resource called 'Principles for Life and Learning'. Each month we have a dedicated 'value' which is taught and celebrated in assembly. There is an original song to help teach the meaning of the value and to help the children to understand and remember it through the power of music.

The monthly value is associated with our linked school values which are discussed during circle time each week. We thought it would be beneficial to share all these values with family and friends, so that you can help your son/daughter make the connection between the value and how they use it to enhance their lives. Please look out for monthly optional homework relating to 'values'.

The value for the month of March is **honesty**; and the linked school values for the month are: **'reflective'** and **'disciplined'**.

We will update you with each newsletter of the values for the month ahead. In the meantime, if you would like to share how your son/daughter has displayed these values at home or in their community please let us know by email: admin@woolenwickjm.herts.sch.uk.

SCHOOL PARENTS' FORUM

Working in partnership together is important so that we can secure the best provision possible for our children here at Woolenwick. Parents and carers have many good suggestions to help support the school and aid school improvement. Sometimes we are able to incorporate these suggestions and sometimes we are not, because of either practical considerations or expectations/guidelines that we need to adhere to. Where possible, we always try to find solutions so that issues can be overcome.

I have attached a sheet at the end of the newsletter which gives all parents/carers the opportunity to suggest any ideas for improvements at the school. Please feel free to return it with any suggestions so that I can use this information to plan improvement in over-time. There is also a section for you to explain what you have been pleased about with the school and what has been successful, as this is also lovely to hear for staff and for us to develop further.

From previous information provided to myself, through the parent questionnaires, I know that homework or 'home learning' is something that we need to investigate further. It is a really tricky topic as some people like lots of homework, some hardly any, some people like Maths and English work only, some like project work and some people would prefer nothing at all. It is an issue that frequently comes up in most schools across the country.

In order to try and resolve this and find a solution that works for the majority this will be the focus at our new Parents' Forum, which is scheduled for Monday 18th March, from 6-7pm. Please email admin@woolenwickjm.herts.sch.uk to let us know if you would like to attend by Wednesday 13th March.

It would be lovely to see people there although if you cannot attend because of other commitments that is absolutely fine, as I know many of you will be juggling work, dinner, child commitments etc. We will take all views into consideration from the newsletter sheets handed into the school office and on the day itself. Any other suggestions for improvement from the majority of information gathered during this process will form part of the next Parents' Forum meeting which will be scheduled on a different day and time to be fair to all.

How will it work?

Depending upon the number we will be in the classroom or the Hall (which is why we would need to know numbers). It will start with an introduction by myself and the Chair of Governors, some information about current developments provided from the Senior Leadership Team and then an opportunity to explore solutions to the issue scheduled. There will be opportunities for you to suggest other improvements if you wish, although this ideally would have been done previously using the sheet attached to this newsletter. Please note: it is not a forum to voice individual personal concerns or issues relating to your child or other children as we would expect parents/carers to communicate to us as and when something needs addressing and the purpose of the meeting is to find solutions.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – INCLUDING NEW DATES ADDED!

Date/Event	Time/Description
Mon 4th March – Fri 8th March Science Week	In school events taking place each day for the children.
Thursday 7th March World Book Day	Pyjama/Onesie/Favourite Book Character Day – Come to school dressed in either a onesie/pyjamas or your favourite character from a book. Children will need to bring their favourite storybook with them to share.
Thurs 7th March – Wed 13th March Scholastic Book Fair	Book Fair open in the Hall after school each day. For all book purchases made the school gets a percentage of the sales to help purchase more books. More details to follow.
Wednesday 13th March Year 5 - Viking Day	All day. Please refer to the letter that came home.
Friday 15th March *Year 5 Learning Experience- All Parents Invited	2.30 – 3.15/3.30pm: Start in the Hall then visit the classroom. Please feel free to leave at 3.15pm to collect any younger siblings from the Infant school or stay till 3.30pm.
Friday 15th March Red Nose Day	Wear your red nose to school. Sales of sweets and cakes after school. The money raised will go towards comic relief. (It is normal school uniform on this day and no money needs to come into school.) If any parents would like to donate cakes for this event that would be great-please bring them in the day before.
Wednesday 20th March Voice in a Million – Wembley Arena, London (afternoon and evening)	School choir with Mr Hawkins and Mrs Kuffour.
Wednesday 20th March Mayor's Charity Concert – Gordon Craig Theatre performance.	Children with Miss Corrigan and Mrs Jones.
Thursday 21st March Year 4 STEM Water Challenge Day	In school event.
Friday 22nd March *Year 4 Learning Experience- All Parents Invited	2.30 – 3.15/3.30pm: Start in the Hall then visit the classroom. Please feel free to leave at 3.15pm to collect any younger siblings from the Infant school or stay till 3.30pm
Monday 25th March Year 5 - KNEX Challenge	All day event in school.
Wednesday 27th March Non-Uniform Day-Wear What You Want	In exchange for wearing your own clothes children will need to bring in an Easter Egg each for the in-school only Easter Extravaganza event. (Local supermarkets currently have eggs on offer for £1 at the moment.)
Wednesday 27th March Parents' Consultation Evening	4.00 - 6.00pm. Children's books will be located in the Dining Room. Consultations will take place in the Hall.
Thursday 28th March Parents' Consultation Evening	5.00 - 8.00pm. Children's books will be located in the Dining Room. Consultations will take place in the Hall.
Friday 29th March *Year 3 Learning Experience- All Parents Invited	2.30 – 3.15/3.30pm: Start in the Hall then visit the classroom. Please feel free to leave at 3.15pm to collect any younger siblings from the Infant school or stay till 3.30pm
Monday 1st April Easter Trail Quiz	After school at 3.30pm with the whole family. (More details to follow.)
Thursday 4th April Easter Eggstravaganza	During the school day-for children only. (More details to follow.)
Friday 5th April Last day of term	1.30pm finish.
Monday 22nd April Bank Holiday	School Closed
Tuesday 23rd April INSET DAY	No school for children – staff training on the curriculum.
Wednesday 24th April First day of Summer Term	

COMMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IMPROVED?

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WHAT DO YOU THINK WE DO WELL?

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PARENT/CARER NAME:.....

YEAR GROUP/S OF CHILD/REN

If you are able to provide your contact details then we can get back to you if we need any further clarification.

MOBILE:.....

EMAIL: