



## Woolenwick Junior School / Newsletter: March 2019

What a Spring Term it has been! The children have had so many lovely opportunities including visits from Vikings and scientists, singing for the Mayor and celebrating World Book Day. With just only a week remaining until the Easter break there is no let up on the children's learning. They are working harder than ever and this was evident when the Governors of the school spent the day with us this week. They were extremely complimentary about all aspects of the school and in particular how well the children present their work in class and their improvement in learning environments.

The Summer Term is shaping up to be just as busy as the Spring with lots more visitors and trips being planned, as well as sports day to look forward to.

Kind Regards,  
Mr G Hawkins  
Headteacher

### SCIENCE WEEK 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019

We are very lucky at Woolenwick Junior School that we have connections with a variety of STEM ambassadors who help us out with workshops during Science week. It was a very busy, hands on week, which the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers. Here is a summary of the activities which took place:

- GSK (Glaxo Smithkline) came in and did workshops with all year groups. The lower phase did the Big Body Run, learning how our bodies work and the Upper Phase learnt about DNA and how to measure their peak flow
- Year 3 - had a visit from GZK Software, where they were taught about coding
- Year 4 had a workshop by Pepsico – making hovercrafts from CD discs
- Years 3, 4 and 5 - had workshops run by Airbus, where they all made different types of rockets. In Year 3, they made straw rockets and launched them in the hall
- Year 4 made rockets that had to withstand a vibration table, which replicated the vibrations that rockets go through when they enter space
- Year 4 had a STEM Water Challenge Day run by Affinity Water
- Year 5 made rockets from fizzy drinks bottles, these were filled with water, attached to an air compressor and launched into the air on the field. Some went over 100ft into the air!
- Year 5 had a K'nex challenge day
- Year 6 visited the Airbus manufacturing site, where they had a talk about what Airbus do, they had a tour of the site and saw engineers at work. They were also able to ask questions about the space industry

As all the ambassadors are volunteers, they are not always able to make our Science week. To this end, we have additional workshops happening across the next couple of months including a Year 5 visit to the Airbus Discovery Centre and Year 6 will have a workshop from Amey Waste Control.

## **VIKING DAY – YEAR 5 – 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019**

Earlier this month we had a visit from The Viking Schools Company to give Year 5 a true 'Viking Experience'!

We had previously made Viking Shields in our History lessons and we used these to make a shield wall. Our visiting Viking explained why and how the shields were used. Next we learnt what our Viking names would have been – ask your child, can they remember? We then looked at and handled all the different weapons that the Vikings used and some children were able to try on some of the helmets. After break we played the 'Byzantium or Bust' game around the goods that the Vikings traded and learnt about the different foods that they ate. After lunch the children took part in a drama activity about Norse Mythology and acted out a Viking funeral. It was a fantastic day and the children and staff certainly learnt a lot!

## **BOOK FAIR**

We had a fantastic turn-out for our recent book fair and all the children seemed delighted with their purchases! A huge thank you to all parents for making this such a success. Sales at the book fair were £803.56 which meant the school were able to purchase books, including dictionaries worth £422.14 for reading areas. A special thank you to the parents who gave up their time to help sell the books during the week.

## **WORLD BOOK DAY**

Thank you very much for supporting our recent celebration of World Book Day by allowing your child/ren to dress up for the day. There were some amazing costumes!

## **RED NOSE DAY**

Thank you to all those who bought sweets on Red Nose Day last Friday. We were able to raise £79.20 for Comic Relief.

## **VOICE IN A MILLION**

Earlier this month we took 10 children from Year 6 to Wembley Arena to participate in a schools' concert like no other – Voice in a Million (VIAM). Hundreds of schools participate over two-nights, and we were one of only two Stevenage schools on the night! The children had rehearsed tirelessly with Mrs Kuffour and sang beautifully including much-loved songs from 'The Greatest Showman', Imagine Dragons and Stormzy. Three pupils also got the opportunity to parade our Woolenwick Junior School banner on the stage and around the arena. Huge thanks to all the parental support with rehearsals, and the cake sales, as well as to those who came to see their child sing on the night. We would like to compliment the children on their exemplary behaviour.

## **MAYORS CONCERT**

On the same nights as VIAM, our amazing choir performed for the Lord Mayor at her annual charity concert. They were greeted with cheers and applause before they even began their performance of "Hound Dog" by Elvis Presley! Miss Corrigan commented that both their behaviour and performance was incredible and a credit to our school. We are very proud of them. Well done Woolenwick Junior choir! Mrs Kuffour would like to thank the children for their commitment to rehearsals and providing fantastic costumes as well as buckets of enthusiasm!

## INFORMATION ON FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

### EASTER RAFFLE TICKETS – NOW ON SALE

We are now selling tickets for our 'Grand Easter Raffle'. Please send any money for tickets in with your child in a clearly labelled envelope via the class teacher. We will then send your raffle tickets home with your child in their book bag. **Tickets cost 50p each or three for £1**

1st prize	a giant chocolate ostrich egg
2nd prize	a hamper filled with Easter chocolates
3rd prize	a basket filled with small eggs

The raffle will be drawn at our Easter Eggstravaganza on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April and winners will be announced via email.

### EASTER TRAIL – MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL, 3.30pm

Following the success of last year's event, the Friends of Woolenwick Junior School will again be holding a Family Easter Trail. This will take place on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 3.30pm. Anyone can take part, so please feel free to include your younger or older siblings.

In order to take part you will need to complete a form and send it back in to school with the correct payment. We will register your payment, and the quiz sheets will be given out to the children on the day. There will be a choice of easy or difficult trails, priced at £1 each, and for every correct completed entry you will win a chocolate Easter treat.

The money raised from this event will be used to buy more Easter Eggs for the Easter Eggstravaganza which will be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 1.30pm.

### EASTER EGGSSTRAVAGANZA – THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

We will be holding our Easter Eggstravaganza in school (after lunch) on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April. There will be lots of side stalls and games for the children to enjoy, plus an Easter Egg Tombola.

We will be holding a non-uniform day on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March** in exchange for an Easter egg or Easter sweets which will be used as prizes for our Easter Eggstravaganza. Please ask your child to hand in their donations to their class teacher. All eggs will be used as prizes and will also make up the most popular, Egg Tombola stall!

Children may bring up to £5 on the day to spend at the Eggstravaganza (small change would help us enormously).

### SPONSORED READ

To encourage a lifelong love of reading we will be taking part in a sponsored read in conjunction with Usborne Books. This challenge will be set between **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April**. All of the money raised will go towards brand new books for our school.

On **Thursday each** child will be given a sponsorship form / reading log to bring home. Please encourage your son(s)/daughter(s) to start collecting sponsorship from family and friends in readiness for their 'readathon'.

We hope that the children enjoy this challenge which will end on the first Sunday of the Easter holidays. After the sponsored read, please send the sponsorship form/reading log into school by **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April** with any money that has been collected. Please put these in a sealed envelope labelled with your child's name and class. They should give these to their class teacher.

Please support our sponsored read so that your child has more books to read, share and enjoy. You may wish to look out for emails with suggestions of things your child can read including online.

## SCHOOL VALUES

The value for the month of April is **tolerance**; and the linked school values for the month are: '**tolerant**' and '**adaptable**'. Throughout April we will be appreciating and celebrating differences. Please encourage your children to talk about these values and how they are affected by them. Perhaps you can share your stories with them too.

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](mailto:admin@woolenwickjm.herts.sch.uk).

## SCHOOL DINNERS - PAYMENT REMINDER

We would like to remind all parents/carers that **payment for school meals must be made in advance**. Please add sufficient funds to your child's school gateway account before they return from the Easter break. If there is no money on your child's account you will be contacted by the School Office and asked to either provide a packed lunch or to collect your child and take them home for lunch, returning them for the afternoon session.

As you will be aware our preferred method of payment is via the SchoolGateway. However, should you need to pay by cash please put this in a sealed envelope with your son/daughter's name/class clearly marked.

School cannot provide free meals unless you are entitled (and have applied) for Free School Meals via Herts County Council. You can find out more information at:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

## UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

We have recently sent all parents/carers a letter home reminding of school uniform expectations. Wearing a uniform is a badge of pride, creates an identity for a school and is an important part of being a pupil.

Please can you check that you have all the required uniform for your child/ren including black shoes and, navy jumpers/cardigans, as well as full PE kit. There is still much of the school year left and it is important that the children are well-presented at all times.

If there is any reason why you may not be able to provide any of the uniform items for your child/ren please contact the school office in confidence.

**Note: Class Photographs – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

## BLAST CLUB

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/carers that mobile phones should not be used when dropping off or collecting children as this contravenes our safeguarding policy. Thank you for giving this due consideration.

## **KEY DATES FOR THE SUMMER TERM**

### **BOOSTER SESSIONS – YEAR 6**

These will recommence after Easter on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April from 3.30pm-4.20pm, and then every Tuesday and Thursday. 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.

Please ensure that your child brings their booster revision books to school every day.

### **VIOLIN LESSONS**

These will commence on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April. Please remind your child to bring their violin to every lesson.

### **SWIMMING LESSONS – YEAR 5**

These will commence on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April. Please remind your child to bring their swimming kit.

### **MAD SCIENCE**

If you have registered your son/daughter to attend Mad Science after school on Tuesdays, then these lessons will start on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May. If you would like your child to join this club please register and pay for this using the following link:

<https://register.madscience.org/hertsbeds/afterschool-register.aspx?action=search&org=28100>

### **MAGICAL MATHS**

If you would like your child to join this fun club please register and pay for this using the following link:

<https://magicalmathsclub.com/club/listing/woolenwick-junior-school/>

The next club will start on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June and run for 6 weeks.

## CHILDREN'S ACHIEVEMENTS – OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

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](mailto:admin@woolenwickjm.herts.sch.uk)

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Congratulations to Harrison and Zachary, Year 6, for helping their team, Stevenage District, beat St Albans 4-2 in their cup semi-final this month. They will now face unbeaten Gloucester in the final in May and this will be played at Oxford City's stadium so a great experience for them.



Grace and Georgia from Quartz class, Year 5, competed at the Luton Festival of Dance this month with their Junior song and Dance group 'Miracle'. The girls danced amazingly and scored 87 marks. They won 1<sup>st</sup> place and received a Gold medal, qualifying for the Regional Finals in May.

Congratulations to you both!



## FINAL MESSAGE

As the Spring term comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and wish you a happy Easter. We look forward to welcoming our children back on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April for the Summer term.

Please keep an extra eye on messages you receive from school, as well as our school newsletters, as there are lots of exciting activities and events being planned for the Summer Term.

Kind Regards,  
*G Hawkins*  
Mr G Hawkins  
Headteacher

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Date/Event</b>	<b>Time/Description</b>
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b> Easter Trail Quiz	After school at 3.30pm with the whole family. (More details to follow.)
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b> Easter Eggstravaganza	During the school day-for children only. (More details to follow.)
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b> Last day of term	1.30pm finish.
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b> Bank Holiday	School Closed
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b> INSET DAY	No school for children – staff training on the curriculum.
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April</b> First day of Summer Term	

*Apologies for the lack of photographs in this newsletter. We had a problem attaching them on this occasion but once this is fixed a supplementary 'photo' newsletter will be sent out.*  
*Regards, Miss Armstrong*