

Current House Point Totals:

Cheetahs

1st

1383

Lions

1219

Panthers

1341

Tigers

1326

WELCOME TO 2020!

It has been a very busy few weeks back and the children have been working incredibly hard since they started back at school. The staff are really pleased with the work being produced.

In this newsletter you'll find updates on what's been happening in school that your children may already have told you about, as well as information on planned events in the near future. Please check last page for diary dates.

YEAR 3 - TALK ABOUT ISLAM

This term Year 3 have been learning about the religion of Islam. We kindly had a parent of the Muslim faith visit and talk to the children about the '5 pillars of Islam' and her personal beliefs. The children were able to learn a lot from her wealth of knowledge and had the opportunity to ask lots of questions.

YEAR 3 - AIRBUS VISIT

Year 3 had the pleasure of a visit from Airbus to help support their learning about light and reflection being used in space. It was a fantastic afternoon where the children worked really well in their teams to become satellite engineers. Using recycled items, the children worked in mixed teams across the year group, to bring their ideas alive and be hands on. Everyone was able to talk about their satellite and share their ideas with the rest of Year 3.



YEAR 5 - MATHS CHALLENGE



On Wednesday 29th January, Amogh, George, Rosie & Charlotte H from Year 5 attended the Hertfordshire Maths Challenge held at Martins Wood Primary School. The event comprised of four rounds of challenging maths questions where the children had to use their arithmetic, reasoning, problem solving, estimating and even drawing skills to answer a range of questions. Overall there were twenty schools there and the children of Woolenwick Junior performed fantastically well and we claimed first place!! As a result, the team will be heading to the final of the competition which takes place on Friday 20th March. Congratulations to all the children involved and good luck in the finals!

SCHOOLS BIRDWATCH (RSPB)

Big Schools' Birdwatch

4 Jan-12 Feb 2016



During our assembly last Wednesday, we were pleased to welcome Stan from the RSPB. He kindly took the time to speak with the children about the 'schools bird watch'. It was lovely to see the children so enthusiastic about us being involved as a school and asking lots of questions. Stan talked to the children about the different species of birds that we may see and how to identify them, as well as how we can help protect and encourage wildlife into our school and gardens. We will be working with the children to complete the schools bird watch over the next few weeks and our gardening club is already busy making bird houses to help support this.

We would love it if you could encourage your sons and daughters to do some bird-spotting in your garden or when out and about. Click on this link to see pictures of birds to look out for:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-teachers/schools-birdwatch/birds-to-look-out-for/>

BLAST CLUB

The children enjoyed the Christmas activities - lots of creations going home to help decorate their house. Last week Blast Club celebrated Chinese New Year, the 'Year of the Rat', with lots of activities plus the children also enjoyed noodles for tea.

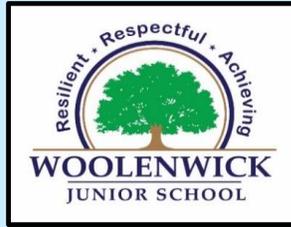
Australia Day is the topic that is being covered this week with an assortment of activities to include: aboriginal didgeridoo's, Australian flag, koala masks and boomerang



THE WOOLEN Wick WAY

At Woolenwick there are four core elements of life that we refer to as the:

'Woolenwick Way'



These are:

- **Learning:** Children know that school is a place of learning and that this is the main purpose of why they are here. Meta-cognition (thinking about thinking) is promoted so that learning becomes sticky, connected and knowledge and skills consolidated and built upon;
- **Respect:** We expect our children to show respect to others, themselves, equipment and the environment, both locally, nationally and internationally. We expect and guide them to work and live in harmony together at the school and in the community they live. It is important that they look after each other and adults, regardless of their ability, gender, race, religion or any other characteristic;
- **Manners:** Children are expected to use their good manners and demonstrate our school and British values at all times. They are a gift to others and we expect children to use their integrity and promote love, friendship and tolerance in an ever changing world;
- **Achievement:** We celebrate success, however small, and are proud of everybody's achievements, both in school and beyond.

Assemblies and circle time throughout this month have emphasised the importance of these four core elements as part of our Woolenwick family, as it aligns to our whole school vision. We expect children to demonstrate these at all times in school and out of school when representing the school in uniform as we are proud of each and every child.

In the past we have had members of the public contact us to compliment the school on how well behaved and well-mannered our children are, which is wonderful to hear and makes us very proud.

When we have visitors to the school, both as professionals who work in education, and also parents visiting the school they have also been impressed with the conduct of the children and been incredibly complimentary.

We celebrate achievement, however small, and this could be an achievement in school or outside as we have so many children with so many talents.

NEW... 'SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AWARDS'

As a school the leadership team at all levels (senior leaders, governors, subject leaders and myself) are always looking at ways to recognise and reward children in all aspects of their school life, especially in their learning.

Last term we introduced the 'School Leadership Awards' for each year group, under three categories:

Endeavour Award – Awarded to any child, regardless of their ability, for their perseverance and determination to achieve in a curriculum subject.

Achievement Award – Awarded to a child who excels in a curriculum subject.

Progress Award – Awarded to a child who has made the most progress, regardless of ability, from their Personal Starting Point (PSP)

At the start of this term school staff reflected on learning from the Autumn term on who which child would receive one of these marvellous trophies that they would be able to keep at home. It was a very tough decision and the award winners are:

Year 3	
Achievement Award	Jessica Yi
Endeavour Award	Will Bolter
Progress Award	George De-Vall

Year 4	
Achievement Award	Samuel Richards
Endeavour Award	Daniel Newbold
Progress Award	Max Nash

Year 5	
Achievement Award	Amogh Nagarajan
Endeavour Award	Imi Ward
Progress Award	Fin Sherwin

Year 6	
Achievement Award	Holly Gajic
Endeavour Award	Gracie Reding
Progress Award	Bobby French



We are all very proud of you!

CHILDREN'S ACHIEVEMENTS – OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

We love to help the children celebrate their outside achievements in the school newsletter.

Please send a photograph and a description of the event and 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



Lucy, Year 4, recently had the opportunity to take part in North and Stevenage 'Singing Day'. Lucy reported back to her family that she loved the day and despite not knowing any other children, soon got to know a few who she has swapped contact details with!

The children were split into two choirs, one of Years 3-6, and one of Year 7-10. Each choir learnt a song from scratch to perform, and then one song that everyone sang together. The primary age choir had to learn their song 'Let's go fly a kite' from Mary Poppins, without the prompt of a lyrics sheet, and the mum reported that the performance was exceptional!

If your son/daughter would be interesting in taking part in the next Singing Day or joining the Let's Sing Community Choir (on Saturday mornings) please see the next article in our newsletter.

LET'S SING COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Stevenage Music Centre 'Let's Sing' Project is a community initiative sponsored by Stevenage Arts Guild, Stevenage Community Trust, The Youth Mayor, and several Stevenage Councillors.

'Let's Sing' Choir is on Saturdays*

When: 10.50—11.40am (Term Time only) - No need to book. Just turn up!

Where: Stevenage Music Centre, Nobel School, Mobbsbury Way, Stevenage, SG2 0HS

If you have any enquiries about 'Let's Sing' or music lessons please contact the office at Stevenage Music Centre: Tel: 01438 844518 or Email stevenagemusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk

SCHOOL AND BRITISH VALUES

The value for the month of **February** will be **Friendship**. For the remainder of the academic year the values look like this:

<u>February</u>	Friendship	Sociable, Caring, Tolerant, Good listener
<u>March</u>	Respect	Respectful, Mindful, Good listener, Good speaker
<u>April</u>	Politeness	Good speaker, Respectful
<u>May</u>	Quality	Determined, Resourceful, Hardworking,
<u>June</u>	Perseverance	Persevering, Resilient, Hard working
<u>July</u>	Self-Belief	Positive, Confident, Reflective, Aspirational

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.

ADVICE FROM HCC – RE: CORONA VIRUS

Please find attached below advice which has been sent to us by Hertfordshire County Council and put together by their Public Health Team about the coronavirus.

Advice to schools

Schools should take universal precautions for ALL respiratory infections will significantly hinder spread of 'flu; AND coronavirus if it comes

If any child, employee or a family member develops flu like symptoms (one or more of cough, sneeze, shortness of breath, wheezing, fever) within fourteen days of return from Wuhan then they should **not** attend school or work, seek advice by phone from NHS111 and not return to school/work until **after** medical advice is received

Cleaning Advice

Because the virus is not yet circulating in the UK there is **no need** for any special cleaning.

In any case, regular cleaning to disrupt spread of colds and flu will be sufficient for workplaces, homes and most non NHS care settings. The best way to prepare for the possibility of any virus circulating in the UK is to get into the rhythm of doing this

- Regular cleaning with ordinary detergent of surfaces touched frequently and thus likely to have droplets of cold or flu virus on them like worktops, tables, door handles, light switches, lift button panels.
- There is **NO** need to use special detergents.
- Because coronavirus is a virus not a bacteria, antibacterial cleaning agents are **not** required.

At home and at school

Reinforce and practice universal hygiene measures that we **all** should do (but often don't) for **all** respiratory infections like colds etc. It is highly probable that the method of spread is the same as colds, flu and other coronaviruses: droplets.

- Hygiene measures are:
 1. **Catch it, Bin it, Kill it:** Sneeze into disposable tissues "Catch it", dispose of them "Bin it" and then wash hands with warm soap and water or use hand sanitiser gel if it is not possible to wash ("kill it"). Posters reinforcing this have been displayed around the school.
 2. Wash your hands regularly with soap and water or hand gel as a second best if it is not available
 3. Avoid touching your face unless you've just washed your hands
 4. Ensure surfaces which get droplets on them from coughs and sneezes are cleaned with ordinary detergents regularly if people are showing symptoms of colds and flu (eg handles, worktops) (see cleaning advice below.)

At this stage there is **no need** for any further local measures. We should all be doing this **all the time** especially during cold and 'flu season to disrupt spread of those.

Further Information can be found: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/wuhan-novel-coronavirus>

CLUBS

SPAGHETTI MATHS CLUB

Some parents had enquired about a Maths club and so we are pleased to announce that we will soon be offering a new and exciting after school club, via an external provider 'Spaghetti Maths'. The children will hear more about this in assembly next week. Details of how to sign up will be sent in due course.

BOOSTER SESSIONS – YEAR 6

These continue to run from 3.30pm-4.20pm every Monday 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 your child to walk home, but this has changed, please let the school office know of any new arrangement.

FINAL MESSAGE

Thank you to all of those parents/carers who continue to support the school by providing us with resources, volunteer their time and also for the many kind words of encouragement that you give to staff for all of their dedication and hard work. We greatly appreciate all of the positive comments on what is working well at the school, so that we can build on our successes and likewise if there is anything that you feel needs improvement or if you have a question please feel free to get in contact with us.

We are looking forward to a very full and exciting timetable this Spring Term. You can see from the dates attached just some of the enriching events and learning opportunities the children will be able to experience, and there will be more to come in later letters.

Kind regards,

G Hawkins

Mr G Hawkins
Headteacher
and all the Staff at Woolenwick Junior School

KEY DATES

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 5 th February	Year 6 Trip to Hatfield House
Friday 7 th February	NSPCC Number day/Wear What You Love Children can come to school dressed as their favourite number. Dressing up as a number could include any item of clothing with a number on it, including a sports shirt or cap, or even a onesie. Or why not get more creative as a dice or calculator! There is a suggested donation for this of £2. Half of the money donated will go to the NSPCC and the other half the school.
Wednesday 12 th February	Internet Safety Day
Friday 14 th February	Valentine's Day – themed lunch
Wednesday 26 th February	Year 3 Egyptian Day
February Half-term	Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February 2020 Back to School – Monday 24th February
<h3>MARCH</h3>	
Mon 2 nd March – Fri 6 th March	Science Week In school events taking place each day for the children
Monday 2 nd March	Bird of Prey Visit for whole school
Wednesday 4 th March	Year 6 Trip to The Lion King, London
Thursday 5 th 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 5 th March - Weds 11 th March	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 25 th March	Non-Uniform Day - 'Wear What You Want Day' 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.)
Thursday 2 nd April	Easter Eggstravaganza (in-school event)
Tuesday 31 st March 4.00-6.30pm <i>and</i> Wednesday 1 st April 5.30-8.00pm	Parents' Consultation Evenings <i>More information will be sent out nearer the time.</i>
Thursday 2 nd April	Stevenage Dance Festival
Friday 3 rd April	School finishes at 1.30pm
Easter Holiday	Monday 6th April – Friday 17th April INSET Day - Monday 20th April Back to school – Tuesday 21st April