



Woodcroft Primary School/ Newsletter



Friday 2nd October 2026

Our football season has started here at Woodcroft, with two home matches this week. Our team show great enthusiasm and resilience and the second match went better than the first, testimony to their effort and the careful management of their skills by our in house expert, Mr D. The netball team are learning the rules ready for some competitive play later this term. Sports and PE are hugely important in our curriculum. Children learn so many skills for life by playing in a team and participating in their PE lessons.

This half term we have been focusing on our value of respect, and this week we have been thinking of the aspect of respect which is living with integrity. Being true to ourselves, honest to others and doing what we say we will do are key attributes of living a respectful life. Our staff model this to the children and it is a very special thing about the Woodcroft community.

I am also pleased for the school that the governors have secured a full-time permanent Headteacher for January, as you will know. Mr Newsam will be starting to come in to meet us all and I will be able to ensure a smooth handover.

Thank you to all those who donated sweet treats and came along to the Macmillan Coffee Morning. We will let you know the total raised next week. There will be a cake sale after school today as we have so many donations, so please bring some change if you want to indulge and help this wonderful charity.

Kay Bowen

Interim Headteacher

All about Mr Allen



Hi, my name is Mr Allen and I am the teacher in Bears Class. It has been a massive pleasure getting to know and spend time with all the children so far.

This is my 13th year as a teacher, teaching in a range of EYFS, Year 1 and 2 settings. As my third year at Woodcroft, it has been amazing to get involved and get to know the Woodcroft community.

At home, I spend time with my wife and my little boy. We have another little baby on the way.....imminently.

My favourite animal is a lizard (anyone who has been taught by me will well know this). Among many jobs at Woodcroft, I am the resident spider catch and release specialist.

It has been a hobby of mine to keep reptiles for over 17 years. I currently keep an ackie monitor lizard, a tortoise and (not a reptile but) a golden retriever.

I am keen on cricket and golf and enjoy reading in my spare time either fantasy, historical fiction or and edgy thriller

I am really looking forward to what this year has in store. We have had a great start so far.

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the Woodcroft Primary School Community,

On behalf of the Governors, I am delighted to write to you with some exciting news regarding the future leadership of Woodcroft Primary School.

Following a comprehensive recruitment process, the Governing Body is pleased to announce the appointment of **Mr James Newsam** as the new Headteacher of Woodcroft Primary School. He will take up his post in **January 2027**.

Mr Newsam joins us from St Swithun's Catholic Primary School, Portsmouth, where he currently is an Assistant Headteacher and active member of the school's governing body. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to high-quality education, school improvement and the development of positive, nurturing environments in which children can thrive.

During the selection process, Mr Newsam impressed governors, staff and pupils with his clear vision for primary education, his passion for ensuring every child achieves their full potential and his commitment to building strong relationships between school, home and the wider community.

Mr Newsam wanted to introduce himself to the school:

"My Name is James Newsam and I am thrilled to be introducing myself as the new Headteacher of Woodcroft Primary School from January 2027. I fully appreciate that stability and consistency are vital to any school community, and I want to offer exactly that: a calm, consistent and committed presence. I strongly believe in Woodcroft's vision for education and in its approach to building positive relationships with everyone who contributes to making the school such a special place. I care deeply about giving every child the best possible start in life and look forward to building on the excellent work already taking place across the school. I am excited to work alongside the staff, governors, families and wider community who give so much of their time and energy to Woodcroft. Although I will not formally take up post until January, I will be spending as much time as possible in school beforehand, getting to know the pupils, staff and families and learning more about everything that makes Woodcroft unique. I very much look forward to meeting you all in due course."

Please join us in offering Mr Newsam a very warm Woodcroft welcome.

Your sincerely

Phill Hawkins

Chair of Governors
Woodcroft Primary School
2026-27

Dogs on School Site

To help keep all children safe and comfortable during the busy school day, we kindly remind families that dogs/puppies are not permitted anywhere on the school site, including the playground, paths and entrances.

This rule helps us manage child safety, allergies and anxiety around dogs/puppies, especially during drop-off and pick-up times.

Registered assistance and registered PAT dogs (Pets as Therapy dogs) are of course welcome.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school safe and a happy environment for everyone.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to draw your attention to our Charging Policy, which is available to view on the school website <https://www.woodcroftprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Charging-Policy-19.08.24-19.08.28.pdf>

The policy states the following regarding vandalism and the loss of school property.

Vandalism and Loss of School Property

If deliberate vandalism is caused by a child to school property, it is our policy to charge their parent or carer a minimum of 50% of the costs to replace or repair the damage. If school property is misplaced, i.e. a library book, then a contribution will be charged to the child's parent or carer to replace the lost item. Deliberate damage is at the discretion of staff present at the time damage is caused.

Historically, the school has been fortunate to absorb these costs without passing them on to parents and carers. However, due to the increasing financial pressures faced by schools, we are no longer in a position to do so. Therefore, from this point forward, we will be applying *more robustly* the policy and requesting a contribution of 50% of the repair or replacement costs where school property is deliberately damaged.

As a school, we work hard to keep additional costs to families as low as possible and currently heavily subsidise educational opportunities such as school trips, residential visits, Forest School and swimming lessons. Continuing to absorb the cost of damage and loss would inevitably impact our budget and could affect our ability to provide these valuable experiences for all children.

We appreciate that the vast majority of our pupils treat school property with care and respect. We are confident that, with your continued support, we can ensure that school resources remain available and in good condition for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and understanding.

Safari Adventure coming soon!

Year 2 will be heading off on an African safari adventure as part of our Geography learning this half term. On **Monday 5th October**, the classroom will be transformed into a mini safari experience.

Children are invited to come dressed as an African safari animal—lions, elephants, giraffes, zebras, hippos, cheetahs, crocodiles and many more. **There is no expectation to buy a costume**; creative homemade outfits or simple colours and accessories are perfect. We will also have **a selection of costume bits and accessories in school**, and children can **make masks or headbands on the day if needed**.

During the day, the children will:

- Explore African country flags
- Learn an African song and dance
- Create colourful African necklaces
- Taste a variety of African foods
- Practice speaking some Swahili

Please let us know if your child has any allergies or dietary requirements that we may not already have recorded.

We can't wait to share this exciting learning experience with the children.

Thank you,

Miss Evans

Secondary school applications (Year 7 2027)

The applications for applying for a secondary school place opened on Monday 7th September 2026. If your child is currently in Year 6 and will be moving on to secondary school in September 2027 you can apply for a school place online here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions>

Applications close on Saturday 31st October 2026.

Dates to remember!

- * **Monday 5th October - Year 2 Safari Day at School**
- * **Monday 5th October—Harvest Assembly (food donations welcome)**
- * **Wednesday 14th October - Year 1 Haslemere Toy Museum Trip**
- * **Friday 16th October— Year 5 Mary Rose Trip**
- * **Tuesday 20th October - Year 4 Sea City Museum Trip**
- * **Wednesday 21st October - School Photos, individual and siblings**
- * **Friday 23rd October - Last Day of School**
- * **Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October - Half Term**
- * **Monday 2nd November - First Day Back at School**
- * **Monday 2nd November - Flu Vaccination Day**
- * **Tuesday 3rd November - Year 2 Goodwood Farm Trip**



Inset days 2026/2027

Monday 4th January

Friday 5th March

Friday 25th June

Please ensure your child has no nut products in their lunch box, this includes all chocolate products.

This is really important as we have children with severe nut allergies in school.



Safeguarding Information for Parents & Carers

Safeguarding Update

The NSPCC have shared new information this week around the dangers of children using online platforms and how they can put young people at risk of online sexual abuse and introduce them to inappropriate material.

Between April 2025 and March 2026, during counselling sessions with Childline, Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok, WhatsApp and Discord are the highest-mentioned platforms in which children have experienced some form of grooming or have been exposed to harmful content online. This is a 19% increase in concerns amongst young people in a year!

Did you know that online harm such as grooming, sexual extortion and online child sexual abuse usually starts with a child sharing a single nude or semi-nude image?

The government is currently asking tech companies to create content blockers for children to prevent the risk of harm but in the meantime, here are some things you can do to keep your child safe online:

- **Check your child's phone/tablet regularly.** Make this a routine and go through it together, discussing any concern you may come across. It's a great way to communicate your concerns and educate them on the right thing to do and the type of content they can watch.
- **Ensure you have installed parental controls on technology devices,** this could also include your Wi-Fi.
- **Keep your child of social media.** Children are currently not allowed to access social media until they are 13 and this is soon to increase to 16.
- **Monitor their gaming platforms.** Most children play games online and with online games comes chatting to friends. Sometimes, children add people online without knowing who they are. This can be on consoles or on games such as Roblox.
- **Keep the conversation open and comfortable.** The world is changing at a lightning pace and even as adults we are learning new things. Your child won't know how to deal with things online and might not even know what is good and bad. Keeping the conversation open helps and honest communication is a great way to build a trusting relationship. The more you talk about it, the easier the conversations become.

For more information on how to keep your child safe, please follow the links below.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/techosaurus/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>



Stars of the Week!



Year 1 Woodpeckers

Jaxon

Year 2 Squirrels

Tegan

Year 3 Foxes

Tommy

Year 4 Badgers

Elsie

Year 5 Pheasants

Sienna

Year 6 Lynxes

Freddie

The Nest

Mia



Headteacher awards!



Bentley

Arlo

Stanley

Mia

Archie

Mason

Mayson

Yugan

Kirsley

Riley

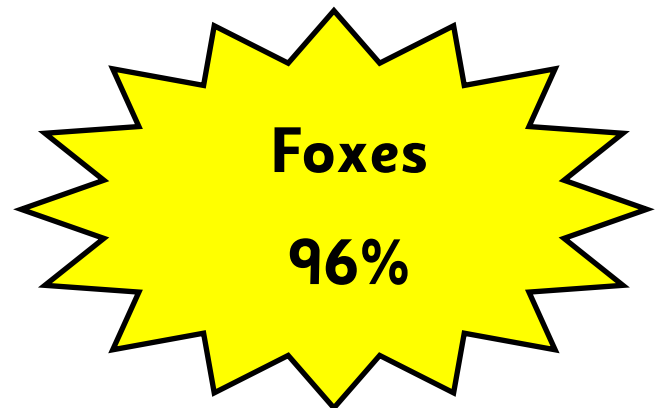
Lola

Freddie

Alex

Isla

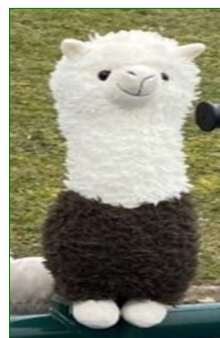
**Well done to this weeks
attendance winners**



**They get to have Magnum the
attendance alpaca in class
this week!**

Breakfast Club Award!

This weeks' winner



Parent Workshop Emotional Regulation

Practical tips and strategies to help support your child's emotions at home and beyond.



Date:
15/10/26



Time:
9:00 – 10:15



Location:
Woodcroft Primary School



Calmer
Children
Brighter
Futures

The workshop will cover:

- ✓ Understanding emotions and why they matter
- ✓ Practical strategies to support emotional regulation
- ✓ Ideas to try at home
- ✓ Sharing experiences and asking questions
- ✓ Support available through the MHST

Small steps
make a big difference

Mental health matters

NHS Mental Health Support Team (MHST)
Helping children and young people to thrive
in school and beyond

- Free impartial advice relating to SEND for 0-25 years.
- Confidential sessions not recorded.
- Peer support, talking to others experiencing a similar journey.
- A dedicated session with an experienced support worker

**9
OCT
13:00**

Considering an EHC Plan?
Independent and impartial information to guide you through the process

**13
OCT
13:00**

Responding to a draft EHC
If you are in that critical time frame having received your draft

**14
OCT
17:30**

Appeals to SEND Tribunal
A step-by-step guide through the appeals process

**20
OCT
13:00**

Ordinarily Available Provision and SEN Support
Looking at support available for those who do not have an EHC

**28
OCT
10:00**

Responding to a draft EHC
If you are in that critical time frame having received your draft

**21
OCT
16:00**

Alternative Provision
What constitutes as a suitable education in relation to section 19 of the education act

www.hampshiresendiass.co.uk/workshops

NHS Dentist—Spaces

We are pleased to let you know that our dental practice is currently accepting new NHS child patients for routine dental check-ups during the October half term holiday.

Parents wishing to register their child or book an appointment can contact us using the details below:

MyDentist Havant

Phone: 02392475522

Email: havant-rec@mydentist.co.uk

Address: 193 Purbrook Way, Havant PO9 3RT

Please quote “NHS kids club” upon booking



School Age Immunisation Service

Get protected against flu



The Immunisation team will be coming to the school to administer the flu nasal spray* to the students on:

Monday

02nd November 2026

*A porcine free injection is available

FLU: 5 REASONS TO GET PROTECTED AGAINST FLU

1. Protect your child - The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia.
2. Protect you, your family and friends - Having the vaccine will help protect more vulnerable friends and family.
3. No injection needed - The nasal spray is painless and easy to have.
4. It's better than having flu - The nasal spray helps protect against flu and has been given to millions worldwide
5. Avoid costs - If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare



Scan the QR code to complete a flu consent form (even if you wish to opt out)

School Code

SH135529

For more information, visit our website:

www.healthforkids.co.uk/hampshire/annual-nasal-flu-vaccination-programme/



MHST Parent & Carer Training 2026-2027

As voted for through our WSA survey the below are the most popular Staff training module requests. Each lasts 1.5 hours and are delivered via Microsoft Teams. They are open to any parent or carer with a child in an MHST school. No sign up is required, simply join the link at the time of delivery. We encourage you to share this poster with your school's parents & carers.

Module	Information
Managing Behaviours	Offers helpful approaches and strategies for supporting emotional regulation, building routines, and strengthening parent-child communication when children present with challenging behaviours. Friday October 2 nd 2026, 11am-12:30pm https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/354505116391668?p=ndCJU9tfrlNd9fTn8
EBSA & Transition	Explains emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA), why it happens, and how parents can help children feel safer and more supported with school transitions. Wednesday October 28 th 2026, 11am-12:30pm https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/356353367789012?p=HXJs4757HdxW32RKNG
Autism	An autism-affirming workshop introducing sensory needs, communication differences, and practical ways parents can support their autistic child. Tuesday February 16 th 2027, 11am-12:30pm https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/321157499781080?p=7SWQ5Fi64wiqKoZpkl
Wellbeing	This workshop explores how parent wellbeing can be affected when a young person is struggling with their mental health, and how caring for yourself directly supports your child's emotional wellbeing too. Parents learn simple, practical self-care strategies that can be used day-to-day to reduce stress, build resilience, and create a calmer environment at home. Friday April 9 th 2027, 11am-12:30pm https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/389695298498867?p=OiGLHL4VracqlWXeYw
Sleep	Covers common sleep challenges in CYP and teaches evidence-based strategies for parents to build healthier, more settled sleep routines. Tuesday June 1 st 2027, 11am-12:30pm https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/350754129690359?p=7DTcFP4arcNWNb7pzz

Coping & Resilience Education (CARE)

This workshop teaches simple, effective, practical skills to help build coping and resilience in children and young people. It is based on the same principles used in our Child CARE Workshop for pupils in Years 5 and 6. By understanding these shared ideas, parents can reinforce the skills at home, support emotional regulation, and strengthen their child's ability to manage challenges.

Tuesday July 13th 2027, 11am-12:30pm

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/353995337462083?p=sZA9iMLdJveGxN8iC>

MENTAL HEALTH
SUPPORT TEAMS

the
Sleep
Charity

ADVICE SHEET

Creating a good bedtime routine

Why a Bedtime Routine Helps



A routine helps your child **relax**



Doing the same things every night helps their body know it's **time to sleep**



Keep the routine for at least **2 weeks** to see if it works

Easy Steps for a Good Bedtime Routine



Plan a **60 minute routine**



Keep **set times** for bed and waking



Turn off **screens**



Offer a **light snack** (if needed)



Dim the lights



Calming activities e.g. puzzles, colouring, board games, crafting



Warm bath, 30 minutes before bed



Read or share a **bedtime story**



For more information visit
thesleepcharity.org.uk

Starting school in September 2027

If your child is 4 or will turn 4 before 1 September 2027, they can start school in September 2027

Applications open for Hampshire residents on **1 November 2026**

THE NATIONAL CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS **FRIDAY 15 JANUARY 2027**
DON'T MISS IT!

**BEST
START
IN LIFE**

For more information go to
www.hants.gov.uk/admissions



Hampshire
County Council

hants.gov.uk