

At Woodside we celebrate reading for learning and for pleasure. We understand that families are busy but, if you can do one thing to help your child to succeed, spend some time reading together.

In the words of famous children's author Michael Morpurgo:
Access to books and the encouragement of the habit of reading: these two things are the first and most necessary steps in education, and librarians, teachers and parents all over the country know it. It is our children's right and it is also our best hope and their best hope for the future.

This newsletter contains some tips to support parents and carers to encourage learning and enjoyment through reading. It would be wonderful to see more children reading at home. Don't forget to write in your child's reading record when you've read together.

There are also some great ideas on how to encourage your child to enjoy maths and practise maths skills in fun ways.

We look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 20 February. Have a good half term!

Claire Bennett
Headteacher



twinkl.com

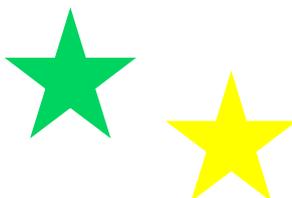
Recommended Reads



2JB have recommended 'Milo's Monster' by Tom Percival. They enjoyed the book because it helped them to understand how to deal with the feelings of jealousy. It was a story that they could all relate to and they loved how it ended positively.



Outstanding Woodsiders



**Well done
everyone!**

Fire Safety

Year 3

We listened to the fireman and he taught us how to keep safe. One of the important things he taught us was, STOP, DROP, ROLL.

Freya



Year 3 children welcomed Crew Manager James Lewis from Shropshire Fire Service. They talked to the children about what to do in the event of a fire, how to keep yourself and others safe and what to do in an emergency.

I learnt that it is important to have a fire alarm in your house so that if there is a fire, you are able to get out of the house quickly.

Lauren



Looking after our School



Some pupils in Year 5 spoke to Miss Bennett about their ideas on how to keep our school grounds clean and tidy. They worked together and organised a rota to do some litter picking. They even presented their ideas in assemblies.

Each week the girls work with Mr Beauchamp and other children from across the school picking up litter.

Well done girls!



Shrek

All the children in Year 5 and 6 went to the Marches School to watch the musical, Shrek Jr! We walked in the rain through Oswestry and took our seats in the school hall. We were very impressed to see how amazing everyone acted; it actually felt like we were watching the movie. The songs were great and the special effects were hilarious. We met the members of the cast and on the way out the three little piggies asked us if we liked bacon! We said no, but actually we do - we just didn't want to say! We enjoyed the performance very much. Thank you to the Marches School for inviting us.

Rory and Brooke Year 6

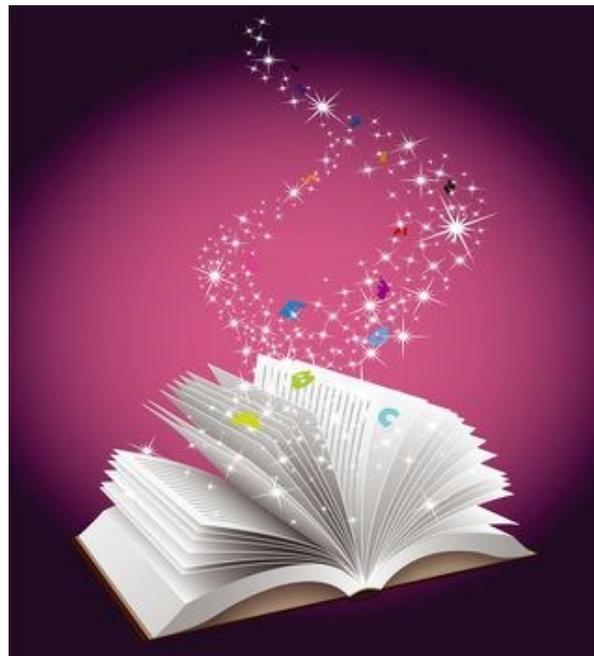


Did you know....?

Children develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

Evidence shows that children who read for enjoyment every day perform better in tests.

Sharing a book allows you to share adventures and experiences in the safe world of the book. A world of imagination and creativity is opened up.



Children learn to develop empathy, improve critical thinking and improve their communication skills.

If you read every night and share a text, your child will be exposed to **1.8million words** a year!!!

Sharing a book can be a bonding experience and a special time .

Why should I read with my child?

What to do if my child doesn't enjoy reading?

- Make sure your child isn't tired, hungry or desperate to do something else! Sit with them for a short time every day and read a book with them that interests them.
- Visit the local library and let them select books that interests them. Sometimes children are more interested in non-fiction books than fiction.
- Give plenty of praise and show an interest in what they are reading. Children develop at their own rates when it comes to reading.

Top 10 tips to help children enjoy reading

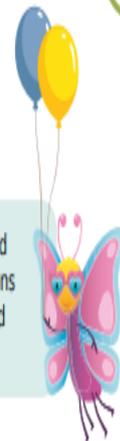
To help make reading enjoyable and fun, we asked experts and authors what they recommend to help get children reading.

1. Make books part of your family life

– Always have books around so that you and your children are ready to read whenever there's a chance.



2. **Join your local library** – Get your child a library card ready for when they reopen. You'll find tons and tons of fantastic books, allow them to pick their own and encourage their own interests.



3. **Match their interests** – Help them find the right book – it doesn't matter if it's fiction, poetry, comic books or non-fiction.



4. **All reading is good** – Don't discount non-fiction, comics, graphic novels, magazines and leaflets. You could even start by watching a read aloud video! Reading is reading and it is all good.



5. **Get comfortable!** Snuggle up somewhere warm and cosy with your child, either in bed, on a beanbag or on the sofa, or make sure they have somewhere comfy when reading alone.

6. **Ask questions** – To keep them interested in the story, ask your child questions as you read such as, 'What do you think will happen next?' or 'Where did we get to last night?'. Can you remember what's already happened?



7. **Read whenever you get the chance** – Bring along a book or magazine for any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's surgery.

8. **Read again and again** – Encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems. Re-reading helps to build up fluency and confidence.



9. **Bedtime stories** – Regularly read with your child or children at bedtime. It's a great way to end the day and to spend valuable time with your child.

10. **Rhyme and repetition** – Books and poems which include rhyme and repetition are great for encouraging your child or children to join in and remember the words.



If you would like any further help or support with phonics and/or reading, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Supporting your child with Maths



Below are a few ideas of how to engage your child in maths at home and how to support them on their mathematical journey:

Early Years/KS1

- Allow children to take part in baking activities, including measuring with a discussion of weights, measurements and how the scales work.
- Measure your child's and their sibling's height on a chart. They can see how they are growing and have experiences of working with centimetres and metres.
- Use the clocks around your house and discuss the time with your child e.g. when the minute hand gets to 12 and the hour hand is at 5 it is 5 o'clock, this is dinner time etc. They can also be given time limit games to understand how long a given time is.
- Play board games, battleships, card games, dominoes etc. so children are counting and seeing numbers regularly.
- Encourage your child to use apps suggested by school such as Number Gym and Hit the Button.
- Allow your child to see money and give them the opportunity to 'buy things' either in a make-believe shop in your home or in a real-life situation.
- Going up the stairs – counting in 1s, 2s 3s etc. according to their year groups expectations.
- Playing with Lego/Duplo to create structures and talking about the 2d/3d shapes used.
- Creating art work, talking about the different shapes, colour and patterns. Could they make a symmetrical pattern?
- Shopping – children to work out how much something will cost, how much change they will get etc. They could also discuss the items bought, which is the heaviest, lightest etc.

KS2:

- Be positive about maths. Try not to say things like "I can't do maths" or "I hated maths at school" – your child may start to think like that themselves
- Use apps and other online resources to develop fluency in maths. For example, the rapid recall of times tables and related division facts and the rapid recall of number bonds to 100
- Use Discovery Education (Espresso) and NumberGym to deepen understanding of place value and how numbers change when they are multiplied and divided by 10, 100 and 1,000
- Enjoy practical activities, such as cooking, shopping and building models to experience measures, time and money first-hand; this will help their understanding

Play a variety of card and board games, such as Monopoly, Battleships, Uno, Dominoes, Game of Life

At Woodside, we follow the White Rose Maths scheme and supplement with lots of other exciting resources. We understand that the way maths is now taught is different to when many of our parents were in school, so White Rose have teamed up with Michael Underwood to produce a series to help parents understand a little more about the way we teach maths. You can access it here <https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/maths-with-michael#watch>

Other Suggested Websites

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

If you would like any further help or support with maths, please don't hesitate to contact us.



Year 5 and 6 had the opportunity to watch Zengage deliver their show 'The Snap Trap'. It follows the lives of two main characters and discusses the choices they make about technology along the way. The children identified some of the mistakes that the characters made and suggested ways in which they could change the outcome and who they could talk to about the problems they faced. At the end, the children were reminded of being 'SMART' online.



Xplore



Years 1-4 had the pleasure of taking part in the Xplore Savings School workshops which were fully funded by the Principality Building Society. The children took part in lots of exciting activities where they role played how to save money and why it's a good idea. They had the chance to work in a pretend building society and practised coin and note recognition. We had a brilliant time!





Important dates

Friday 09 February—Children break up for half term

Monday 19 February—PD Day

Tuesday 20 February—Children start back

Tuesday 05 March—Reception, Y1 and Y2 visits to Booka

Wednesday 06 March—Visit from author, Struan Murray

Thursday 07 March—World Book Day

Friday 22 March—Children break up for Easter

Monday 08 April—Children start back

Tuesday 21 May—Year 3/4 performance of Alice in Wonderland for parents./carers of children in 3DP and 4CS

Wednesday 22 May— Year 3/4 performance of Alice in Wonderland for parents./carers of children in 3MR and 4EB

Thursday 23 may— Year 3/4 performance of Alice in Wonderland for parents./carers of children in 3CR and 4EW

Friday 24 May—Children break up for half term

