



# Woodlands' News Update



## Seasons Greetings!

Angus Council

December 2022

We are delighted we are able to welcome parents, families and the community back into Woodlands. This has meant clubs have started up again and partners can support us, with children attending golf, football, netball and the Big Bash events as well as having gone to Care Homes and the local library, whilst Bookbug and the Wellgood team have come into school to support learning this term. In addition, High School pupils have/are leading some sessions including dance clubs and some of our amazing P7 pupils have requested the opportunity to lead lunch time clubs for our younger pupils too!

Having volunteers in school opens up and enhances learning opportunities so do please contact Mrs Connor should you wish to come in to listen to some reading, support children to play maths games, or help with Walkwise for example. Indeed, should you wish to come in to help with some 'jobs' around school such as helping Mrs Lorimer in our library or creating resources for classes—you will be most welcome.

The restrictions lifting has also meant we are, for the first time in 3 years able to have a Christmas show and we are enjoying welcoming you back to see our pupils perform—there is a buzz of excitement in school as we prepare for each show and as the Christmas holidays approach!

Have a wonderful holiday, when it comes!

*Suzanne Smith, Head Teacher*

### **End of Term**

Please be aware school finishes on Friday 23rd December 2022 at **3pm** for all children from nursery-P7.

### **Quality Assurance and School Improvement Plans for 22/23**

Whilst attainment in all classes in reading, writing, listening and talking and maths at the end of last session remained high at over 90%, our quality assurance processes informed us that more children require support across the school than pre-Covid, especially in writing and reading, and that children need support to improve their ability to self-regulate. This session we are therefore continuing to focus on literacy, looking at our approaches in reading and writing and how we engage and motivate the children. In addition, we have rolled out the Sound Reading System to all classes which means we are supporting spelling and reading approaches with one system across the whole school centred on children learning the sounds and the combinations of letters that make each sound. Accessing outdoors has a positive impact on health and wellbeing and therefore we are planning to use some of our Pupil Equity Fund to develop our school grounds which we believe will not only benefit children's wellbeing but also impact positively on learning. We are also training our staff in an approach called the Zones of Regulation and implementing this approach across our school from nursery to P7. This should improve children's ability to identify their feelings/emotions, and those of others as well as provide strategies for managing how they feel. Finally, we continue to increase our skills in our use of data and we are working with the children to become a Rights Respecting School. More information about the Zones of Regulation and SRS will come to you to enable you to support your child at home.

# News from the classes...

**Nursery** The children are learning about numbers using Numicon, dice, dominoes and other resources in the nursery. We are currently making gingerbread men to decorate the hall, learning to subitise using gingerbread number matching games on the Prowise board and on tuff trays. We are learning to retell stories in sequence in groups and also exploring mark making using different techniques. We have learned about Diwali, Halloween and Guy Fawkes this term and are now learning about the story of Christmas; we will be acting out the nativity on a daily basis and sharing video with you at home on Seesaw. Following the children's interest we have been learning this term about sea creatures and Lighthouses, volcanoes and lava, rockets and planets and castles and knights. We are now learning about Winter and exploring ice, in the garden and inside, and about the creatures who live in icy habitats.

**Primary 1**—This term Primary 1 enjoyed participating the Scottish Picture Book Prize. We completed lots of IDL activities including STEM linked to our stories and enjoyed voting for our favourite. We were very proud of the books we created with our Primary 7 buddies and loved sharing them at our Bookbug event. We continue to learn our sounds and are already building and reading words. In Numeracy we have been focusing on our numbers to 20. We have also learned about 2D and 3D shapes and are currently learning how to tell the time on an analogue clock. We have learned about different seasons and are focusing on Winter. We are very excited about having a Christmas show this year.

**Primary 2** - This term the children have used lots of IDL within their learning. We have been finding out about space and the planets in our solar system. We planned and constructed our own rocket using junk materials. This was all then linked to our "Book bug" theme, in which we wrote about two friends who decided to fly to the moon and have a picnic whilst looking at planet Earth. This was great fun and also a great opportunity to welcome parents and adults to view and celebrate our success. In Maths we have been investigating 2d and 3d shapes, again linked to STEM and our topic. as well as this, we were reading and recording clock times to differing degrees of accuracy. We have been very lucky to have Primary 7 work with us as reading partners. It has really boosted our confidence in reading, We hope to continue this partnership next term. Our part of the school Christmas concert is the country of Poland. We hope you will be able to come along to one of the shows and help celebrate Christmas with us.

**Primary 3** The lead up to Christmas is such a busy time, but we have been hard at work. Our Learning Context is Space and, so far, we've learnt about the phases of the Moon, the Moon landing and have begun exploring Non-Fiction texts to find out about the planets in our Solar System. In our number lessons we have begun learning how to use our place value knowledge to support our adding and subtracting. The children are excited about this as they are beginning to apply their skills and knowledge to a different area of their learning. This means they are working towards 'blue' on our Learning Pool. We have also been writing letters, some of which you saw for the Bookbug afternoon. We will also be writing to the Carehomes and making cards to hand out at the community performance of the show. Our kindness elf arrived on Monday the 5th and will be setting the children various tasks over the coming weeks. The class have named him Cookie. We look forward to seeing you all at our performances and hope you enjoy our singing.

**Primary 4** This term primary 4 have been learning through the context of Space. In groups we have carried out research on different planets and are in the process of making information posters. In writing we have been learning the skills of imaginative writing using a rubrics to help us improve. We are going to write a space story which we plan to read to the nursery. In number we are learning addition and subtraction strategies and looking at measurement in maths. Arella, a CHS work experience pupil, has been helping us on a Friday afternoon. We are very excited to be able to do a Christmas show again this year and our singing is coming along beautifully.

# News from the classes...

## Primary 5

In Primary 5 we have been learning about functional and persuasive language. We have been learning about the features of leaflets and have created our own about Woodlands Primary School. Our next step is to create a leaflet for our Tie Dye business. We have been learning about enterprise through Virgin Money's 'Make £5 Grow' scheme and we hope to bring our business to Woodlands after the Christmas holidays! We are enjoying learning about what makes a good business and the skills and qualities we need to succeed. In numeracy we have been learning about multiplications and division using different strategies and resources to help us. In health and well being we have been learning about how to stay safe online and how to play badminton. We have also enjoyed having Mrs Connor in on a Wednesday afternoon for outdoor learning. We hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Primary 5/6

We have had Miss Morrison, a student teacher, working with us a lot this term and it has been so much fun. In literacy, we have been learning all about leaflets and have started to make our own in relation to our tie dye business we are about to start—watch this space! In maths, we have been looking at a variety of different strategies to help us with our multiplication and division and we have been sharing these strategies with one another. In health and wellbeing, we have been learning about the dangers of smoking and will be attending a workshop soon. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year when it comes.

**Primary 6** - This term P6 have been focusing on our class business topic 'Classy Glasses'. We have used our creativity and imaginations to come up with a business idea, learn how to trade goods and use money as well as to explore profit, loss and budgeting. In Literacy we have been learning all about job applications and CV's as well as advertising and promotions, we have loved using MIE this term and Keys to Literacy to help support our learning. In maths we have been learning about different strategies to help us solve multiplication and division problems as well as learning about money and data handling. In Health and Wellbeing we have been looking at relationships and sexual health. We have also been interacting with the Digital Well Good Learning Resource, an NHS Tayside smoking awareness training programme. We are now looking forward to our workshop which will be taking place in school with the Digital Well Good Drama & Movement Project this month. In PE we have loved our swimming block at Carnoustie High School and are also working hard in the school gym hall focusing on central net games. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone again in the New Year!

## Primary 7 and Primary 7B

This term both Primary 7 classes have been very busy starting our transition to Carnoustie High School. We have had visits from the transition teacher and by the end of the term will both have attended lessons at CHS. We have also been learning our lines and songs as part of the school show and have been learning about the customs and traditions in different religions.

In Literacy we have continue to practise our spelling using SRS and in writing have been looking at persuasive techniques by writing letters. We have linked this to our learning in MIE where we have looked at different film clips and focused on the emotions that are portrayed.

In maths we have been learning about the links with fractions, decimals and percentages and how to analyse and interpret data using different types of graphs.

In Health we have been learning about the effects of smoking and enjoyed the WELL Good workshops put on by NHS Tayside. We have also been looking at our emotions through our work on Zones of Regulations. In PE we have been looking at racquet skills by playing tennis and badminton.

## Parent Council

Parent Council are delighted to have some new members join us. Please get in touch if you are interested in getting involved. Our first school disco since 2019 was a resounding success with lots of dancing and happy faces. We hope to repeat this in February. Our focus at the moment is on fundraising via our Christmas raffle to support Woodlands families who may struggle at Christmas and we are delighted to be able to subsidise the cost of the M&M pantomime to help reduce the cost of children attending this at the end of term. As always, we are grateful for everyone's support.

**Head Lice** At times head lice becomes an issue in schools. On advice from NHS, we no longer send home letters but NHS do advise to check your child's hair regularly. Further information can be obtained from the Health Centre or NHS online and treatment can be obtained free using the NHS Minor Ailments service at local pharmacies.

### Dates for the Diary

<b>December</b>	13 and 15	Christmas Show
	16	Christmas Lunch in school
	19	Flu Immunisations
	21	Christmas Church Service
	23	M and M Productions (Robin Hood) Lunch 12-1pm
	23	End of term 3—see time on page 1
<b>January</b>	9	Start of term 3 (Monday)
<b>February</b>	9	Parent Council Disco's
	16	Inset Day (school closed to pupils)
	17	Mid term holiday (school closed)
	20	Mid term holiday (school closed)
	21	Parent evening (letters to follow)
<b>March</b>	2	Parent evening (letters to follow)
	9	P4-7 Curricular afternoon (More information to follow)
	28	Easter Church Service
	31	End of Term
<b>April</b>	17	Start of term 4
<b>May</b>	1	May Day holiday (school closed)
	11	P1-3 Curricular afternoon (More information to follow)
	24-26	P7 Residential Trip
	29	Inset Day (school closed to pupils)
<b>June</b>	29	End of term 4
<b>August</b>	14	Inset Day 1 (school closed to pupils)

