



Woodlands' News Update



Angus Council

March 2024

Hello from Woodlands!

Spring has sprung and it is lovely to experience the brighter mornings again and see the flowers starting to come through across our school grounds as we await the positive impact we hope our pond will have on our school grounds ecosystem!

Alba Explorers continue through use of our PEF money to work with classes to develop our school grounds and are currently focusing on the area surrounding the outdoor classroom. They have also implemented further training with teachers in how to maintain our orchard and willow tunnel.

Over the course of this term our classes have been inviting parents in to our assemblies to hear children share their learning with everyone. Their focus has been sharing our newly developing approaches in writing and our continued implementation of Zones of Regulation.

To support learning, P1 and P2 are busy organising for a learning visit outwith school to a farm to support their context for learning, whilst P7 pupils are engaging in Bikeability to support them with safe cycling on the roads. We have also continued our links with Active Schools who have not only supported us to arrange extra curricular clubs but also to organise activities for a group of pupils that support the development of gross and fine motor skills to further aid pencil grip and handwriting, and to start implementing Young Leaders training with P6-7.

This is always a busy term with sporting events as our older children attend netball, football and cross country tournaments as well as the golf festival. Our older children continue to take a keen interest in organising and running clubs for our younger pupils such as dance club which continues to make us very proud.

In addition, our pupil groups continue to meet, remaining very active in their role; Sports Council are arranging ongoing sporting events to maintain our Gold Sports Award, Digital Leaders have recently attained our Digital Schools Award (#proudHT), Reading Council organised our World Book Day events to promote reading, our Rights Respecting Schools group shared further information at assembly as well as highlight across our school what we need to do to ensure we respect children's rights and our gardening morning has been organised to help us maintain our school grounds and eco flag status. We are also very proud of our Nursery Team who gained their Communication Friendly Setting status earlier this term—a great achievement (the first setting in Scotland to gain this from Elkland)!

*Woodlands remains a hive of learning and opportunity—I hope you enjoy reading more about the learning in each class as you read the rest of our newsletter. **Suzanne Smith, Head Teacher***



End of Term

Please be aware school finishes on Friday 29th March 2024, and term 4 resumes on Monday April 15th.

Sporting Events and Clubs

We have been exceptionally busy this past term attending various Sports Events. The children have excelled in the activities and we have achieved great results. Those children who attended after school golf lesson for p6 attended the Golf Festival and had a great morning down at Carnoustie Golf Hotel. Our Netball Team worked hard in their competition at Carnoustie High School and our Cross Country Team had a wonderful morning at Monikie Park competing with all the top runners throughout Angus. A huge congratulations goes to Tamara Sediacek (P6 class) for coming first in the cross country run for p6 girls throughout Angus. Coming up we have our Football Tournament for both p6/7 girls and boys and next term we have even more football and netball events to join. Well done and thank you to all the children who have taken part and represented the school.

Awards and Celebrations

The digital leaders, a group of children from P6 and P7, are delighted to announce that Woodlands have achieved their Digital Schools Award.

This is a 3-step programme to help schools assess progress and recognise excellence in the use of digital technology across our nursery and primary school. A team of children and staff met with our assessor Malcolm Wilson in February and were delighted to achieve this award.

The digital leaders are now planning a celebration for all the classes.



After lots of hard work and commitment, our nursery staff are proud to share that we are now a communication friendly setting, accredited by ELklan. This has meant lots of training in various strategies to ensure staff are supporting our youngest learners with their communication and meeting their needs. This may mean providing objects to support communication or extending vocabulary through our topics and themes.



As we write this newsletter we are preparing for our World Book Day celebration on Thursday 7th March, when the children will dress up as an amazing adjective. Each class will celebrate books and their importance in our lives throughout the day.

Please remember to spend your World Book Day £1 voucher.



Rights Group— We have done a lot of work to spread the messages of the UNCRC throughout the school. We have done assemblies, created a video, put up the rights around the school and have also started to create a rights charter.

We will now be pulling together our evidence to help us gain our Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award.

Eco Committee—We are delighted to announce that we have achieved our seventh Green Flag. There has been a great deal of work done in our school grounds with Alba Explorers this term in further developing our school grounds and all classes ave had the chance to do this.

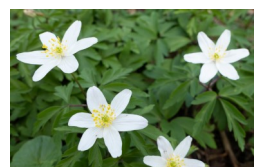
Spring has sprung

Please come and join us at our community gardening morning on

Saturday 23rd March from 9.30—11.30am

No experience needed, we are doing a general tidy up.

Refreshments, fun and laughter will be available.



News from the classes...

Nursery—

This term we have been learning about ice; arctic animals habitat and also turning ice into water and mark making in the frost. In numeracy learned about sharing; into groups and into equal parts. We are now learning about shapes, both 2D and 3D, and this has led our learning into symmetry. In literacy we have been learning about characters and events in stories, and retelling our favourites using helicopter stories. We have been learning some of the pre writing patterns and the children have been busy using sticks, cotton buds, paintbrushes and shaving foam etc. to 'pull down' and 'push up'. We have celebrated Burns Day, Chinese New Year, Mothers day and World Book Day and are looking forward to St Patricks Day. We will be having Occupational Therapy in nursery next week for a Little Scribblers afternoon with parents.

Primary 1—

Primary One are working on the topic People who help Us. We have had lots of visitors telling us about their jobs like Mary the lollipop lady, the dentists and a doctor. We have been learning how to keep ourselves safe when travelling including rail and how to stay safe at the beach. We visited Newton farm to see what farmers do. We got to feed the animals and make butter and pizza. In literacy we are working hard on reading and writing using our sounds. In number we are learning to add and subtract. This term we are also performing our assembly.

Primary 2 - In literacy, we have been learning all about the /ee/ sound and all the different spellings for the sound. We have also been trying to spell spot them in our reading books too. In writing we have been using the description wheel to make our sentences more interesting. In numeracy, we have been working on our number bonds to 10 and 20. We are now starting to look at the link between addition and subtraction and are trying hard to complete sums that challenge us. We are enjoying our new topic just now too, 'People who help us'. We have enjoyed having lots of visitors in to share what they do in their jobs and how they help us, such as, dentists, doctors, paramedics etc. We have also been to Newton Farm to find out what farmers do and how they help all the animals. It was such a fun trip and we loved seeing all the animals and making butter and pizza too! We hope you have a lovely Easter when it comes.

Primary 3 - This term we have really enjoyed our 'Farm to Fork' topic! We have been loving our SRS work and enjoy using these skills in our writing. In literacy we are focusing on information report writing and have created some fantastic pieces focusing on robots. In maths we have had a focus on money as well as patterns and relationships. We have also been using a variety of resources to help us with our multiplication and division. We have been very creative in PE looking at different dance sequences and movements as well as learning a few Scottish country dances. We have looked at ways to keep our bodies healthy as well as the structure of the human body. We enjoyed our class visit from the local community police officers finding out about their role within our community. P3 would like to wish you a lovely Easter!

Primary 4 Primary 4 are working on the topic "People who help us" We have linked this aspect with our writing and the methods we were introduced to from Mr Stephen Graham from Australia. We Have written about different people who help us and focussed on explanatory and descriptive writing as a mode to create our texts. To support us in finding out about our topic, we had a lovely visit from the local community police. They did a talk about their role and the equipment they use. We had the chance to look inside their police car as well. In maths we have been learning our times tables and practicing how to calculate money amounts. We also did our assembly this term sharing our learning about zones and our topic. Its been a busy but fun filled term. P4 would like to wish everyone a happy Easter.

News from the classes...

Primary 5—

Primary 5 have been enthusiastic about our World War Two topic, particularly enjoying learning about evacuees and thinking about how different life was in those days. Lots of children discovered they had relatives who had been a part of the war effort and were able to bring in memorabilia to share with the class. In art we have used mixed materials to produce pictures inspired by the Blitz. We are looking forward to making Anderson shelters as part of our technology work too. At the start of the term we also enjoyed a trip to Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc to aid our sustainability topic and took part in some STEM workshops. Our number work has been focused on multiplication and using a range of different strategies to solve problems. We have also been looking at measure, including weight, length and volume. We used new techniques in our writing to produce detailed and informative reports all about Carnoustie.

Primary 6

Primary 6 have been really engaged in our topic of WW2 this term. We have loved learning about lots of different aspects of the war, particularly evacuees and how life was for people on the home front. We have had to have a think about what we could not live without and create our very own evacuee suitcases as a homework project. We will be presenting these to the rest of our class over the coming weeks. In Literacy we have engaged in tasks around our novel Goodnight Mr Tom and have been working hard to create information reports using the Stephen Graham techniques and writing frames. We have focused on addition and subtraction, time and shape this term in numeracy, we will now be moving on to increasing our speed and accuracy with our times tables. Have a lovely Easter when it comes from everyone in P6.

Primary 6/7

In Primary 6/7 this term we have been focusing on multiplication, division, fractions and decimals in Numeracy and Maths. In Literacy we have been learning all about descriptor bubbles to help us to develop our writing skills and we wrote fantastic letters home from the viewpoint of an evacuee from World War 2. We continue to enjoy our topic of World War 2 where we have learned all about why war broke out and what it was like for children and families living through the war. We are looking forward to sharing our assembly which is based on our learning from this topic. Our class worked hard to improve our stamina during our cross country training and some of us are looking forwards to representing the school at the competition in Monikie Park.

Primary 7

Primary 7 have been enjoying learning about World War Two. We shared our learning linked to the Home Front at our class assembly and really enjoyed making Anderson Shelters in Technology. In health, we have been learning about risk and what we can do to protect ourselves in specific situations. We have also been learning about the difference between prejudice and persecution through exploring the treatment of the Jews when Hitler was in power. In numeracy we have been multiplying and dividing decimals by 10, 100 and 1000 as well as extending our skills linked to multiplication. We have also been exploring word problems through the context of money and also developed skills like budgeting and find the best deal.

We have seen a real improvement in our writing since starting the Explicitly Teaching Writing training and everyone is finding the descriptor bubbles a really helpful way of creating a more vibrant picture for the reader. We will be moving on to writing a persuasive argument over the next few weeks.

Parent Council

We have our bingo evening this Friday 15th March 6.30pm for 7pm start, the bingo night is a hugely successful night for the Parent Council & is a great fundraiser to allow them to support the school & all our pupils.

The P7 Hoodies have been delivered to the school and it has been lovely to see the children wearing them with pride.

We have a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/woodlandsprimaryparentcouncil/> , we are currently trying to recruit new volunteers as current parents will be moving on due to the P7s leaving this year.

Free online course for all parents, carers and grandparents

Parents, carers and grandparents of children and young people in Angus who want to learn more about sensitive and effective parenting and building a positive relationship with their child can access free Solihull Approach online courses. The **Solihull Approach** promotes emotional health and wellbeing for all children their parents, carers and grandparents so that they can thrive as kind, sociable and emotionally aware throughout their lives.

The courses have been developed by registered professionals within the NHS, working with practitioners and parents to develop new resources to support emotional health and wellbeing in children, families, and adults. You can complete the courses in your own time and at any time.

Find out how more about the Solihull Approach and how to get access to the free courses on the [Angus council](#) website



Dates for the Diary

March	4	P5 start Decider Skills sessions with New Solutions	
	6	Netball tournament P7 Bikeability starts P6 assembly—sharing learning with children and family members	
	7	World Book Day—Dress as an Adjective	
	12	P1 and P2 learning visit to Newton Farm Cross Country Team to Monikie	
	15	Active Schools start training with P6 and P7 Young Leaders Parent Council Bingo Night (6.30pm)	
	18	Football Tournament	
	21	Football Tournament and WoW Ambassadors from CHS to work with P6-7	
	23	Gardening Morning 9.30—11.30am (all welcome)	
	25	End of term service 1.50pm start—all welcome	
	29	End of term (usual finish time)	
	April	15	Start of term 4
		30	Learning café for parents/carers (6-7pm further details to follow)
	May	6	May Day holiday (school closed)
7		Parent Council AGM	
	16	Curricular Afternoon (parents invited to see and hear about their children's learning—more information to follow)	
	22-24	P7 residential	
	27	Inset Day 5 (school closed to children)	
	29	Sports Day (weather permitting P1-4 am and P5-7 pm)	
June	12	P7 to CHS	
	13	P7 to CHS	
	14	Reports to parents	
	25	Proposed end of term service	
	27	End of term —3pm finish for all	
August	12	Inset day 1 (school open to staff only)	
	13	Term 1 starts for all pupils	