



Woodlands' News Update



Angus Council

2025

Our Vision: Believe and Achieve

Hello from Woodlands!

It is a magical time of year to be in school, with Christmas well under way at Woodlands. Our classes have done an amazing job learning their songs/lines and our older pupils helped the younger ones with their nativity, lighting and music. It was another wonderful Woodlands Christmas show!

Over these past 2 terms, classes have linked with each other to support and share digital and reading skills and S3 pupils have visited weekly to engage in Paired Reading with our P4 children. We have also linked with Active Schools to arrange clubs and attend sporting events, with our golfers and footballers having been out at events recently. Older children have been supported by staff to organise and run clubs at playtimes for younger children including a basket ball club and an art club, and our Eco, Pupil and Sports Councils have been meeting regularly to start to implement their action plans.

Our Reading Garden was finished just as we returned from the summer providing the quiet, calm space some children had requested, whilst helpers attending our gardening mornings have worked hard to tidy and organise both the planting in the Reading Garden and elsewhere in our school grounds—thanks to all who were able to help.

Earlier this term our younger pupils linked with parents to share their learning at our Book Bug event, whilst nursery parents attended a Little Scribblers session with Occupational Health and just last week our parents/families of P5 came in to school to make Christmas wreaths with their children. Thanks to all who supported us by attending these events and to Morag from Monkey Makes who also came in to support and donated many fabulous resources for our wreaths.

Our Parent Council have continued their much appreciated support by running discos and fundraising to support our Reading Garden purchases, pay for buses to the pantomime as well as buy ice cream for the children and for continuing to support our families at this costly time of year—thank you!

Enjoy the holidays! Suzanne Smith, Head Teacher

School Sports Council

The Sports Council members for this year have been appointed and we have reps from Primary 1 –7 to ensure pupil voice from all stages. We have been very busy already and have been carrying out a survey on sports participation, trying to identify any gaps or trends. The Sports Council are working closely with Active Schools who are also exploring this at Carnoustie High School too. As part of the survey we also asked all pupils about any clubs that they would be interested in taking part in and will be looking to lead some of these next term. We are keen to update our noticeboard to ensure all pupils and staff are aware of clubs, events and news, and have started this too. During our last meeting we brainstormed possible developments that we can make to sport, PE and health and well-being and are looking forward to making more improvements.

End of Term

This year we are unable to hold a Christmas Service as the church is currently undergoing renovations. We hope they will have completed by Easter to enable us to hold our Spring service in church as in previous years.

Please note, our last day of term is Tuesday 23rd December, with school and nursery finishing at 3pm.

News across the school...

Our School Improvement Plan

This session our teaching staff continue to build on and explore the application of Explicitly Teaching Writing to differing text types and year groups, through professional enquiries. In addition 3 of our teachers attended Leadership of Learning sessions last term focused on the work of Shirley Clarke. They have already started to explore and apply their learning as well as lead sessions with our teaching staff to share their expertise.

We are currently accessing training across our whole school in inclusive approaches. This is designed to support our staff to collaboratively look more closely at how we meet the needs of particular individuals through for example adaptations to the environment.

We are also about to work in partnership with OPAL to develop our playground to better support and facilitate play. This improvement will take around 18-24 months and involve our SPSAs, a parent and a senior leader working together to identify, implement and evaluate a planned approach to improving children's play experiences. We will look at resources as well as training in how to enrich play. The aim being that our grounds, resources and approaches better support play experiences for all children.

In Carnoustie we work closely with our partner schools and have engaged in training sessions together to ensure we have similar approaches to better support transition from ELC and to CHS. This has included a group comprising staff from each school and the ELC starting to explore how we ensure we are teaching subject specific language with a consistent understanding as children transition between classes and settings.

Eco Council— Members of the Eco Council will be undertaking a litter pick of the playground over the coming weeks to help them assess the levels of litter in our playground before moving on to organise a beach clean up. Keep your eyes peeled for a date, we would love to see you there!

We are also looking for a local charity that supports children in another country if you know of any we would really appreciate your suggestions. This will allow us to learn about these charities and identify one that we would like to support and fundraise for.

School Funds

A big thank you to everyone who handed in chocolate for our tombola. As in previous years, our shows sold out, (thank you for your support) helping us raise a further £529.50 for our school fund.

To date we have £4738.84 in our school fund. We were saving this to help pay for our reading garden requested by our children and equipment for our playground. However, we have been very fortunate as our Parent Council have stepped in and supported costs. This will now enable us to use more of the funds raised to explore and purchase a range of other playground equipment and some storage. In addition monies raised from our shows and tombola will go towards additional activities and treats for our children across the year including parties. Thank you to everyone for supporting our fundraising.

Parent Council

Our Parent Council has continued their support for our school, subsidising the cost of attending the pantomime, supporting families at Christmas, organising and holding the pupil discos, paying for some of the seating in our Reading Garden and early next term will fund our P7 Leavers' Hoodies—thank you for your continued support.

News from the classes...

Nursery

This term the nursery have been learning about the seasons, and the changes we can see in the environment. We have been learning about measurement and estimations, and we also learned about 2D and 3D shapes. We used shapes for our fine motor skills; drawing shapes and using cotton buds as well as pencils for drawing and mark making. We are learning about rhyming words now and listening out for rhyme in our stories and songs. This term we had some great Kodaly sessions, learning about the rhythm and beat of songs and stories. The children also learned songs for our visit to the care home, where they performed for the residents. They also performed the Ziggy song for Mary the lollipop lady for her birthday. This tied in with our learning about staying safe both in the nursery and out and about, and people who help us. We've had a hospital in the nursery, which then became an animal hospital and just last week we had a wonderful visit from the fire brigade. We're full on Christmas now, with the children acting out the nativity daily.

Primary 1

The children have loved learning all about castles and Knights this term. They built their own castles, painted knights and wrote descriptions. On November 21st the children had a visit from Book Bug and were gifted their own Book Pack. They have loved the stories and in class used the books as a stimulus for art and creative writing. On the day the children sold clay stars and raised a fantastic amount. Andy from Guide Dogs is coming in to school on 15th of December with his guide dog Nevis to collect a donation and share more about what the Guide dog Association do. Christmas has well and truly arrived in p1 with lots of fun play areas to choose in and the nativity rehearsals are in full swing. The songs are sounding lovely and the costumes look amazing. The children are looking forward to performing for you all.

Primary 2 have had a wonderfully busy term! We've loved learning all about Castles and even created our own cardboard masterpieces with the help of Primary 6. The children were also delighted to receive a special visit from Book Bug and take home their very own Book Pack. We sold our clay stars at the event and raised a fantastic amount! We look forward to Andy from Guide Dogs visiting with his guide dog, Nevis, to collect our donation and share more about the amazing work they do. Our Nativity rehearsals are coming along beautifully - the songs sound lovely, the costumes look amazing, and we can't wait for you to see the show! In literacy, we've been building 4 and 5 sound words and using texts to find real facts, while in maths we've been exploring 2D and 3D shapes, counting, ordering, and spotting odd and even numbers. Thank you for your continued support - wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year when it comes!

Primary 3 Primary 3 have had a fun and busy term! We've been learning all about castles, the people who lived and worked in them, and the traditions of the past. The children especially loved creating their own jousting shields and designing 2D castles with a moving 3D drawbridge! In November, the class had a very special visit from Book Bug, where each child was gifted a book pack to take home. In preparation for this, the children worked incredibly hard to make their own 'All About Badgers' books to share at the event, inspired by one of the lovely stories in their packs. They also made hot chocolate reindeer to sell at the event, raising money for the Guide Dogs Association. As a reward for all their efforts, Andy from Guide Dogs will be visiting us soon to talk more about the charity and all the amazing work they do! Our Nativity rehearsals are well underway and the children are making fantastic progress—we can't wait to share the performance with you.

In literacy, we've been developing our information report writing and learning how to use adjectives to up-level our work. The children have also been practising new sounds each week to support their reading and writing. In numeracy, we've been exploring different addition and subtraction strategies whilst also learning about different 2D and 3D shapes and also money. Thank you all for your continued support!

News from the classes...

Primary 4

What a busy term it has been! In our writing we have continued to explore information reports and developed our skills in note taking and writing paragraphs. Our reports contain more information and are set out beautifully. We are so impressed with the improvement from all the children. In Number, we have begun learning some new techniques for adding and subtracting. One being using a blank number line and the other using rounding and adjusting. Our topic is likely to run on into the new year and is focusing on Scotland and its Geography plus Old Dundee and the industry found there. We have had Miss Munro in for much of this term. She is in her final year at University and will join us for a further three weeks after the Christmas break. We all wish you a fabulous break!

Primary 5 We are really enjoying our 1960s topic looking back at fashion, technology, food, music and transport as well as some big events that occurred like the moon landing. In writing we have begun writing response texts and are enjoying watching different Christmas adverts and sharing our thoughts and opinions on them. In maths we have been looking at symmetry, pattern and shape and have enjoyed using this to create outfits for 1960s fashion dolls. We have loved continuing to learn Spanish and have just completed our hot task which shows just how far we have come. In PE, we have been focussing on ball skills and trying to use these skills in team games such as basketball and tennis. We are loving our Christmas songs for the Christmas show and cannot wait for you all to watch. We would like to thank you for your continued support and hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year when it comes.

Primary 6

This term has been very busy for Primary 6 so far. We have been learning about fashion, art, toys, music and significant events from the 70s. Primary 6 have also started to explore response texts in writing and have been sharing their opinion on short films and television adverts. The children have been exploring the language used in film reviews to support their understanding of this. In numeracy we have made excellent progress with place value and have completed our hot task which highlights our new learning. We have now moved on to explore a wider range of addition and subtraction strategies. In maths our current focus is the time and we are focussing upon both analogue and digital clocks. As part of health and wellbeing we are looking at substance misuse and the impact that these can have on the body. In French we are learning the vocabulary for the different seasons and to describe the weather. We have also been increasing our confidence when reading French sentences through bilingual reading books. In PE we have been focussing upon central net games, so far we have tried Pickleball and up next is Volleyball. Through this we have been focussing upon working as a team, movement skills, tactics and precision of ball delivery. We also have a week of competitive invasion games before we move on to our next sport and the children have really been enjoying the variety of this. As part of music we have been focussing upon our Christmas songs and are looking forward to performing to our families at the upcoming shows. We have also started to explore rhythm and dynamics through drumming in class. Primary 6 have also been learning some Spanish this term and have focussed upon days of the week and colours so far. Each week on a Thursday we enjoy going to read to the nursery children too.

Primary 7

Primary seven have enjoyed their topic on the 1980's decade. We have been learning all about fashion, music, Christmas, food and historical events from this time period. We have also enjoyed our first class visit to Carnoustie High School where we participated in a French lesson. Primary 6 and 7 also enjoyed a visit from our local community police officers. This gave us an opportunity to learn all about online safety and appropriate behaviour online. We also enjoyed having the opportunity to ask them questions about the different careers available in the police service. Primary seven have been working on persuasive texts and have written some fantastic pieces on the topic of "Sharks are not dangerous and should be protected". We have been enjoying learning our Christmas songs and we look forward to sharing these with you.

Special congratulations to one of our P7 pupils, Natasha who was awarded Carnoustie Junior Citizen of the Year for all her fundraising efforts. Natasha has raised £2,550 for the Strep B Foundation and helped raise awareness with the charity about routine testing for pregnant women.

Primary Seven wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year when it comes.

Our School Vision:

Believe and Achieve

Our School Aims:

We always try our best



We are kind

We are responsible

We are respectful

We are safe



Character	Value	Statement
Safe Squirrel 	Safety	I keep myself and others safe.
Healthy Hedgehog 	Healthy	I try to make healthy choices.
Achieving Acorn 	Achievement	I try my best in all areas of my learning.
Nurturing Newt 	Nurture	I show care and concern for others.
Active Ant 	Active	I participate in a range of activities.
Responsible Rabbit 	Responsibility	I take responsibility for my behaviour and actions.
Respectful Robin 	Respect	I show respect for everyone in the school community.
Including Insects 	Inclusion	I look for ways to include others.

Useful Links

Parent Portal - <https://parentsportal.scot/pportal/>

Parent Pay (School Lunches) - <https://www.parentpay.com/>

School Reports—<https://woodlands.pupiltracking.com/>

Clothing Grants—https://www.angus.gov.uk/schools_and_young_people/free_school_meals_and_school_clothing_grants

Change of Address Form—https://www.angus.gov.uk/schools_and_young_people/schools_advise_a_change_of_address_schools_and_early_learning_and_childcare

Woodlands school website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/an/woodlandsprimaryschool/>

Follow us on x: <https://x.com/WoodlandsPrim1>

Allergies and lunch orders: Due to some children in school having allergies which can lead to anaphylaxis, we ask that you please avoid snacks and foods containing peanuts and sesame seeds where at all possible. Please also ensure that your child's name is displayed on the outside of their packed lunch container and that dinners are chosen by 8am each day, including if your child is a packed lunch. Thank you for your support.

Dates for the Diary

December	19	P1-P7 to Pantomime in Arbroath
	23	Term 2 Ends—dress as you please & 3pm finish for everyone
January	7	Term 3 Starts for all pupils
February	12	In Service Day—school closed to pupils
	13	Mid Term— school closed
	16	Mid Term—school closed
April	3	Term 3 Ends
	20	Term 4 starts for all pupils
May	4	May Holiday—School Closed
	25	In Service Day—School closed to pupils
July	2	Term 3 Ends

