



Woodlands' News Update

Hello from Woodlands!

Angus Council
June 2025

As we come to the end of our year, we have been reflecting on all our learning and our successes. Teachers have continued to work hard to meet the needs of our learners in a variety of ways through exploring assistive technologies to support diverse learners access their writing, and supporting children in each class to use the tools they have identified to support them regulate in the class and playground, for example. Each class has accessed places and people beyond our school to further enhance and extend learning and teachers have focused on including learning about and making meaningful connections with children's rights in addition to learning about being global citizens, being eco-friendly and engaging in outdoor learning.

This year our Eco Council successfully applied for our 8th green flag, our Sports Council were successful in maintaining our Sports Gold award and we are currently hoping to gain our Rights Respecting Schools silver award today—our RRS group have been amazing at supporting us all to learn more about rights and make connections. In addition, our Pupil Council have taken forward pupil voice and are creating a Reading Garden in our playground, with the support of our Parent Council and you, our parents/carers through fundraising. The monies raised have enabled us to date to purchase a Reading Hut, Hobbit House, Reading Store (see below) and some decorations, and will enable us next term to buy books and look at other areas of the playground. The children who first requested this space, identified the importance of diversity saying, 'different people, different spaces'.

Thank you to all our staff who have continued to review and evaluate our approaches to ensure what we do and how we do it remains inclusive, meaningful and progressive for our learning community. Thanks also to you, our parent forum, and our helpers and partners for all your contributions and support and to our learners who ensure Woodlands remains a lovely, fun and rewarding place to work!

I hope you enjoy reading our final newsletter of the year and we look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you next session.

Suzanne Smith,
Head Teacher



End of Term

Our end of term service takes place on Monday 23rd June @ 1.45pm at Carnoustie High School. We look forward to seeing you there and celebrating our successful year! Term ends on Friday 27th June at 3pm.

Homework Policy

As a result of parental feedback about how we inform you about your child's progress, we established a working group to review our homework policy. The group comprised of pupils, parents and teachers who met last term. They reviewed and updated the policy aiming to take account of those families who are seeking homework and those who feel it is a challenge to implement at home. The policy was then shared and agreed with our Parent Council and will be sent out term 1 and implemented from August. Thank you to all who participated.

Pupil Voice and Celebrations

Digital Leaders

Digital Leaders have turned their attention to the ipads this term and have been installing the 'Seek' app onto all of the ipads. This allows the children to identify plants and minibeasts that they discover outside. We would now like to install the 'Merlin' app which will enable us to identify bird song in the garden.

These are 2 apps we would recommend you use at home on your excursions out and about and at home in Carnoustie.



Pupil Council

As a result of pupil request, the Pupil Council are busy working on their outdoor reading area, the structures for this is on their way (a reading hut, hobbit house and book store) and we have allocated each class a job to help design our 'enchanted woodland' theme. This will be a lovely edition to our outside area for a new school year.

Sports Council

The Sport Council hosted a successful inter-house netball and football this week. The staff competed against the P7 netball team in what was a competitive but fun match!

We have continued to offer table tennis this session to both primary one and two to ensure clubs are offered at all stages as part of our commitment to sports opportunities for all. As it is the final term, Primary 5 have signed up and joined netball training on a Monday lunchtime to allow them to learn about the different positions and basic skills from our current team .

Rights Respecting Schools Group

The Rights Group have been very busy pulling together our evidence for our Silver Rights Aware Accreditation Visit which takes place today, 20th of June. This term we have organised a Rights Mascot competition, planned and delivered Rights Day and held assemblies to gather pupil view points about Rights. We have also met with the Manager of the Perth Food Bank to explore how we can support charities going forward.

Eco Group

The Eco Group have put posters up around the House Grounds to remind people to keep the area tidy by using the bins and picking up dog mess. They are planning to carry out a litter pick down at the Beach Park and to present at assembly to encourage everyone to have an eco-friendly summer.

Spring has Sprung

Thank you to all who were able to join us at our community garden event on **Saturday**.

We laid stone chips to our Zen Garden and cut back the willow in what will be our Reading Area.

Refreshments, fun and laughter was had!

News from the classes...

Nursery— This term we have been learning about living things; with help from Carol from RHET we planted potatoes and carrots in the garden, beans in the window and sunflowers in pots, learning about what they need to grow. We have been learning about lifecycles, with our caterpillars and the tadpoles in the pond. We are using the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar in nursery to learn about this, and as part of our transition to Primary 1. We learned about where food comes from and tried lots of exotic fruit. We have been learning about symmetry, again using butterflies, and we have also been learning about sorting, using different criteria. We had a lovely trip to the beach recently where we collected shells, stones and driftwood sticks and are using them for sorting and loose parts play in the garden. We are learning about our senses, especially out in the garden in the sunshine.

Primary 1—Our topic this term has been Jasper's Beanstalk so there has been lots of learning about living things. We designed and made scarecrows then grew bean plants. We learned what a plant needs to stay healthy and also grew sunflowers and cress. We were able to write simple instructions on 'How to plant a Seed' and a recount of the story. We have looked after caterpillars and observed their lifecycle, as well as observing the frog's lifecycle when visiting the pond. A local ranger came out to talk to us about his job and did some work on minibests with us. We enjoyed learning more about UNCRC and cooperated well on creating Rights Town. The nursery has started transition and we have been very kind and welcoming.

Primary 2—This term our topic has been Jasper's Beanstalk and we have been learning all about living things and what they need to grow. We have grown our own beans in little greenhouses to learn about how roots and shoots form. We also made scarecrows to ensure the birds don't get to the vegetables planted in the school garden. We have been looking at recount writing and have managed to retell how we planted our seeds. At the moment we also have 5 class pet caterpillars who we love to observe daily—some are now butterflies as they are now emerging from their cocoons! In literacy, with our P7 buddies, we have looked at different pond animals and created life cycle fact books on the chromebooks. In maths, we have been looking at money. We can identify the coins, add small amounts together and give simple change. We wish you all a lovely summer holiday when it comes!

Primary 3 - This term our main topic is Weather, Water and Natural Disasters. We have also been learning about robots and changes in technology. As part of this we went on a hunt around the school to see the different robots we have and what they do. In maths we have been learning about digital and analogue time. Our writing focus for the final term is Recount Texts and we have been retelling events in the correct sequence. As part of our reading and Keys to Literacy we focussed upon the film Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth. We looked at the characters, feelings, setting, weather symbols and favourite parts. Again a very busy term with lots to do before the summer holidays.

Primary 4 - We have been very busy this term. We enjoyed playing lawn bowls at Carnoustie Bowling Club and a trip down to Carnoustie Golf Links to putt and play on the Nestie course. We also went to Barry Mill to learn about the history of the mill and went pond dipping. We have been focusing on telling the time and learning our times tables. We have been looking at recount writing and wrote about our perfect day. We have caterpillars in class as part of our living things topic and are enjoying watching them grow and change into butterflies. In groups we have designed a play space and have loved sharing our learning with our parents over the past 2 weeks. We have been into our new classroom and are excited for primary five.

News from the classes...

Primary 5

Primary 5 have had a very busy term working on their Enterprise project. In teams they designed and made emoji squishies, bracelets, bath bombs and coasters. They received lots of orders (thank you to everyone for all the support) and also hosted a café for parents to sell their products and also share their learning. The class have been very proud of this project and raised an amazing £380, meaning they will be donating £190 to charity and have £190 to spend on an a class activity. In maths we have been working on fractions, angles and telling the time. The writing focus has been on re-counts, and we have been retelling events that have happened as well as using our imaginations. The class have also enjoyed outdoor learning this term, building dens and making frames for the bird pictures which will go in the outdoor classroom.

Primary 6 -

Primary 6 have continued to make great progress with their writing through the Explicitly Teaching Writing approach. We are really proud with all of our achievements and have just finished a block on recount texts. In maths we have been learning about fractions/decimals and percentages as well as angles. We had a fabulous trip to Kinnordy Estate which tied in nicely with our topic on Food and Farming. Last week we went to see Shrek at the High School as part of an early transition event and we really enjoyed it! In Health we have learned about strategies that support mental health as well as our Relationships and Sexual Health lessons through the RHSP programme. We have also been learning about Rights and loved making presentations about Education Around the World and Children Around the World.

Primary 7 - Primary 7 have been busy practising for their leaver's show, which they are looking forward to performing in front of the school next week. This term our topic has been farm to fork, where we have especially enjoyed looking at exotic fruits and food miles. We loved learning about the life cycle of a strawberry and even made our own Eton mess dessert. We had a sell out of our strawberry and marshmallow kebabs on sports day which was part of our enterprise project. Our writing focus has been recount texts, we have enjoyed writing about a day in the life of a chosen celebrity. Our numeracy focus this term has been fractions, decimals and percentages. In maths our focus has been money, we have looked at all the different ways to pay and even looked in to crypto currency. We have been engaging in a mini project for our last few weeks in Primary 7 which focused on designing a futuristic land. Recently pupils from both Primary 6 and 7 attended a cross country competition where Tamara from P7A received first place—congratulations, Tamara! Primary 7 boys in a recent football tournament returned with the fair play trophy which was a lovely way to end the last football tournament for the term.

Further information...

Feedback and School Improvement

This session we have continued our focus on developing and improving our writing approaches and supporting HWB. Teachers engaged in further training and collaborated across the school as well as with our cluster colleagues to build our skill set and ensure clarity and shared expectations across Carnoustie. High school staff joined us to hear about and observe what we are doing and we are going to build further on this next session as we start to look more closely at language we are using in primary and that of secondary in literacy and numeracy to ensure continuity and understanding of terminology. Recent pupil feedback informed us most children in P1-4 and P5-7 feel positive about their writing and that the level of challenge is appropriate, whilst almost all children in P5-7 and most in P1-4 shared they know how to be successful in their writing all of the time, with the remaining children saying some of the time. All children could identify what supports them with their wellbeing in school.

Our attainment remains high, with all classes achieving 89-100% attainment in literacy and numeracy. Further pupil feedback informed us almost all (95%) feel safe, feel like they belong, feel valued for who they are and are treated with respect by adults, with 90.5% saying adults listen to their views and 100% saying their individual needs are supported so they can join in. Next session we will continue to focus on promoting and supporting the learning of children's rights, with a focus on staff training in building racial literacy, and promoting and supporting the pupils to feel respected by each other.

Feedback from parents informed us most feel school asks their views about their child's learning (81%), find staff approachable (89%), are kept informed about their child's progress in a way they understand (81%) and know what their child is learning (78%), with 67% feeling satisfied with frequency of communications about what their child is learning. Further information identified reviewing our homework policy would prove supportive with this and in addition to reviewing the policy as a result of this feedback, we have added a 'how you can support your child at home' section to the learning log information. We will also run our curriculum afternoon next session so it shares more about our approaches.

Useful Links

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

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

Connecting Parents Angus <https://sites.google.com/an.glow.scot/connectingparentsangus/home>

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/schoolsadvise_a_change_of_address_schools_and_early_learning_and_childcare

NHS Tayside CAMHS portal

The CAMHS Neurodevelopmental Parent Portal is a dedicated space for expert guidance, practical tools, and a wealth of resources—accessible anytime, anywhere. The Portal offers information and support around common neurodevelopmental concerns with strategies designed to help you navigate challenges and celebrate progress.

<https://www.nhstaysidecamhs.co.uk>

Parent Council

We are also looking for parents to join the parent council, if this is something you can help with please contact us on social media or via a current member of parent council.



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.

Dates for the diary...

Dates for the Diary



August	18	Inset Day—School Closed
	19	Start of Term 1 (Tuesday) P1 staggered start
September	3	Parent Council Meeting 6pm—8pm
	25	Parents Evening (Thursday)
	30	Parents Evening (Tuesday)
Oct	3	End of term 1 (usual finish time)
	20	Start of term 2
	23	School Disco
Nov	12	Parent Council Meeting 6pm—8pm
Dec	3	Inset Day—School Closed
	4	Inset Day—School Closed
	5	Holiday—School Closed
	23	End of Term 2
Jan	7	Start of Term 3
	14	Parent Council Meeting 6pm—8pm
Feb	12	Inset Day—School Closed
	13	Mid Term Holiday—School Closed
	16	Mid Term Holiday—School Closed
Mar	13	Bingo Night
Apr	3	End of Term 3
	20	Start of Term 4

Don't forget to visit our website at: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/an/woodlandsprimaryschool/school-blog/>