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WOODLANDS PRIMARY & EYC

September
2025
Newsletter



Teamwork

Effort

Kindness

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer break. It's always a lovely opportunity for pupils and staff to recharge after a busy final term and for families to enjoy some quality time together.

It has been an absolute delight to welcome your children back and everyone has made a fantastic start to the new term. All pupils have settled in really well, and there is a noticeably calmer, happier, and more settled feel across the school. This positive atmosphere has been commented on by parents, carers, pupils, and staff alike, which is incredibly encouraging.

We're looking forward to a very busy and exciting year ahead at Woodlands Primary and our Early Years Class. We've made lots of new and positive changes already, and you'll have the opportunity to see and hear more about these over the coming months.

This session, we are especially keen to work closely with all our families, as we greatly value your input and involvement in school life. To support this, we're introducing a Learning Café programme, where parents and carers will be invited to visit classrooms three times throughout the year. These sessions will give you the opportunity to speak with teachers, work alongside your child, and see their work and jotters firsthand. We hope this will strengthen the home-school partnership and help you feel even more connected to your child's learning journey.

Our new Primary 1 pupils have settled in excellently and made a great start to life at Woodlands. Likewise, our new children in the EYC have made a fantastic start—it's a joy to welcome them into the Woodlands community.

Can I please ask all parents/carers to return the Data Check, Photo Permission, ICT Usage, and P1-P3 Pick-Up forms as soon as possible. Your prompt cooperation is greatly appreciated!

Also, can I kindly ask all parents and carers to label all items of clothing and equipment, including packed lunch boxes. This helps us ensure that if anything is misplaced, it can be returned to the correct owner quickly.

Please take a moment to read our September newsletter—I hope you find the information useful.

If there are any major issues, concerns, or successes you feel I should be aware of, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at gordonwilson@ea365.n-ayrshire.sch.uk

Best wishes,
Mr Wilson
Head Teacher

Staffing

We are delighted to introduce some new members of the Woodlands team who will be supporting our pupils' wellbeing and attainment across the school this year:

- Miss Caldwell and Miss Queen, Class Teachers, will be working closely with pupils to support both their wellbeing and academic progress.
- Mrs Aird, our Early Years Practitioner (EYP), will be focusing on supporting play and attainment in Primary 1.
- Mrs Phillips has joined us in the office to provide valuable administrative support.
- Lisa McCary, our Early Years Lead, will develop and enhance learning experiences for our youngest learners in the EYC.

We're excited to have such a dedicated team helping to create a nurturing and supportive environment for all our pupils.

Writing

A Focus on Writing Across the School

This session, we are placing a strong focus on writing to help improve attainment across all year groups. To support this, every class will have two teachers working together in the classroom during writing lessons. This approach will provide additional support and challenge for our learners, helping each child to develop their skills more effectively.



Later in the year, we will also be working closely with the Professional Learning Academy (PLA) to further enhance writing development across the school. We believe these initiatives will have a significant and positive impact on both staff and pupils over the coming months.

We feel very fortunate to be able to offer this enhanced support and are excited about the improvements it will bring to the learning experiences of our pupils. Watch out, David Walliams—Woodlands pupils are the authors of the future!

Tempest Photos

Tempest will be visiting on **Thursday 25th** and **Friday 26th of September** to take children's photos. More information will follow soon.

PE Days

PE will be on the following day(s) for classes and each child will have access to 2 hours of quality PE each week.

P1	Monday and Friday
P2	Monday and Friday
P3	Thursday
P4	Tuesday and Thursday
P5	Tuesday
P6	Monday and Friday
P7	Wednesday

Physical Education – PE Kits Reminder

We kindly ask that all pupils bring their **full PE kit**, including suitable trainers, on their allocated PE days. It is essential that pupils have the correct kit in order to fully take part in the exciting and active lessons planned for them. Ideally, PE kits should be kept in school throughout the week to ensure they are always available when needed.

Please also be reminded that if your child wears earrings that cannot be removed, these **must be taped up with Micro-pore tape** before coming to school to ensure their safety and to prevent any accidents during physical activity. Thank you for your support in helping us keep PE safe, inclusive, and fun for everyone.

Parent Council

Get Involved – Join Our Parent Council and PTA

We warmly invite you to come along and support Woodlands by attending our Parent Council and PTA meetings. We are always in need of helpers, no matter how much time you can offer—whether it's a little or a lot, your involvement makes a huge difference to the school and the experiences we can provide for our children.



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Being part of these groups is a great way to meet other parents, contribute ideas, and support school events and activities. If you're interested in helping out or want to find out more, please contact the Parent Council or PTA via their Facebook page or get in touch with the school office. Your support really matters to us and to the whole Woodlands community!

Healthy Snacks

We are noticing that quite a lot of our pupils are coming to school with 2 or more unhealthy snacks per day including share size bags of Doritos, full

bags of Haribo etc. As a health promoting school we really want to try and promote healthy eating to all pupils. Healthy snacks help manage kids' hunger and boost nutrition. The best snacks are low in sugar, fat, and salt. Fresh fruit, low-fat dairy, and protein foods are always good choices. An occasional treat is fine, but please try to give pupils a healthy snack option most of the time. For some fun ideas you can make with your child please click on the link below: [Healthier snacks - Food facts - Healthier Families - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

School Improvement

This year our school has 3 main priorities:

PRIORITY 1

- Introduce a Skills-Based Curriculum and New Planning/Tracking System to Support Differentiated/Adaptive Teaching

PRIORITY 2

- Ensure Universal and Targeted Supports Meet the Needs of All Learners

PRIORITY 3

- Improve Attendance, Strengthen Family Engagement, and Promote Wider Achievement

Please find a copy of our School Improvement Plan and our Standards and Quality report on our school website to see a more in depth view of how we will achieve these priorities and our evaluation of achievements from last session. [Woodlands Primary and Early Years](#)

Breakfast Club

Start the Day Right – Join Our Breakfast Club!

Just a reminder that we have an **amazing Breakfast Club** here at Woodlands – and we're pleased to say it will be running again **this session**. A healthy breakfast is so important for children. It helps them start the day with energy, focus, and a positive mindset – all of which support better learning and wellbeing.

Our Breakfast Club is **completely free** and open to all pupils. If you haven't already, we'd love you to **sign your child up** and give them the best start to their day. Please pop into the school office for sign up forms and more information.

Pupil Committees

Leading the Way at Woodlands

This session, we have set up a range of pupil committees to help lead on events and priorities across the school. Pupil leadership is really important to us at Woodlands, and we know our pupils are excited to take on these roles.

We have aligned our school committees with the School Improvement Plan, ensuring that the work of the pupils supports our overall goals and vision. Pupils will soon select the committee they wish to join, and we're excited to see the action plans they develop following their first meetings in October. These committees provide fantastic opportunities for pupils to shape and lead the future development of the school.

Our committees this session are:

1. Eco Committee
2. Playground Committee
3. Digital Leaders
4. Sports Committee
5. Reading for Engagement Committee
6. Fundraising/Events Committee
7. Rights Respecting Schools (RRS) Committee
8. Dyslexia Squad
9. House Captains
10. Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO)

We look forward to the great work our pupil leaders will accomplish this year!

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Learning Cafés

Introducing Learning Café Sessions

Based on feedback from the Parent/Carer Survey carried out in February 2025 when I first arrived, it was clear that many parents and carers wanted to be more involved and better informed about what pupils are doing in school. To support this, we are excited to introduce a new programme called **Learning Cafés**.



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The sessions will begin on **Friday 26th September** and will give you the opportunity to visit your child's new class, meet their teacher, look at jotters and take part in a learning-based activity alongside your child.

Who is invited?

Parents, carers, grandparents - everyone is welcome! However, due to space and capacity limits, we kindly ask that, where possible, only one adult attends each session (don't worry, there will be plenty of sessions throughout the year). For health and safety reasons, prams and buggies are not permitted in classrooms but can be safely left in the gym hall.

More detailed information, including times and future dates, will follow in a letter next week.

We look forward to welcoming you into school and sharing your child's learning journey with you!

Apply for Footwear, Clothing and Free School Meals

North Ayrshire Council provides support/money for families of pupils attending school. They provide free school meals and £132 per child worth of footwear and clothing support for parents who receive certain benefits. Please click on the link to see if you are eligible. It is a great way to save yourself some money. Link: [Free school meals, clothing grants](#)

School Uniform/ Free Uniform Station

We would like to continue expressing our sincere appreciation to all parents and carers for their ongoing support in ensuring that **ALL** children wear the school uniform. We are very proud of this collective effort, and it plays a vital role in fostering a strong sense of belonging and pride within our school community.

It has been wonderful to see all pupils dressed smartly in their uniforms so far this session, and we hope this positive trend continues.

Additionally, we have a generous supply of spare uniform available at the school. Over the summer, the PTA/Parent Council worked tirelessly to wash, bag, and tag all the clothing items. Please feel free to come and help yourself to anything you might need—it's all completely free. All we ask is that you put names on all items of clothing so we know who to return it too if it goes missing.

Thank you once again for your support in helping us maintain our school's identity and spirit!

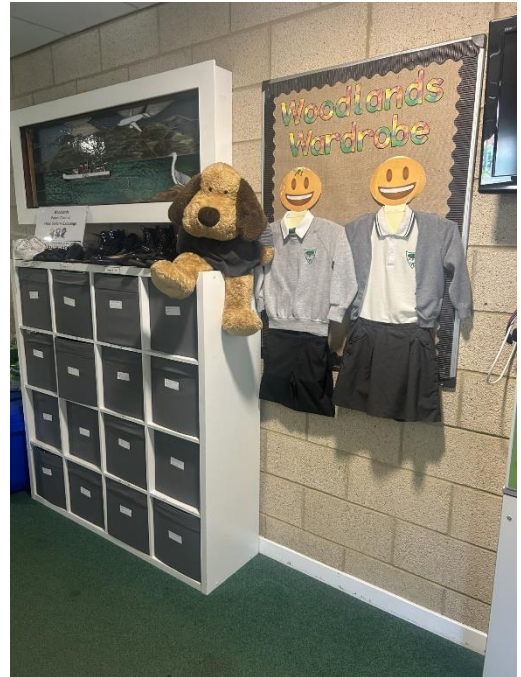
Diary Dates:

Please see diary dates from September through to the October Holidays. We will update you with any changes or new dates in the next newsletter. In the meantime please get in touch if there is anything you wish to discuss.

Thank you for your continued support.

In partnership,

Mr Wilson
Head Teacher
Woodlands Primary School and EYC



DIARY DATES

September/October 2025	
Wednesday 3 rd Sep	Brain Donnelly Parent Workshop – Managing Behaviour
Friday 5 th Sep	Class Newsletters sent to Parents/Carers
Wednesday 10 th Sep	Brain Donnelly Parent Workshop – Resilience in Children
Monday 15 th Sept	Pupil Survey
Wednesday 17 th Sep	Brain Donnelly Parent Workshop – Neurodiversity
Monday 22 nd Sep	Staff In-service day – No pupils in school on this day
Wednesday 24 th Sep	Brain Donnelly Parent Workshop – Bullying
Thursday 25 th /Friday 26 th	Tempest Photographs
Friday 26 th September	Learning Café 1 – Meet the Teacher
Monday 13 th October	Start of October Holiday Break