

COMMUNITIES & EDUCATION DIRECTORATE

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Woodlands Primary School

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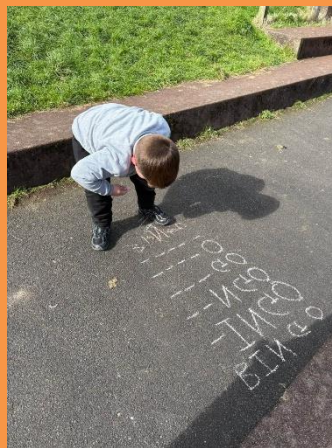
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WOODLANDS PRIMARY & EYC

**October
2026
Newsletter**



Teamwork

Effort

Kindness

Dear Parent/Carer,

The colder weather is definitely upon us, and with shorter days, wetter mornings and chilly playgrounds, it's important that children come to school dressed for the Scottish weather.

Please send your child with a weatherproof jacket every day, along with layers such as a jumper or cardigan that can be easily removed if they become too warm indoors. On colder days, hats, scarves, gloves, tights or leggings are all great for keeping children comfortable during outdoor play.

A quick reminder to label all clothing with your child's name, as this makes it much easier to return lost items.

If your family needs any additional uniform, please remember that our free Uniform Station is available in the school office. Everyone is welcome to help themselves: there should never be a cost barrier to coming to Woodlands.

It has been wonderful to see the children settling into their new classes with new teachers. It is always a joy to celebrate their achievements when they come for SLT awards, and the improvement in their work this term has been fantastic to see.

We were delighted to welcome so many parents, carers, and family members to our first Learning Café. We had a 63% uptake across the school which was fantastic to see. The children loved the opportunity to share their learning with you both inside and outside the classroom.

Our school committees will be starting this month, and the children are eager to get involved in making positive changes across the school. At Woodlands, we really value pupil voice, and I look forward to reading each committee's action plan on how they aim to improve different areas of school life.

Thank you for signing up for the Parent Portal! We really appreciate your support, as it allows us to communicate with you clearly and keep you updated with important information.

Please also take a moment to read our October newsletter, which I hope you will find both helpful and informative. As always, should you have any concerns, questions, or successes you would like to share, please feel free to contact me directly at:

gordonwilson@ea365.n-ayrshire.sch.uk

Best wishes,
Mr Wilson
Head Teacher

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Attendance

Our children have one opportunity at their education, and every day in school counts.



Attendance Matters



At present, 88 pupils across the school have attendance below 90%. This represents 25% of our school roll and is a significant concern. Over the coming weeks, we will be contacting all families whose child's attendance is below 90% to discuss how we can work together to improve this. Our approach is always one of support, understanding that every family's circumstances are different.

There is positive news too. Our overall attendance this session is 92.7%, an improvement on this point last year, and we thank families for the commitment they continue to show. We have, however, identified a noticeable dip in attendance within our P5 and P6 year groups, where unauthorised absences are highest. Wherever possible, please ensure your child attends school every day. Regular attendance not only supports learning and progress, but also friendships, confidence, wellbeing and a sense of belonging.

School attendance is a legal responsibility shared between families and the school. While we recognise that holidays can often be less expensive during term time, we ask that these are kept to an absolute minimum. Missing school means missing essential teaching, experiences and opportunities that cannot always be replaced.

As always, if your child is struggling with attendance for any reason, please get in touch. We are here to help, and by working together we can ensure every child has the best chance to thrive.

Pupil Voice Matters



At Woodlands, our pupils are at the heart of every decision we make. This month, every child across the school will take part in our annual Pupil Survey, giving them the opportunity to share their views about their learning, wellbeing, school environment and the life of our school.

Listening to our children is incredibly important. Their feedback helps us celebrate what is working well, while also identifying the areas we can improve together. Many of the positive changes we have made over the past year have come directly from pupil ideas and suggestions.

We want every child to know that their voice matters, and we're excited to hear what they have to say as we continue making Woodlands the best place it can be for all our learners

Celebrating Our Pupil Support Assistants

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated team of Pupil Support Assistants (PSAs) at Woodlands. Every day, they make a real difference to the lives of our children through their care, encouragement and commitment.

Our PSAs support pupils in many different ways; from working in Stepping Stones, The Retreat, promoting positive wellbeing during break and lunchtime, to delivering targeted interventions that help raise attainment and build confidence in literacy and numeracy.

They are an essential part of our Woodlands family, helping every child feel safe, included and ready to learn. We are so grateful for everything they do and proud to have such an outstanding team supporting our pupils every day.



Halloween @ Woodlands

This year children at Woodlands will have the opportunity to dress up and take part in Halloween themed activities in class on Friday 30th October. This is always optional and children who don't wish to dress up can wear ordinary clothes or their uniform.

When thinking about costumes please ensure your child can easily get their costume on and off for lunch, toilet etc. If possible try to avoid sending in accessories or items that can be used as weapons or can hurt other children (yes this happens every year!). Teachers will organise activities in class and we hope everyone has a great time.



Halloween Discos

The Parent Council is kindly supporting the school by organising a **Halloween Disco** for all pupils on **Wednesday 28th October**. Tickets will be available for purchase in school after the October break.

To help manage traffic safely, a **one-way system** will be in place throughout the school. Pupils should enter via the **Upper Primary entrance** and leave through the **Front Door entrance**.

Please note that **all children must be collected by an adult** at the end of both discos. Pupils will not be permitted to walk home alone. Thank you for your understanding and support in keeping everyone safe.

- P1-P3 Disco - 5-6pm

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- P4-P7 Disco 6:30-7:30

Harvest Foodbank Collection

To celebrate Harvest and support our local community, Woodlands will be organising a collection for the Foodbank prior to the October break. We will have a trolley outside in the playground for any families to kindly donate (if they can).

We are looking for donations of items such as:

- Cereal
- Tinned custard
- UHT milk
- Tins of food
- Pasta
- Microwavable rice
- Cartons of long-life fruit juice
- Pasta sauces
- Soups and other cupboard staples



Donations can be sent into school from **now until Thursday 8th October**. All items will then be delivered to our local Foodbank over the October break.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity in helping local families.

Parent Helpers for School Trips

We're always looking for parents and carers who would like to support our pupils on school trips.

Following updated guidance, all parent volunteers must have a PVG before they can help on outings. We would love to build a bank of PVG-registered helpers, and the school will arrange and cover the cost of the PVG process for volunteers.

Having a wider pool of approved helpers will help us provide even more opportunities for our children. While we do our best to staff trips internally, having parent volunteers will make it easier for local visits, theatre trips, outdoor learning and many other experiences to go ahead throughout the year.

If you're interested in becoming a PVG-registered volunteer, please contact the school office—we'd love to have your support!

Please complete the FORMS link below. [Parent/Carer Helpers for School Trips - Fill out form](#)



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Allergy Aware School

A reminder to all families that Woodlands Primary is an Allergy Aware School, in line with North Ayrshire Council guidance.

We have children with severe food allergies, including nut allergies, so we ask that nuts and products containing nuts (such as peanut butter and some chocolate spreads) are not brought into school. Even small amounts can cause a serious allergic reaction.

Please take a moment to check lunchboxes and snacks before your child comes to school. Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep Woodlands a safe and inclusive environment for every child.



Diary Dates:

Please see diary dates from October to end of November. 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

October//December 2026	
Wednesday 7 th Oct	P1 Eye Checks
Monday 12 th Oct	Start of October Holiday Break
Monday 19 th Oct	Children Return
Wednesday 21 st Oct	P5 Vikingar Trip
Friday 23 rd Oct	Flu Immunisation Day
Wed 28 th Oct	Halloween Discos
Friday 30 th Oct	Pupil Halloween Dress Up Day
Wednesday 4 th Nov	P5-P7 Mixed Football League
Friday 6 th Nov	Interim Reports Sent to Parents

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Friday 20 th and Mon 23 rd Nov	November Weekend (children and staff holiday)
Tuesday 24 th Nov	Staff In-service Day (children on holiday)
Wednesday 25 th , 26 th & 27 th	Fluoride Varnish Today
Wednesday 25 th Nov	Parents Evening/Learning Conversations Evening
Friday 27 th Nov	Day of Dance P5-P7 Pupils
Wednesday 2 nd December	Christmas Market