



**WOODLANDS PARK  
SCHOOL**

# *The Woodlands Weekly*

## School Newsletter



Slough and East Berkshire  
C of E Multi Academy Trust

**Edition 12—Friday 6th December 2024**

### Note From The Head

In this week's newsletter, I wish to stress the importance of regular school attendance. We made some significant improvements with our attendance last year; improving our overall attendance by 2% and reducing the number of children who are persistently absent (below 90%). Our analysis this term has shown that we have regressed and a significant amount of absence relates to children being off school with unauthorised leave. The national figure for primary school attendance is 95% and our current school attendance is 91%.

When children miss learning time, gaps appear in their knowledge and skills and it impacts their progress in school. Children struggle to catch-up after an absence and it has a detrimental impact on their ability to access and enjoy their learning. Please support us by ensuring that your child is in school every day, unless illness prevents them from attending.

It is a legal requirement for children to attend school and families must be aiming for attendance to be at least 95%. As we have done for a number of years, the school will fine if the number of days unauthorised leave is above a certain threshold. Recently, we have had some parents query their fines. The fines are there as a deterrent and have been proven to improve school attendance. The school do not receive the fine and there's no financial benefit to the school. Fines (set by government) have increased this year and schools will also need to consider a fine if a child has 10

unauthorised absences in a rolling period of 10 school weeks.

Please support us with raising attendance and ensuring that regular attendance, if not already, is a priority moving forward.

*Mr Miles, Headteacher*

### Christmas Celebrations

The PTA have been busy counting the profits from the fair last week and the overall total raised was £800. What a fantastic amount! Well done to those who supported and attended the event. The PTA are supporting a number of projects this year and recently donated £400 to the library refurbishment. Please keep the donations coming!

We have entered the St Luke's Christmas Tree Festival. Mrs Malcolm and Mrs Saiyai decorated the tree which with decorations created by the children. The theme this year was the Northern Lights. You can view all the entries by attending St Luke's Church, in Maidenhead, flyer attached.



*Photo: Our Christmas Tree Entry*

Well done to all our Early Years children for their participation in their nativity plays this week. The plays were well attended and the audience enjoyed the performanc-

es by the children. Next week we have our Year 1 and 2 shows on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon and our Thames Hospice Reindeer Run on Friday.



*Photo: EYFS dressed for their performance*

Today, Wolves class visited St Mary's church as part of their 'Christmas Cracked' event for local schools. Thank you to Reverend Dave for inviting the children to be part of your Christmas celebrations.

### Thames Valley Police

TVP are running a free webinar session for parents and carers in across the area to provide hints and tips on how to keep families safe online. The webinar will cover: emailing, gaming and social media. Attached to the newsletter is a flyer detailing how you can sign-up.

### Year 6 Residential

Thank you to all the families in Year 6 that have confirmed a place on the Longridge Trip. We are now able to confirm the trip and letters will be sent out asking for a deposit and confirming the payment plan. Please ensure deposits are paid promptly.