



NEWSLETTER

January 2026

Welcome to the Woodside Academy newsletter! Here you will find up-to-date information on events in the school, as well as dates for your diary.



Current Information

Welcome Back

Welcome back and Happy New Year to all our parents and children, we hope you all had a lovely Christmas break.

New Term Dates 26/27

You would have received the new term dates for 2026/27 via Parentmail, please note that we now have 2 weeks in October as well as the May/June break.

Christmas Bazaar

A huge thank you to every one of you who donated towards our Christmas bazaar, with your help we raised an amazing £2720.32. We would also like to thank the Friends of Woodside for all their help organising this event, it was a great success.

EYFS Film Night Success

Thank you for supporting our film night! We've raised enough to buy two new trikes and hope to host another night this term.

If your child no longer needs their trike, we'd love to give it a new home.

Reception Admissions

If you have a child in the nursery, please be reminded that you have until the 15th January to apply for a reception school place via Thurrock Council. Children that attend our nursery are not automatically guaranteed a reception place. Please refer to the admissions policy for more information.

Nursery Admissions

The deadline for applying for a place in our Nursery is the 13th February. You can pick up an application form from the school office or on our website. Applications received after this time will be added to a waiting list.

Trips and Activities

We ask for contributions towards trips and activities that take place in the school day. We are not allowed to profit from these trips and activities, all contributions are used solely to cover expenses. If we do not receive these contributions trips and swimming may have to be cancelled.

New Year Lunch- Thursday 15th January

We are having a special lunch on Thursday 15th. The choices will be chicken goujons, pizza or jacket potato with chocolate ice-cream for dessert.

Parentmail Bookings

Please ensure that any breakfast club, after school club or school dinners are booked in advance via Parentmail and only booked through the office in emergencies. If you do have a change to the end of day arrangements, please ensure that you call the office no later than 2.45pm so we can guarantee the message is received. There is a late cancellation fee of £5.00.

School Attendance

Please remember that regular and punctual attenders make better progress, both socially and academically. Term time holidays will not be authorised and penalty notices will be issued. Please see our Attendance policy on our website for more information:

https://www.woodsideacademy.org/_site/data/files/users/information/5A5346A9DDF4EACA67AF60ECF1230BE5.pdf

You must call the school office with any child's absences on 01375 372513.

Pupil Premium Grants

Did you know you might be eligible for a **25% discount** on swimming, school trips, and music. Simply check the **Thurrock Council website** to see if you qualify for the **Pupil Premium Grant** via the free school meal applications <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals/thurrock> It's quick to check, and it could mean more fun for less!

Walking Bus

Please use our walking bus, leaving the Chadwell Pavilion at 8.15 am. After dropping these children to school, it will then pick more children up at the Bon Bon at 8.30 am.

Creative day at Convent School for girls

On Thursday 15th January, the girls in year 5 have been invited to spend a day at Convent school for a creative day. Please complete and return the letter, that was brought home, by Friday 9th January if you would like them to take part.

Swimming Gala

Woodside will once again be competing in the Swimming Gala on Friday 30th January at Blackshots swimming pool. If you have a child in KS2 that is a confident swimmer and would like to take part, please email Mrs Conroy.

Clubs

Clubs have resumed for the Spring Term. Outdoor clubs finish at 4:00 pm, indoor clubs at 4:15 pm. Clubs may be cancelled at short notice – please check ParentMail. Parents are responsible for knowing which club their child is attending, ensuring they go, and arranging collection. Registers are only for emergencies; not to chase up non-attendance.

School improvements

We have submitted a bid for a new single-storey demountable classroom, with foundations for a future second storey.

Parent Helpers

We are always grateful for parent helpers to support learning, activities and clubs. If you are able to help, please contact the school office.

Volunteer Minibus Drivers

We are looking for parent volunteers to help drive our school minibus for trips and activities. If you are interested, please contact the school office for more information.

Hiring School Facilities

Our school hall and classrooms are available for hire outside school hours. For rates and booking information, please contact the school office.

Parking

Please be mindful when parking near the school. Always keep driveways and access points clear to ensure safety for all pupils and families.

January Healthy Living

Cook together with fresh, local ingredients to foster healthy eating habits. Encourage outdoor activities like walking or biking to stay active as a family.

Keeping Children Safe: The PANTS Rule

This term, we will be teaching children the NSPCC's PANTS rule in class, helping them understand that their private parts are their own and they can speak up if they feel unsafe. Parents are encouraged to discuss PANTS at home. More information can be found here: [NSPCC Underwear Rule](#).

Dates for your Diary

January

Monday 5 th	First day of Spring term
Tuesday 13 th	5L Assembly – 9:00 am *
Wednesday 14 th	School Council visit the Houses of Parliament
Thursday 15 th	Reception admissions deadline New Year Lunch Y5 girls creative day at the Convent
Tuesday 20 th	6G Assembly – 9:00 am *
Tuesday 27 th	1P Assembly – 9:00 am *
Friday 30 th	Swimming Gala

February

Tuesday 3 rd	2B Assembly – 9:00 am *
Tuesday 10 th	4R Assembly – 9:00 am *
Wednesday 11 th	Year 3 Steel Pans Concert (time to be confirmed)
Friday 13 th	Nursery admissions deadline
Tuesday 24 th	3O Assembly – 9:00 am *

Spring Half Term Saturday 14th February to Sunday 22nd February

March

Monday 2 nd	World Book Week M&M Show- The Railway Children
Wednesday 4 th	Parent Book Look
Thursday 5 th	Y6 visit to RAF Hendon
Wednesday 11 th	Parent Consultation Evening
Tuesday 17 th	1K Assembly – 9.00 am *
Friday 20 th	Year 4 visit to Howletts Zoo

Easter Holidays Saturday 28th March to Sunday 12th April

May Half Term Saturday 23rd May to Sunday 7th June (2 weeks)

Summer Holidays Saturday 18th July to Tuesday 1st September

Autumn Half Term Saturday 17th October to Sunday 1st November (2 weeks)