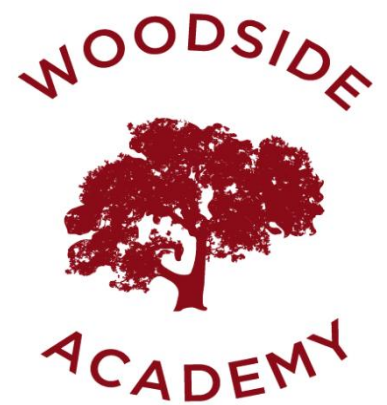




NEWSLETTER

September 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

A warm Woodside welcome to all our new children, families and staff joining our school community this academic year.

Summer reading challenge

Well done to all the children who took part in the summer reading challenge this year, unfortunately we didn't bring home the shield again this year but we came a close 2nd! All children who took part in the challenge and received a certificate will be treated to a reward at the end of the Summer term next year.

Swift Kitchen

Due to our previous catering company ceasing trading, we now work with Swift Kitchen. We hope by now everyone is set up and using the swift kitchen app without any issues, we know there have been a few teething problems as with anything new but we are confident going forward that the children will be happy with the new menu and parents will find ordering the meals much easier.

Dietary needs

If you haven't already done so, please ensure you have completed and returned the swift kitchen dietary form so you can order meals on the swift kitchen app that have been adapted to your child's dietary requirements as they will be on a 'safe menu' until the information is given.

Summer Bounce

We finally got to go ahead with our annual summer bounce and what a success it was! The sun was shining and it was great to see so many parents and children enjoying themselves! We raised an incredible £1,522.28. All money raised will go to much needed school resources.

Year 2 Wat Tyler Visit

The year 2 children will be visiting Wat Tyler Park this week where they will take part in team building activities such as pond dipping and orienteering.

2M-16th Sept 2G -18th Sept 2C – 24th Sept

Flu Immunisations

The school nurses will be in on Thursday 24th September to administer the flu vaccine to children from Reception to Year 6. Please note this is only for children who have had parental consent.

Book Fair

Our book fair will be back on Wednesday 30th September, please come along and have a look after school each day, all purchases made help the school buy new books for the children.

Parent consultation days

We are pleased to offer in-person parent consultations during the school day, giving parents and carers the opportunity to meet with teachers face-to-face in a focused and welcoming environment. Each year group will have its own dedicated consultation day in November.

Admissions

Secondary school applications are now open for children in Year 6, please apply through the Thurrock Council website, the deadline to apply is the 31st October.

KS1 Harvest Festival – Tuesday 13th October

- Holmes and Redgrave 9am – 9:30am
- Wilkinson and Moore 2:30pm – 3:00pm

Our year 1 and year 2 pupils will be celebrating harvest with a sharing assembly for parents. This will be organised in houses. You are welcome to attend the time for the house that your year 1 or year 2 child is in. We are collecting for Thurrock Food bank, details of what we are collecting will be sent out soon.

Parking

We would like to remind all families to park safely and respectfully during school drop-off and collection times. Parking on someone else's private driveway without permission is illegal and is not acceptable under any circumstances.

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 for trips, they may have to be cancelled.

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, the office will be open from 8am.

Appointments & early collections

We kindly ask that any medical appointments are taken outside of school time, but if this cannot be avoided, please let the office know with plenty of notice and providing medical evidence. If you wish to pick your child up from school at an earlier time, please give plenty of time as we are a very busy office and cannot guarantee we can get the children ready in 5 minutes.

Clubs

Clubs for the Autumn term are listed on the school website. All clubs will finish at 4:15pm. 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.

Safeguarding

Please don't take your friends' children home without checking with their parents first. To make things easier and less worrying for everyone, ask them to come to the office so we can call the parents and help arrange collection.

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 email admin@woodsideacademy.org

Prefects

We have changed our prefect system and will no longer have House or Sports Captains. All Year 6 children will have the opportunity to become a prefect, but must have demonstrated exemplary behaviour throughout their school life, or shown sustained and significant improvement that demonstrates they are deserving of the responsibility.

Top Buddies

All Year 6 children will now become **Top Buddies**, leading monthly discussions with children from Years 1–5 on relevant topics, obtaining their opinions and supporting them throughout their time in school. As they progress to Year 6, the Year 5 children will take on the role of leading the same group, creating a strong sense of responsibility and continuity.

Dates for your Diary

September

Monday 21 st	1B Library visit
Tuesday 22 nd	1E & 1P Library Visit
Wednesday 23 rd	6R Tower of London trip
Thursday 24 th	6M Tower of London Trip Flu immunisations 2C Wat Tyler trip
Friday 25 th	6E Tower of London trip
Tuesday 29 th	6R Class assembly
Wednesday 30 th	Book Fair opens

October

Tuesday 6 th	5L Class Assembly Last day of book fair
Wednesday 7 th	1P Mountfitchet Castle trip
Thursday 8 th	1B Mountfitchet Castle trip
Tuesday 13 th	KS1 Harvest Festival house assemblies • Holmes and Redgrave 9:00 – 9:30am • Wilkinson and Moore 2:30 – 3:00pm
Thursday 15 th	1E Mountfitchet Castle trip
Friday 16 th	Last day of term

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

November

Monday 2 nd	First day of term
Tuesday 3 rd	KS2 SATs and PGL meeting for year 6 parents (9am) Year 5 parent consultation day
Wednesday 4 th	Year 4 parent consultation day
Thursday 5 th	Year 3 parent consultation day
Monday 9 th	Year 2 parent consultation day
Tuesday 10 th	Year EYFS parent consultation day
Wednesday 11 th	Year 1 parent consultation day
Thursday 12 th	Year 6 parent consultation day
Friday 13 th	Children In Need day

Christmas Holidays Saturday 19th December to Sunday 3rd January

February Half Term Saturday 13th February to Sunday 21st February

Easter Holidays Friday 26th March to Sunday 11th April

Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May

May Half Term Saturday 22nd May to Sunday 6th June (2 weeks)