

NEWSLETTER

October 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

Mr Digby / half day closure
Woodside Academy will be closing at 1:30pm on Wednesday 7th October to enable our staff to attend the funeral of Mr Digby and pay their respects. Parents and carers will need to make arrangements to collect their children at 1:30pm from the normal pick up places.

Donations
We would like to thank parents for their kindness and generosity in donating money this past week to Cancer research. You have raised an amazing £345!

Book Fair
Our book fair is back at Woodside now, please come along and have a look after school each day, all purchases made will help the school buy new books for the children. It will finish on Tuesday 6th Oct.

Flu Immunisations
The school nurses will be back in on Wednesday 2nd December to administer the flu vaccine to any children that were unable to have it done this term. We will send a link via ParentMail nearer the time for you to consent if you wish. Children will not be given the vaccine if a parent has not consented.

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. This is live for you to book your appointment via school cloud.

Hello Yellow- Friday 9th October
By taking part in Hello Yellow, Woodside Academy is helping to make this important work possible. Together, we can raise vital funds, increase awareness around children and young people's mental health, and send a positive message that no young person should feel alone. We are asking for a £1 donation and to wear yellow their way. This could be a yellow jumper, socks, hair accessories — or even a full banana costume!

Medication during the school day
In line with our Children with Medical Needs Policy, prescribed medication will only be administered in school when it would be detrimental to a pupil's health or school attendance not to do so.
This means that, where prescribed medication can safely and reasonably be given at home, particularly where it is prescribed once, twice or even three times daily, we would ask parents/carers to administer it outside of school hours wherever possible.
This approach helps to ensure that medication is only brought into school when it is absolutely necessary for it to be administered during the school day. It also allows us to follow our medication procedures consistently and safely for all pupils, while helping to reduce the additional pressure on school staff.

Lost Property
Please ensure that all your child's clothing is clearly labelled. We do not have a lost property area so if the items do not have a name in, we cannot return them to class.

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.
Admission applications for Reception 2027 will open on the 1st November.

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.

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.

Sport news

We are very proud of all the children who represented Woodside at the KS2 cross country races recently. 2 children won the Thurrock races for their age group and will go on to the Essex cross country event. We might have some team medals awarded soon as well.

School football results:

Girls team won 4-0 against Abbots Hall
Boys B team won 3-0 against St Joseph's B

Dates for your Diary

October

Tuesday 6th	5L Class Assembly 3K trip to Thorndon park Last day of book fair
Wednesday 7th	Half Day closure for Mr Digby
Thursday 8th	1B Mountfitchet castle trip
Friday 9th	Hello Yellow day
Monday 12th	3O trip to Thorndon park
Tuesday 13th	3R trip to Thorndon park KS1 (year 1 and 2) Harvest Festival house assemblies • Holmes and Redgrave 9:00 – 9:30am • Wilkinson and Moore 2:30 – 3:00pm
Wednesday 14th	1E Mountfitchet castle trip
Thursday 15th	1P Mountfitchet castle trip
Friday 16th	Last day of half term

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

November

Monday 2nd	First day of term
Tuesday 3rd	Year 5 parent consultation day
Wednesday 4th	Year 4 parent consultation day
Thursday 5th	Year 3 parent consultation day
Monday 9th	Year 2 parent consultation day
Tuesday 10th	Year EYFS parent consultation day Year 6 Parent meeting for KS2 SATS & PGL 9am
Wednesday 11th	Year 1 parent consultation day 4W Pizza Express trip
Thursday 12th	Year 6 parent consultation day
Friday 13th	Children in Need Day
Monday 16th	Odd sock day
Tuesday 17th	4W Class Assembly
Wednesday 18th	Year 5 Walk online Roadshow 4P Pizza Express trip
Tuesday 24th	6M Assembly
Wednesday 25th	4H Pizza Express trip

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)