

*Growing together, Learning forever*

# Woodstone News

*December 2025*

## MESSAGE FROM MR MULLINS



As the Autumn term comes to a close, I want to take a moment to thank all our parents and carers for your continued support and the trust you place in us here at Woodstone. We know that times are challenging—school budgets are tighter, and many families are feeling the impact of rising costs. Life isn't always easy at home or at school, but by working together and communicating openly, we can support one another and make a real difference.

Looking ahead, 2026 may bring its own challenges, but please be assured that we will keep striving to do what is best for your children and to support you wherever we can.

The Autumn term is the longest of the year—16 weeks in total—so it's when we establish routines and focus on as much learning as possible. You might be surprised to know that the Spring term is only 11 weeks and the Summer term just 12! So, a big thank you to the children for their hard work this term. It's important that they return in January ready to build on what they've learned and embrace new learning opportunities. As we approach the festive season, I'd like to thank you once again for your support throughout the year. It's been wonderful to see the children grow, learn, and achieve so much together.

From all of us at Woodstone, we wish you and your families a joyful Christmas filled with peace, happiness, and special moments. Enjoy the holiday break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 5th January.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**



**On November 20<sup>th</sup> we welcomed author and illustrator Simon Wellard to Woodstone.**

Simon is a children's author best known for his book *Tommy Green: Football is Magic*, published in 2023. The story combines the excitement of football with a touch of magic, which made it a fun and inspiring read/listen for many of our Woodstone children.

But Simon isn't just an author—he's a teacher with over 25 years of experience and a football coach for Northampton Town's academy teams. That means he spends his time helping children learn in the classroom and score goals on the pitch! As well as listening to his stories the children also learnt some illustration techniques (see left – cartoons by Kim Lacey and names by Frankie Foster).

**We were pleased to welcome TWO new Governors to the Woodstone team this month. Congratulations to Kirsty Bentley who won the parent governor election and to Jasmine Stanhope who became a co-opted Governor. We are all very much looking forward to working alongside them both.**

## *Growing together, Learning forever*



### CHILDREN IN NEED

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November we were treated to a visit from Pudsey as part of Children in Need day.

Pudsey took part in the whole school assembly in which Miss Barnes talked about the importance of this Charity.

Thank you to all parents/carers and children who helped us raise £312.

### Anti-Bullying Week - This year's theme for Anti-bullying week was "Power for Good."

This message encouraged everyone to recognise the power each of us has to make a positive difference when we see bullying. It's about speaking up, offering support to others, being kind, and building a culture of respect and inclusion — at school, at home, online or in the community.

The week began with **Odd Socks Day** — a fun way to celebrate our differences by wearing mismatched socks (see picture).

Lessons were planned to help children understand what bullying is, how it can hurt people, and how kindness and support can help stop it. Each class produced a display (see picture below).

#### Why does it matter?

Bullying — whether in person or online — can hurt feelings, make children feel lonely or afraid, and affect their confidence and well-being. But when we all use our "Power for Good" — by being kind, by standing up for others, and by supporting each other — we can help ensure Woodstone is a place where everyone feels safe, accepted and respected.



*Growing together, Learning forever*

# CHRISTMAS DATES

TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER – Reception & Y1 Nativity - 2pm and 5:30pm

WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER – Years 2, 3, 4 Christmas Play – 2pm and 6pm

MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER – Year 5 & 6 Carol Concert – Christ Church, Coalville 6pm (school uniform)

TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER – Pantomime –  
Theatre Royal, Nottingham – (school uniform required)  
Return to school at approximately 5.00pm

WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER – Christmas Dinner

THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER – Christmas Party Day (non-uniform)

FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER – Break up and non-uniform/bring a toy day

MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY – Children return to school 8:45 - 8:55am

## *Growing together, Learning forever*

### PTA DATES FOR THE FUTURE...

We are really excited to give you a few dates to look forward to in the new year...

**QUIZ NIGHT - Friday 6th February (adults only) - Teams of up to 6 (more details to follow straight after Christmas)**

**CHOCOLATE BINGO – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March (5:30 for 6pm start)**

**SUMMER FAYRE/COLOUR RUN - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June (3:15pm)**



The Great British Bake Off eat your heart out! Here at Woodstone all of our Year 6 children have worked with our own star baker Mrs Clinch to produce some fabulous Christmas cakes. On the photograph on the left you can see some fine examples of some finished products. The children have measured and mixed all the ingredients, infused them with non-alcoholic liquids(!), marzipanned them, iced them and finally decorated them!

Wow – what a result!

**GOOD NEWS** – Following the departure of our previous Business Manager, Laura Wroot we are pleased to announce that we have made a successful appointment and Alex Gamble will be joining us in the new year as our new Business Manager. More information about Alex will be in the January Newsletter. In the meantime Miss Clement has been working hard to ensure we all get paid each month!



# Growing together, Learning forever

## REMEMBRANCE

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, we once again recognised Armistice Day at Woodstone. You will have noticed our 'Woodstone Remembers' banner by the school gate and the 'Lest We Forget' flag flying proudly from our flagpole throughout November.

The children, this year, laid two wreaths - the first at the war memorial at Ravenstone Church and the second at our own memorial oak tree (near the main gate).

It was also lovely to hear Joshua from Year 3 play The Last Post and the Reveille on his baritone. No mean feat for a child so young and on such a tricky instrument to play.



Pictured left are Joshua playing the Last Post and Douglas reciting the poem "For the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon. This poem was written in 1914 during the early days of World War I and is often recited at Remembrance services. It contains the famous line *"At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them"*



Many of our children came to the Remembrance Service in their Guides, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Rainbows uniforms. Always a good sight to see as they made their way to the Remembrance Oak tree.



## VISITING MP

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December Amanda Hack (MP for North West Leicestershire) came to Woodstone to discuss school funding and SEND with Mr. Mullins, Miss Clement and Miss Barnes. She then took part in a Q&A with our Year 6 children. They asked a variety of questions ranging from immigration to pollution and deforestation as well as life as an MP and improving education funding. They certainly put her through her paces!