

Woodend Farm School Newsletter

December 2025 Edition

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,
What a fantastic month December has been!



Our school has been filled with joy and excitement as we embraced the Christmas festivities together. We were delighted to welcome Santa and his reindeer, along with his cheerful elf, for a magical visit that brought smiles to everyone's faces. A huge thank you to our School Council for organising a brilliant Christmas party – it was a wonderful way to celebrate the season.

This month also brought some incredible news: we are thrilled to announce the opening of our secondary school! This marks an exciting new chapter for our community, and we look forward to sharing more details with you in the coming weeks.

Our pupils have enjoyed a range of enriching experiences, including a trip to the cinema to watch Zootopia, and visits to Jimmy's Farm, Harvester, the beach, Colchester Stadium, and the library. In every setting, they have demonstrated exemplary behaviour and truly embodied our school values, both within school and out in the wider community. We are so proud of the way they represent our school.

As we wrap up this term, there has been a real buzz of festivity throughout the school. Thank you to all our staff, pupils, and families for making this such a memorable month. Wishing you all a joyful Christmas and a happy New Year!





A Message From Our Pastoral Lead...

Dear Parents and Carers,

December has certainly been a busy month, filled with trips, Christmas activities, and a special whole-school treat at the cinema.

Attendance has been excellent this term—well done to everyone.

Please remember to keep checking Dojo for photos and updates on what the children have been learning. We really appreciate you commenting and sharing any activities or learning from home, as it all contributes to the children's learning journey.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 6th January.

Wishing the children and all their families a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Anna Kinsville
Pastoral and Well Being Lead
akinsville@woodendfarm.school
07523 683372



Events

- Monday 19th January: World Religion Day
- Tuesday 27th January: Holocaust Memorial Day
- February: LGBT+ History Month
- Wednesday 4th February: World read aloud day
- 9th – 15th February: Children mental health week
- Tuesday 10th February: Safer Internet Day



Term Dates

- Autumn Half Term 2: 4 Nov 2025 to 19 Dec 2025
- Non Pupil Day: 5th January 2026
- Spring Half Term 1: 6 Jan 2026 to 13 Feb 2026
- Spring Half Term 2: 23 Feb 2026 to 27th Mar 2026
- Non Pupil Day: 15th April 2026
- Summer Half Term 1: 14 Apr 2026 to 22 May 2026
- Summer Half Term 2: 1 Jun 2026 to 20 Jul 2026



Role Model of the Month



Solly consistently demonstrates kindness, respect, and teamwork. Even on days when coming to school feels challenging, Solly makes the effort to attend and, once here, strives to be an outstanding student.

Your determination and positive attitude have truly impressed both staff and teachers. We are incredibly proud of how far you have come and the progress you continue to make.

Keep up the amazing work, Solly!

Ash Class

What a whirlwind term it's been in Ash Class! In maths, we've been measuring everything in sight—if it stayed still long enough, we probably measured it in centimetres! Our ultimate favourite? Measuring chocolate bars (and yes, we resisted eating them... mostly!).

We proudly joined the Shoebox Scheme to spread kindness far and wide.

Coconut-Twinkle Toes, our cheeky class elf, kept us guessing with his hilarious antics, and we've been busy practising Makaton for our Christmas music video (spoiler alert: it's going to be magical!).

In cooking, we created a delicious salad for our guinea pigs, practising our claw and bridge cutting skills like true chefs.

This term has been packed with laughter, learning, and memories we'll treasure forever. A huge thank you to all our amazing parents and carers for your support—you're the real superheroes behind the scenes. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone in Ash Class!



Willow Class

Our recent trip to Colchester Stadium was an incredible opportunity for the children to learn in a real-world setting. They enjoyed engaging discussions with the coaches, and developed important listening and instruction-following skills.

The day was packed with fun and teamwork as pupils joined in various sports activities, working together and supporting one another. Back in the classroom, they followed up by creating fact files and writing detailed reports about their experience.

The best part? Every child demonstrated our school values throughout the day—showing kindness, respect, trust, growth, empowerment, and truly believing and achieving.

In literacy, the children have produced some amazing descriptive writing about tornados, using powerful vocabulary and imagery to bring their ideas to life. In maths, they have been using coordinates to create detailed maps and in our humanities lesson they have continued their learning about continents, focusing on the polar regions and comparing different regions around the world.



Beech Class

In Beech Class this week, our tuff trays have been supporting the children's independence, curiosity, and motor development in lots of fun and engaging ways. As part of our continuous provision, children can explore materials at their own pace, make choices, and follow their own ideas.

Here are just a few examples of the wonderful tuff tray the children have been enjoying in Beech Class: decorating a Christmas tree using different craft materials, matching LEGO pieces to their pictures to build visual-motor skills, exploring the concepts of heavy and light using woodland animals & a balance scale and comparing animals environments - talking about where they live.



Oak Class

Oak Class have had a fantastic few weeks filled with creativity, exploration, and festive fun. The boys explored how weather satellites work and even became inventors themselves, designing and building their own prototype models. They also investigated animal tracks, carried out a range of experiments, and carefully recorded their findings.

The classroom was filled with delicious smells as the boys baked gingerbread and rocky roads, which were enjoyed by everyone. Their festive celebrations continued with a lovely Christmas dinner, and the highlight was a surprise visit from the Grinch, which brought plenty of laughter and joy.

It has been a busy and rewarding time for Oak Class, and we are very proud of the boys' enthusiasm and achievements.



PE Update

In PE, the students have been hard at work developing on their expressive movements within sports.

Using sports like volleyball and badminton, the students have been able to step outside of their comfort zones to actively participate in these high level sports.

During lessons we have been taking some time to watch professional athletes play these sports, the students were able to understand the key differences between themselves and the athletes whilst playing the selected sports. These videos have also helped the students to understand the different rules within the games and how they can play the sports safely whilst also learning the basics and fundamentals.

Thrive

We're excited to announce that the Christmas School Disco will be happening on Friday, December 19th!

What's planned?

- Students can wear non-school / party clothes
- Enjoy music, entertainment, food, and drinks
- A festive way to celebrate the season together!
- House Points Celebration



Congratulations to Strength House for winning the house points for this half term!

They celebrated their achievement with a pizza lunch and enjoyed a great time together. Well done to everyone for your hard work and team spirit!

🌟 Merry Christmas from the School Council and House captains!



Woodend Farm School Term and Holiday Dates - Academic Year 2025-2026

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025								
T	W	T	F	S	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S		
									1	2	3	4	5						1	2			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	3	4	5	6	7		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
9	10	11	12	13	14		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
16	17	18	19	20	21		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
23	24	25	26	27	28		27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31						
30																													
January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026								
T	W	T	F	S	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S		
		1	2	3	4								1							1			1	2	3	4	5		
6	7	8	9	10	11		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13	14	15	16	17	18		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20	21	22	23	24	25		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
27	28	29	30	31			23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30					
													30	31															
May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026								
T	W	T	F	S	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S		
		1	2	3			1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2		
5	6	7	8	9	10		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
12	13	14	15	16	17		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
19	20	21	22	23	24		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
26	27	28	29	30	31		29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
																				31									

 = Schooldays

 = School holidays

 = Bank holidays

 = Weekends

 = Non pupil day

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

Autumn Term:	Monday 1 September 2025 – Friday 19 December 2025	75 days
Half Term 27 October – 31 October		
Spring Term:	Monday 5 January 2026 – Friday 27 March 2026	55 days
HalfTerm16February - 20February		
Summer Term:	Monday 13 April 2026 – Monday 20 July 2026	65 days
HalfTerm25May–29May, and May Bank Holiday - 4 May		
		195 days