



**Woodend Farm school**  
Kindness comes in many forms

# Newsletter

**MARCH 2026**

## A message from our Executive Headteacher

What a month it has been at Woodend Farm School!

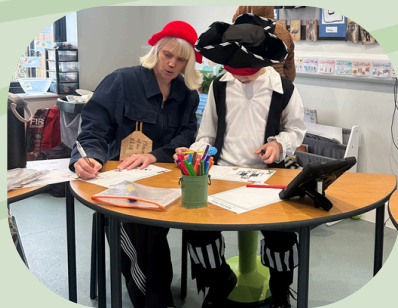
Our pupils and staff have had a fantastic few weeks filled with creativity, curiosity and community spirit.

World Book Day was a real highlight. The creativity across the school was incredible, everyone joined in with enthusiasm, imagination, and joy. Classrooms were transformed, pupils immersed themselves in stories and it was wonderful to see our whole school community celebrate a shared love of reading.

We also enjoyed Red Nose Day, where pupils and staff took part wholeheartedly in our non-uniform day. The atmosphere was full of fun and positivity, all while raising awareness for an important cause.

Linking beautifully with our animals topic, pupils have been on some truly fantastic trips this month, visiting zoos, farms and petting zoos. These experiences brought learning to life, giving pupils the opportunity to explore, observe, and connect with animals in new and meaningful ways.

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding term, I want to wish all our pupils a wonderful Easter break. We hope they enjoy a well-deserved rest and we cannot wait to welcome everyone back after the holidays.



# A message from our Pastoral Lead

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another amazing term at Woodend Farm School. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your continued support of the school and the events we take part in. Your involvement truly enriches the experiences we are able to offer the children.

Our World Book Day celebrations will continue next term, as we look forward to welcoming the Scholastic Book Company to our school on 15th April. You are warmly invited to join us for lunch on the day and take the opportunity to explore the book selection alongside the children.

As we approach the summer term, we are all hoping for some lovely weather (fingers crossed). With this in mind, please ensure that all children come to school with named protective clothing, such as a sun hat. We kindly ask that sun cream is applied before the children arrive at school, as this will help ensure they are protected throughout the day. To keep everyone safe and comfortable, shaded areas will be available during outdoor activities, and of course, we are fortunate to have air conditioning throughout the school.

I would also like to thank all parents and carers for following our attendance policy. Attendance so far this academic year has been fantastic and your support makes a real difference. Please continue to keep holidays out of term time and, where possible, arrange medical appointments outside of the school day. We understand this is not always feasible, but where appointments are necessary, please provide medical evidence.

School uniform can now be accessed directly through Gemz Threadz at [www.gemzthreadz.co.uk](http://www.gemzthreadz.co.uk), with delivery typically taking around five days.

We look forward to another exciting and successful term ahead.

## Events

April 15<sup>th</sup> 2026: Scholastic Book Day

## Term Dates

Spring Half Term 2: 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 26 to 27<sup>th</sup> Mar 26

Non Pupil Day: 13<sup>th</sup> Apr 26

Summer Half Term 1: 14<sup>th</sup> Apr 26 to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 26

Bank Holiday: 24<sup>th</sup> May 26

Summer Half Term 2: 1<sup>st</sup> Jun 26 to 20<sup>th</sup> Jul 26

# Role Model of the Month



This month, we are delighted to celebrate **Austin** as our Role Model of the Month.

Austin has consistently shown kindness, helpfulness and a genuine warmth that makes everyone around him smile. He is a wonderful friend to his peers and brings a positive energy to every day.

Throughout this term, Austin has handled lessons, changes and the arrival of new staff with impressive maturity. He has shown the ability to regulate himself independently, demonstrating growing confidence and emotional awareness.

Overall, Austin has been an exceptionally considerate and thoughtful member of our community. We are incredibly proud of everything he has achieved and the wonderful young person he continues to become.

Well done Austin — keep shining!

# Ash Class

This half term, Ash Class have thrown themselves into our Animal Topic with incredible enthusiasm, curiosity and creativity. Their passion projects have been a real highlight, each child chose their favourite animal and explored it in depth, from where it lives to what makes it unique. They confidently grouped animals into different criteria, showing a growing understanding of classification and wrote beautifully descriptive sentences about their chosen creatures' features. Their vocabulary, imagination and pride in their work have been wonderful to see.

We were also lucky to welcome our local ambulance station for a fantastic visit. The children explored the ambulance, discovered the equipment inside, and learned about how animals have played important roles in emergency services throughout history. Their questions were thoughtful and their sense of wonder made the experience truly memorable.

Ash Class should feel incredibly proud of their efforts, their curiosity and the way they embrace every opportunity. What a brilliant half term of learning and adventure.

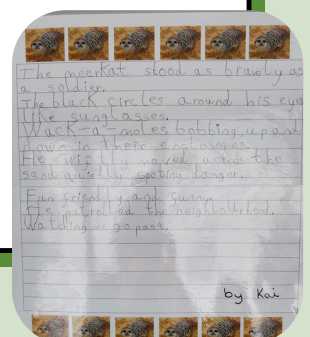


# Willow Class

This month, the children also took part in a range of engaging activities designed to build their listening, comprehension and discussion skills.

They enjoyed a class quiz, carefully listening to questions being read aloud and choosing the correct answers from multiple-choice options. They worked together on a wordsearch, talking about the vocabulary they found and exploring the meaning of the words. The children also took part in a bingo game, identifying and discussing the images on their cards as they matched them.

Through these activities, the class practised important skills such as active listening, turn-taking, vocabulary development, visual recognition and clear communication. It was wonderful to see their confidence growing as they supported one another and applied these skills successfully.



# Beech Class

We had a very exciting visit from an ambulance this week and the paramedic spent time talking to us all about his incredibly important job and how he helps people every day. The children in Beech Class were absolutely fascinated as they learned about the different equipment he uses, the emergencies he responds to and how paramedics work as a team to keep everyone safe.

The highlight of the visit was definitely getting to explore the ambulance itself. The children had great fun trying out the sirens and the horn, which brought lots of smiles and laughter! They were wonderfully polite throughout the visit, listening carefully and asking lots of thoughtful, enthusiastic questions. It was a brilliant learning experience, and we are so proud of how engaged and respectful they were.



# Oak Class

Oak Class have had a wonderfully busy month exploring their topic of Animals, showing great enthusiasm, teamwork and confidence throughout all their learning.

In English, the boys worked hard on their non-chronological reports, organising information using headings, subheadings, facts and technical vocabulary and producing thoughtful writing full of animal knowledge.

In Maths, they explored Venn and Carroll diagrams, sorting animals and discussing similarities and differences while growing in confidence when explaining their reasoning.

The boys were also active in the kitchen, making red velvet cakes and ham and cheese egg muffins while focusing on kitchen hygiene, food safety, knife skills and working safely; they showed excellent teamwork and pride in their cooking.

Our trip to the garden centre and Colchester Zoo were brilliant. The boys discussed animals and their habitats, observed creatures such as penguins, elephants, and giraffes, and asked thoughtful questions throughout the day. Well done Oak class.



# Maple Class

In Maple Class, we've had an incredible term filled with exploration and hands-on learning!

We've been adventuring in Forest School, showing off our fantastic curiosity and teamwork. We also enjoyed exciting trips to Maldon Petting Zoo, Call of the Wild, and Pets at Home, where the children learned about caring for animals and explored their habitats up close.

In Maths, Maple Class absolutely aced our work on statistics. We explored different ways to sort and represent information using Venn diagrams, Carroll diagrams, and tally charts, all linked to our animal theme. The children showed brilliant reasoning and confidence throughout — well done Maple Class!



# PE Update

This half term the students have been challenged to use perseverance in their PE lessons. They have been encouraged to push themselves harder than usual in PE to understand different feelings within their bodies. Some of our students even took on the children's bleep test where 4 of our brilliant students managed to complete the full test, that's 21 LEVELS!

Lunchtime club has been in full swing this half term and the attendance has been superb. As the weather improves, we are seeing more and more engagement at our clubs.



# School Council Updates:

## **A Huge Thank You to Our School Council!**

I want to start by giving a massive thank you to the School Council we've had this term. They have been absolutely amazing. Every meeting was fun, full of great ideas and they brought so much value to everything we discussed. I'm incredibly proud of each one of them for their enthusiasm, teamwork, and commitment.

## **Thank you for being brilliant!**

We now have our newly elected School Council members for next term, and I'm excited to announce them:

- Addison
- John-Paul
- Prince
- Solly
- Melody

A huge congratulations to all of you. I'm really looking forward to our first meeting after half term and seeing the fantastic ideas you'll bring.

## **A Huge Thank You to Our House Captains!**

Thank you to our incredible House Captains this term! You have made a fantastic impact on our school by showing our values every single day. Your leadership, positivity, and dedication have truly helped make our school an even better place. We're so proud of everything you've done.

It's now time to reveal which house has won the most house points this term...

Congratulations to **Honour!**

What an amazing achievement!

## **Our New House Captains**

I'm excited to announce that our new House Captains have been chosen:

- Archie
- Hunter
- William
- Reagan

A big congratulations to all of you. I can't wait to see the brilliant leadership and enthusiasm you'll bring next term.

# Homework

Here are some home learning ideas to enhance your child's learning in school. If you do choose to complete any activities, please upload them to Class Dojo!

## Maple class

Cut sponge or foam into simple footprint shapes and dip them into child-safe paint. Help your child press them onto paper or gently step onto the paper themselves to create an "animal trail." This supports sensory exploration and motor skills.

Create a simple tray using natural textures such as grass, leaves, sand, stones or water. Add a few toy animals and let your child explore the space. You can hide the animals, move them around together or talk about where each one might live.

Create simple "animals" using cardboard boxes by cutting a mouth shape into each one. Give your child sensory items like pasta, cereal, pom-poms or leaves to "feed" the animals.

Play animal noises from a toy or device and encourage your child to move like that animal. You could flap like a bird, hop like a frog or stomp like an elephant. Adding scarves, ribbons or textured mats makes it even more fun and sensory.

Fill a bowl or tray with water and add toy animals such as ducks, turtles or fish. Offer spoons, cups or nets to scoop and splash. Your child can explore floating, sinking and how the animals move through the water.

Stick different textures onto a piece of card - something fluffy for fur, smooth foil for scales, soft fabric for feathers, and bumpy material for shells. Let your child feel each texture and match it to animal pictures or toys if they want to.



# Ash class

Hide animal toys around a room or garden.

Give your child simple written or picture clues to find each one – such as “This animal is hiding somewhere cold” or “Look under something green.”

Choose an animal and help your child create a small “fact card” including:

- what it eats
- where it lives
- a danger it faces
- one interesting fact

Using boxes, tubes, sticks, Lego or natural materials, ask your child to build a shelter for a chosen animal. Talk about what the animal needs – shade, warmth, water, hiding places – and let them adjust their shelter based on your questions.

Collect simple materials such as foil, paper, string, fabric, bubble wrap, etc. Choose an animal and ask your child to design an adaptation:

- “What could help the penguin stay warm?”
- “What would help the cheetah run fast?”

Choose a few animals and measure out their lengths using string, ribbon or tape – e.g, snake = 1m, fox = 70 cm, frog = 10 cm. Ask your child to compare them: “Which is longest?” “Which is shortest?”

Lay out picture cards or toys. Ask your child to sort animals into: farm, ocean, rainforest, desert, woodland, etc. Then add a reasoning challenge: “Tell me why the camel belongs in the desert.”



# Oak class

Invite your child to create a simple “animal exhibition” at home. They can choose 3-5 animals and make:

- a labelled picture or model a
- short spoken explanation one
- interesting fact for each

Choose an environment (jungle, desert, ocean, arctic). Ask your child to think about what an animal would need to survive there: food, water, shelter, temperature, safety. They can draw, write or talk through their ideas.

Use small items at home (string, Lego, pictures, toy animals) to make simple food chains. For example: grass → rabbit → fox.

Ask your child to become a “news reporter.” They choose an animal and create a short news report such as: “The elephants are migrating today because...”

Provide craft materials such as foil, paper, string, card, fabric, pipe cleaners. Ask your child to invent a new adaptation for an animal: “What could help the polar bear stay warm?”

Take a short walk in a garden, park or outdoor area. Ask your child to look for signs of animals: tracks, feathers, insects, birds, tunnels, webs.

# Willow class

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- short spoken explanation one
- interesting fact for each

Choose an environment (jungle, desert, ocean, arctic).

Ask your child to think about what an animal would need to survive there:

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They can draw, write or talk through their ideas.

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- "What could help the polar bear stay warm?"

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# Beech class

Create a simple indoor or outdoor course using cushions, boxes, chalk or tape.

Ask your child to move like different animals around the course - "crawl under like a snake," "jump across like a frog," "balance like a flamingo."

Place animal figures or cards around the room.

Give sorting rules such as:

- "Find all the animals that live in water,"
- "Find the animals with four legs,"
- Your child races to collect and sort them into bowls, baskets, or boxes.

Set up a "café" for animals using bowls, cups, spoons and pretend or real food (e.g., cereal, dry pasta, leaves, fruit slices).

Tell your child what each animal eats and let them serve the right food - "The rabbit needs plants," "The lion needs meat," "The fish needs tiny food flakes."

Draw a simple zoo layout on a large sheet of paper or cardboard.

Add paths, fences, water areas, grass, and signs.

Your child can place toy animals (or cut-outs) in the correct enclosure and talk about why each one lives there.

Use a torch and animal figures to create shadows on the wall.

Ask your child to guess the animal, copy its movement, or match it to a picture.

You can experiment with light-moving it closer or further away to make the animals "grow" and "shrink."

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

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025							
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29	30																											
January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026							
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May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026							
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- = 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.

<b>Autumn Term:</b>	Monday 1 September 2025 – Friday 19 December 2025	75 days
	<i>Half Term 27 October – 31 October</i>	
<b>Spring Term:</b>	Monday 5 January 2026 – Friday 27 March 2026	55 days
	<i>Half Term 16 February - 20 February</i>	
<b>Summer Term:</b>	Monday 13 April 2026 – Monday 20 July 2026	65 days
	<i>Half Term 25 May – 29 May, and May Bank Holiday - 4 May</i>	195 days