

MARCH 2024 | ISSUE 2



Woodland
Academy Trust

Ignite the spark, reveal the champion

WE ARE WOODLAND

Connecting our Community



AMBITION COLLABORATION COMPASSION EXCELLENCE INCLUSIVITY

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Spring brings a sense of renewal and growth, a time when nature awakens, and new possibilities emerge. It is in this spirit that I'm thrilled to share with you the latest edition of our 'We Are Woodland' Trust Newsletter.

In this edition, we delve into the flourishing development of our projects, partnerships, opportunities and people – a true reflection of the season. You'll discover stories that highlight the innovations in our curriculum, the blossoming talents of our children, and the dedicated cultivation by our teachers and staff that allows our collective community to thrive; embodying the excellence we strive for in every aspect of our Trust.

Our vision as a Trust is to:

*Provide the highest quality learning experiences for every child every day.
Create an ethical culture of empowerment and continuous growth for all.
Nurture strong partnerships with our local communities and beyond.*

As our journey of improvement towards our vision continues, we draw inspiration from the natural world, reminding us that growth is a communal effort, deeply rooted in the nurturing soil of our community. The principle of Ubuntu, "*I am because we are,*" remains at the forefront of our ethos, as we collaborate towards our shared vision.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to every member of our Trust whose diligent nurturing ensures that every child has the opportunity to thrive. We also extend our thanks to the families and wider communities across our schools whose support and involvement provide the essential nutrients for our continued success. Their engagement enriches our community and helps us to grow strong and resilient.

As we look to the future, we are passionate about continuing to work together in building knowledge, compassion, and collaboration across our communities. As a Trust we have been working hard to attract and retain strong staff and despite an ongoing recruitment crisis have made some huge strides with this over the last eighteen months. Next term we welcome Yong Liu as our Chief Finance and Operations Officer. Yong joins us following his role as Finance Director at The Brit School and we are excited about the wealth of experience and skill that he will add to our Trust.

Finally, I invite you all to contribute your stories, experiences, and ideas for our next edition – let's celebrate our journey! With the arrival of spring, let's welcome the longer days and celebrate our community's growth. May we all enjoy the vibrant energy this season brings.

Happy reading!

Warmest wishes,

Nav Sanghara
Chief Executive Officer

Our Digital Journey



Exploring Best Practices in Teaching, Learning and Showbie Integration

Showbie's Learning Specialist Craig Thompson and Education Success Manager Krystina Power spent a day at our schools this term to see examples of teaching and learning and how iPad and Showbie are effectively integrated into these.

As part of their visit, they led a session at Lime Wood Primary aimed at parents, carers, and families who were invited to delve into the world of Showbie, a leading learning platform used at our schools. The session provided a valuable platform for open discussion and parents and families gained insights into how Showbie is used to support the children's learning journey, both in the classroom and at home. Additionally, there was a chance to celebrate pupil achievements using Showbie and explore how the platform can ease the transition to Year 1.

At Woodland Academy Trust we value our collaborative working with Showbie. We are proud to receive positive feedback from them about our journey so far and for our schools to have shared lots of great examples and anecdotes for Showbie to share with other trusts when discussing best practice.



Showbie team members Krystina Power and Craig Thompson with our Trust Digital Development Lead Daniel Davies (centre)

Parent Feedback - Showbie Workshop
Lime Wood Primary School



Our Digital Journey

Hosting Leaders from Denmark to Share Digital Development Insights

One of our Trust schools, Peareswood Primary, recently had the privilege of hosting leaders from Denmark. The visit focused on sharing best practices and fostering collaboration around two key areas: Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and the effective integration of iPads in the classroom.

The visit provided a valuable platform for knowledge sharing with our Trust leaders showcasing our UDL implementation strategies, demonstrating how we create inclusive learning environments that cater to diverse student needs. Our visitors had the opportunity to visit classes at Peareswood Primary to talk to pupils and see first hand the successful integration of iPads into our curriculum, highlighting the technology's role in enhancing learning experiences for our pupils.

We look forward to continuing these opportunities to exchange ideas and best practices in the areas of UDL and iPad integration.



Our Trust Digital Development Lead Shares Insights at Bett Show 2024

It was a pleasure for us to present for the Goodnotes booth at the Bett Show 2024. Our Digital Development Lead Daniel Davies shared the benefits of note taking to strengthen new learning.

Daniel was also delighted to be invited to take part in an interview at the show for Insights with [NetSupport](#).

Daniel chatted to podcast host Mark Anderson, Head of Education at NetSupport, about how technology can help to remove barriers to learning in a primary setting so that all pupils can experience success.

You can watch the interview on our YouTube channel playlist- [Digital Development- click here to view.](#)



As well as presenting at the Bett Show 2024, Daniel has also been supporting Digital and SEN teams at the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham through a series of workshops organised by LGfL 'Inclusion by Design' to raise the profile of Universal Design for Learning. This project which will be repeated in the summer term for leaders across the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

If you have any questions about our digital journey, Daniel would love to hear from you. You can get in contact with us at info@watschools.org.uk

Our Digital Journey

Collaboration for AI Research Projects.

We are thrilled to be involved in a new project led by Dr. Fiona Aubrey-Smith founder of PedTech, Consultant Researcher, author and director.



The project, which launched in February, is about the school and system leadership implications raised by the provocations of AI. It brings together 23 Multi Academy Trust system leaders (representing 413 schools and 200,000 children) to explore and share together ideas and actions.

The aims of the project include:

- Co-author guidance for other MATs.
- Exploring how AI can support our universal design for learning approach.
- Contributing to the AI arena – share practice and learn from others.
- Learning more about how AI can positively benefit our MAT staff and children.
- Supporting our educational strategic and operational planning.
- Hearing about the latest AI research and the potential for learners and teachers.
- Learning from thought-leaders and ensure we are at the forefront of innovation.

Our Director of Education Julie Carson and Trust Digital Development Lead Daniel Davies are excited to be part of this project and we look forward to seeing the research findings which will be published in September 2024.



Multi Academy Trust leaders including our DoE and Digital Development Lead at the project launch.

Did you know that we are an Apple Regional Training Centre!


As part of our Apple Regional Training Centre for Kent and Bexley, we run a comprehensive offer of Core Professional Development opportunities.

Our Trust Digital Development Lead Daniel, who runs our RTC, has recently attended the Regional Training Centre Manager development day at Apple HQ to start a series of collaborative RTC events with other centres. We look forward to sharing more about this!

Visit our dedicated [Apple RTC page](#) on our Trust website for more information and to book our FREE courses! We also share news on our Kent and Bexley RTC social media page so give us a follow!

Kent and Bexley

 Regional Training Centre

 @KentBexleyRTC

Working with Us



Meet our valued Northumberland Heath Primary team member George who is working at the school as part of **Bexley Twofold** which provides career help for residents in Bexley with learning disabilities with the aim to help people find and sustain paid employment.

George attends Northumberland Heath Primary twice a week to assist the school's Premises Manager Mr Debenham. His responsibilities encompass a range of jobs, which includes overseeing the placement of fresh fruit and milk within the classrooms, as well as aiding in the diligent upkeep of the school's recycling efforts and helping keep the school's environment clean by helping with litter picking.

When asked what he enjoys most about working at the school, George said,

"I have never done a job like this before. It is nice to feel welcome and when I come here I always feel that the people here make me feel proud of what I have done. I enjoy working with Michael- he is a laugh and he understands me. It is a fun place and they are all just very welcoming."

George also added that this opportunity has given him independence, *"Because it is not that far from here, I can cycle as well as it is quite an easy place to cycle to and I don't have to rely on my mum and dad to take me. I also enjoy the money and can spend it on what I want which is nice. In the future I would like to get a job at a primary school or college to spend more time working. That's my dream."*

George's mum also shared with us what this opportunity has meant for George,

"George has changed over the last year with his confidence and inclusion with conversations as he is now working. He looks forward to each day and loves working in a good team and being helpful."



George with Northumberland Heath Primary's Premises Manager

Lisa Haddon who is the Supported Employment Team Leader for Employment & Skills at London Borough of Bexley shared:

"Supported employment is a win win situation for all. Most people with a learning disability want to be like other people and get up and go to work and feel worthwhile. This enhances their general health and wellbeing along with their mental health. This in turn is a prevention strategy to keep people with learning disabilities healthier and happier. For employers, having the support of someone like Bexley Twofold gives that extra help, support and confidence to make sure the pathway for an employee with LD is smooth and is continuous for the lifetime of the job role and that we will always be around for information advice and guidance for both parties."

Julie Carson, our Director of Education, says of the partnership:

"As part of our commitment to being a Disability Confident Committed employer, partnering with Bexley Twofold to support individuals with learning disabilities in finding employment is essential for fostering diversity, innovation, and social responsibility in the workplace. It not only taps into unique talents, but also strengthens community ties and makes a significant positive impact on the wellbeing of the individual."

We are proud to be recognised as a Disability Confident Committed organisation.



At Woodland Academy Trust, we value the incredible contribution and talent that people with disabilities can and do bring to our workplace. Being awarded Disability Confident Committed status is part of our ongoing commitment to fostering an inclusive workplace where everyone can thrive.

As a Disability Confident Committed Employer we have committed to:

- ensuring our recruitment process is inclusive and accessible;
- communicating and promoting vacancies;
- offering an interview to disabled people who meet the minimum criteria for the job;
- anticipating and providing reasonable adjustments as required;
- supporting any existing employee who acquires a disability or long term health condition, enabling them to stay in work;
- at least one activity that will make a difference for disabled people.

JOIN US!

All our schools share the same mission; *Ignite the spark, reveal the champion*. We are an inclusive and ambitious Trust, striving to achieve the best possible outcomes for our children. Our aim is to provide the highest quality learning experiences for every child by creating an ethical culture of empowerment and growth for all.

We believe deeply in the importance of nurturing strong partnerships with our local communities and beyond. If you believe that you can make a difference to the lives of our children and families and would like to join our Trust, or if you want to find out more, then please do not hesitate to get in touch. We would love to hear from you!

All our vacancies can be found on our Trust website: www.woodlandacademytrust.co.uk/join-us/work-with-us/



We are also pleased to also announce that you can now find our job opportunities on My New Term! Check out our home page on the site!

<https://mynewterm.com/trust/Woodland-Academy-Trust/137380>



Visit our [Woodland Academy Trust YouTube channel](#) to get a glimpse into what our schools offer. Watch out for Knockhall Primary School's video which will launch in the Summer term!

Join our growing community on our social media platforms!

Follow us



@W00dlandAcademy



Woodland Academy Trust



Woodland Academy Trust



woodland_academy_trust



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www.woodlandacademytrust.co.uk



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Knockhall Primary School

EYFS at Knockhall Embraces Tech for Engaging Learning

EYFS has been embracing and expanding the approach to Universal Design for Learning, providing more and more opportunities for using technology to enhance teaching and learning.

Recent training in February, Champions for Change, provided a great source of inspiration on how we can use technology in creative ways.

Sparking Creativity in Reception

Reception children became storytellers by designing their own AR characters in Canva.

This blended activity fostered creative thinking, storytelling skills, and a taste of digital literacy!

Nursery Gets a Closer Look

Nursery got a front-row seat to the wonders of metamorphosis through a live caterpillar stream. Using screen mirroring on the class iPad, they observed the caterpillars' growth alongside their favourite book, 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. This innovative approach enhanced their understanding of the butterfly lifecycle and boosted vocabulary development.



Extending Tech Reach to Enhance Communication and Learning

EYFS at Knockhall isn't stopping at engaging activities in the classroom. Our commitment to Universal Design for Learning (UDL) extends beyond, fostering communication and learning in new ways!

Showbie has been used to connect home and school. Parents and teachers can now easily share learning experiences and updates through the Showbie platform. We have gathered feedback from parents around how they are using this and feedback has been very positive!

AirServer has also become a multi-purpose tool for us. We use it to check the self-registration board and the mark up function on photos to edit and count how many children are present in school. AirServer also empowers our teachers to take students on virtual tours of the classroom. One child walks around with a camera, showcasing the various learning zones and sparking curiosity.

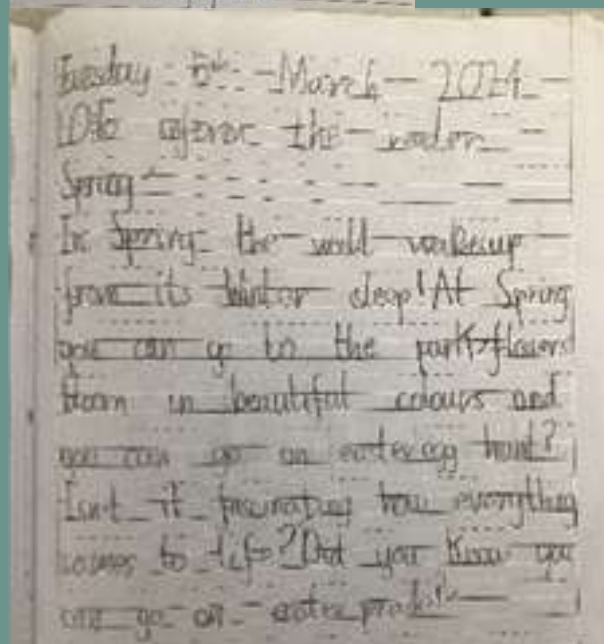
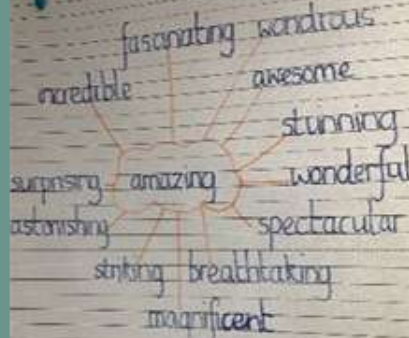
EYFS are having a fantastic time using these innovative technology approaches and it is showing a positive impact on our children's social and emotional development and communication & language skills.



Engaging Flipcharts Help KS1 Flourish as Independent Writers

In our ongoing commitment to fostering autonomy in writing, we have focused on creating a robust foundation for the children. These flipcharts serve as dynamic tools, aiding the children in articulating their ideas with greater clarity. As an integral part of our planning, we consistently provide ample opportunities for language acquisition, ensuring that the children are well-equipped to express themselves effectively.

These images offer a glimpse into the collaborative learning environment we have cultivated, fostering not only proficient writers but also individuals who take pride in expressing their thoughts independently.



World Book Day Raps and Book Themed Posters Spark Creativity at our World Book Day celebration!

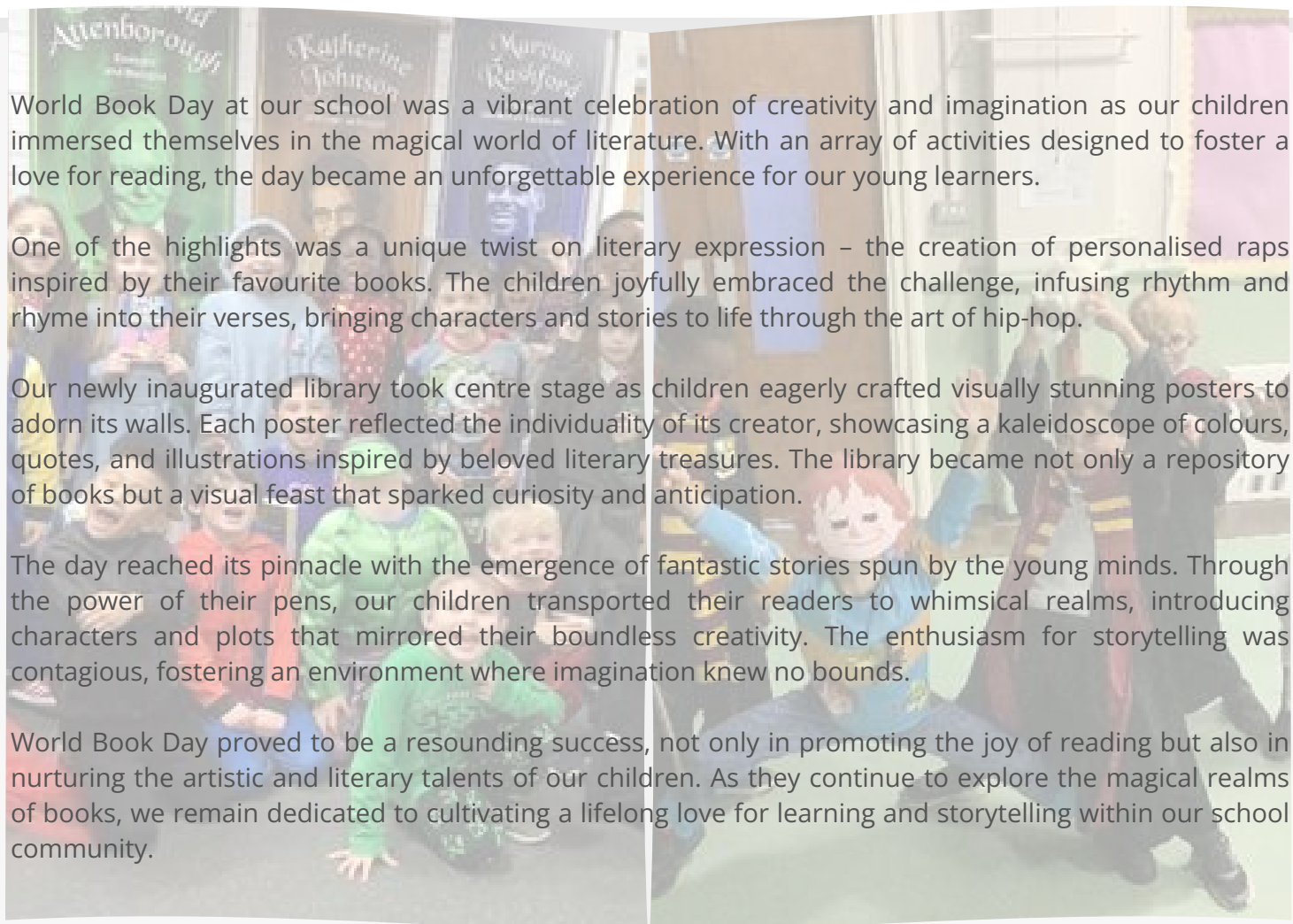
World Book Day at our school was a vibrant celebration of creativity and imagination as our children immersed themselves in the magical world of literature. With an array of activities designed to foster a love for reading, the day became an unforgettable experience for our young learners.

One of the highlights was a unique twist on literary expression – the creation of personalised raps inspired by their favourite books. The children joyfully embraced the challenge, infusing rhythm and rhyme into their verses, bringing characters and stories to life through the art of hip-hop.

Our newly inaugurated library took centre stage as children eagerly crafted visually stunning posters to adorn its walls. Each poster reflected the individuality of its creator, showcasing a kaleidoscope of colours, quotes, and illustrations inspired by beloved literary treasures. The library became not only a repository of books but a visual feast that sparked curiosity and anticipation.

The day reached its pinnacle with the emergence of fantastic stories spun by the young minds. Through the power of their pens, our children transported their readers to whimsical realms, introducing characters and plots that mirrored their boundless creativity. The enthusiasm for storytelling was contagious, fostering an environment where imagination knew no bounds.

World Book Day proved to be a resounding success, not only in promoting the joy of reading but also in nurturing the artistic and literary talents of our children. As they continue to explore the magical realms of books, we remain dedicated to cultivating a lifelong love for learning and storytelling within our school community.



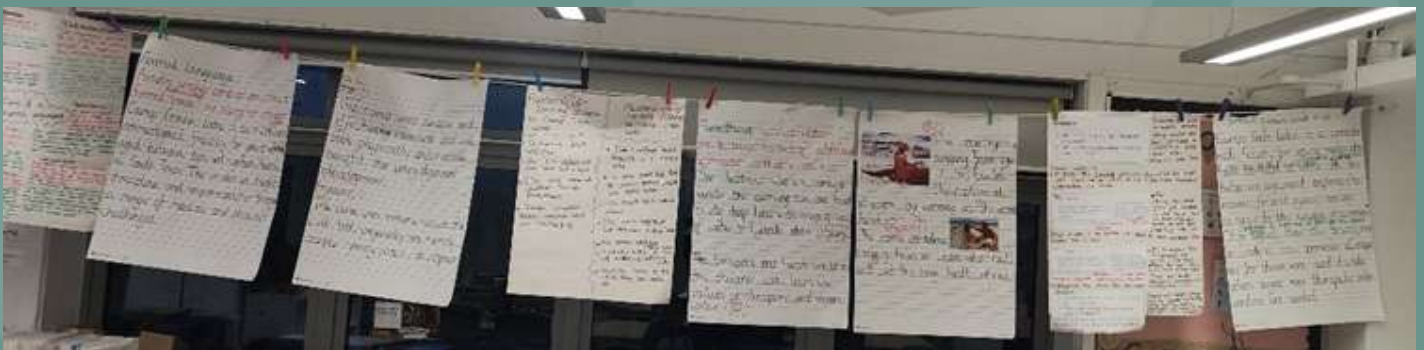


Upper Key Stage 2 Thrives with Dynamic Teaching: Live Modelling and Washing Line Methods Boost Engagement and Retention

Our Upper Key Stage 2 have immense pride in their dynamic approach to teaching, specifically through live modelling and targeted questioning. The implementation of live modelling has proven to be an effective tool, helping our children to remain actively engaged and involved throughout the learning process. This interactive technique has significantly enhanced their comprehension and retention of information.

Our use of the washing line method has been instrumental in mitigating cognitive overload, providing a structured way for our pupils to revisit and reinforce their prior learning promoting a deeper understanding of concepts but also empowering children to confidently recall and apply their knowledge.

Through our commitment to engaging methodologies, we continue to cultivate a learning environment that fosters both understanding and achievement.



Coming soon

We are excited to have filmed our promotional video this term-look out for the launch soon !



@KnockhallSch 



knockhall_primary 



Knockhall Primary School 

Follow us 





Lime Wood Primary School

Lime Wood Primary Strengthens Community Ties this Spring Term

This spring term has seen exciting initiatives aimed at building connections both within and beyond our school walls.

Intergenerational Learning with Age UK

We teamed up with volunteers from Age UK's Men in Sheds program for a unique intergenerational project celebrating the Chinese New Year.

As this year marked the Year of the Wooden Dragon, the experienced woodworkers from Men in Sheds shared their skills, guiding the children in crafting parts that assembled into miniature dragons. The children then unleashed their creativity by decorating their creations. This heart-warming collaboration provided our children with an invaluable chance to interact with older members of the local community.



Welcoming a New Neighbour: Sainsbury's Local Arrives

The arrival of a new Sainsbury's Local store on The Quarry site offered another opportunity for community engagement and we were honoured to be invited to participate in the grand opening ceremony. Our children visited the store and took centre stage by helping to cut the ribbon, symbolising the store's integration into the community. To further strengthen these ties, Sainsbury's kindly presented our school with gifts of resources for classroom use. The opening ceremony also provided a chance for our parents, carers, and families to join in the celebration.



Sharing Lime Wood's Journey with Bexley

Lime Wood Primary continues to share its story with the wider Bexley community. We were thrilled to be featured in the February/March 24 edition of Bexley Life magazine, offering readers a glimpse into our school and ongoing endeavours.

Read the article here: [Bexley Life February](#).





We are pleased to be collaborating with our other Trust Bexley schools, the London Borough of Bexley, and six other local authorities on a 'Talk Matters' project funded by the London Mayor and the Violence Reduction Unit.

This project focuses on improving communication skills and wellbeing for our children. We are delighted to offer our Reception cohort a variety of lunchtime activities that target PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development) and CLL (Communication and Language Learning) skills. These fun and engaging activities will help our young learners develop their communication abilities in a positive and supportive environment.

In addition to the lunchtime programme, we have also used some of the funding to enhance our wellbeing resources and provisions. This will allow us to better support the overall well-being of our children.

We are thrilled to be embarking on this important project and look forward to sharing more details about our upcoming oracy linked initiative!



Reception Takes a Trip Around the World!

This term, our Reception class embarked on a captivating project inspired by their core text, 'The World Around Me', by Charlotte Guillain.

We invited families to share significant landmarks that hold cultural or heritage significance, or represent their country of origin. The response was fantastic! Our families enthusiastically submitted photos and information about these special places, creating a vibrant tapestry of backgrounds within our classroom.

This collection seamlessly linked back to the children's core text, which whisked them away on a fantastical world tour – clambering through mountains, trekking through jungles and sailing across the seas. The children were able to spot a diverse range of wildlife, amazing cities and experience a wide range of cultures.

Continuing the exploration, the class culminated their project with a special assembly focused on World Wildlife Day. Through interactive activities, the children learned about different habitats across the globe and matched various animals to their ideal environments. Their enthusiasm and understanding left us incredibly proud of their achievements!



Want to know more about us?

Get insight into our school community in our promotional video- watch it [here!](#)



Follow us



@limew00d



lime_wood_primary



Lime Wood
Primary School



www.limewoodprimaryschool.co.uk





Northumberland Heath Primary School

Building a Thriving School Community.

At Northumberland Heath, we believe in fostering strong partnerships between parents, teachers, and the wider community. This term, we've seen fantastic engagement through a variety of exciting events.

Thriving PTFA

A huge shout-out to our newly established PTFA! Since September, they have raised over £2,500 through engaging events. This term, children enjoyed a memorable Valentine's Disco and had the opportunity to select special gifts for Mother's Day/Special Person's Day during a gift wrapping event. The PTFA is already buzzing with plans for more exciting events, including a Summer Fair!

Valentine's Day Fun

Our Parent Craft Morning was a heart-warming success! Parents and children across all year groups joined forces to create adorable Valentine's decorations. The event was filled with creativity and laughter, leaving everyone with cherished memories.



World Book Day Celebration

We ignited a love of reading with a week-long celebration! Children enjoyed cross-year group book buddies, crafting their own stories, and cosying up in our Book Barn for engaging story time. Parents actively participated by reading alongside their children in classrooms. We even treated everyone to yummy hot cross buns courtesy of our local Hovis bakery!



We are committed to creating a welcoming environment where parents and the community feel valued and empowered to contribute to our children's success. Follow our social media for more exciting initiatives throughout the year!



Trips, Workshops, and Epic Singalongs!

At Northumberland Heath we are dedicated to enriching experiences both within and beyond the curriculum. This term has been a whirlwind of exciting activities, fostering collaboration, curiosity and creating lasting memories!

Playful Learning Takes Centre Stage

Years 5 and 6 received a boost in playground fun thanks to 'AllKidsCan' an organisation that visits our school three times a week. Their engaging games and playleader training program for older pupils have injected a burst of energy and leadership into playtime and our children look forward to learning how to lead playtime games for Year 3 and 4.

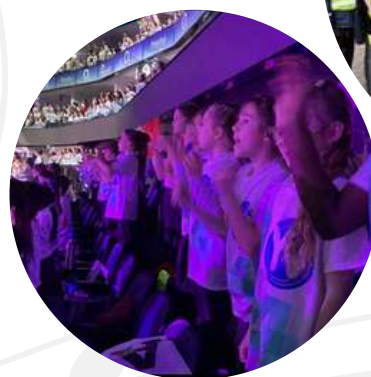
Exploring the World, One Trip at a Time

From historical sites like Rochester Castle and the Imperial War Museum to scientific wonders at the Natural History Museum and the Science Museum, every year group has embarked on a trip or workshop this term. These immersive experiences expose them to new ideas and spark their curiosity and we are proud of the fantastic behaviour our children have shown during these experiences.



Young Voices Raise the Roof at the O2

In January, our choir represented our school at the awe-inspiring Young Voices event at the O2 in Greenwich. Performing alongside thousands of other children from across the country was an unforgettable experience for both children and staff that instilled a sense of teamwork and musical passion.



Rockin' Out with Rock Kidz

This term our school transformed into a rockstar haven with a visit from Rock Kidz! Their high-energy workshops, packed with positive messages about self-confidence and individuality, had everyone rocking out. From staff-pupil battles to singalongs, the event was fantastic! Rock Kidz will be returning in December to tackle a new theme – anti-bullying – and ignite another musical adventure!



Northumberland
Heath
Primary School

Want to know more about us?

Get insight into our school community in our promotional video- watch it [here!](#)



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Peareswood Rocks with Kindness, Confidence, and Rock Kidz!

This month, our school vibrated with positive energy thanks to a thrilling school-wide event led by Rock Kidz! This engaging program resonated deeply with our collective vision and values, weaving themes of kindness, self-confidence, and optimism throughout the day.

From our youngest in Reception to our oldest in Year 6, our children participated enthusiastically in Key Stage Rock workshops. These interactive sessions brimmed with fun, featuring lively dance-offs between children and staff that brought laughter and camaraderie to the forefront.

The day culminated in a heart-warming whole-school assembly. Here, our entire school community came together to celebrate the values instilled by Rock Kidz. Uplifting messages of positivity resonated through the assembly, solidifying the importance of kindness, confidence, and a positive outlook.

This impactful event fostered a sense of unity and well-being within our school family. We are grateful to Rock Kidz for creating such a memorable experience for both our children and staff!



House Spirit Soars on World Book Day

World Book Day came alive with a vibrant celebration that ignited a love for literature across all year groups.

The day started off with a sea of school spirit, as our children proudly wore their house author colours. An engaging assembly set the tone, featuring a reading of the delightful 'Ten Delicious Teachers' followed by a lively performance of Mc Grammar's World Book Day song. Each house within their respective phases tackled engaging activities based on the works of their designated house author. This fostered a sense of teamwork and a deeper appreciation for the chosen author's style.

To cap off the celebration, children from different classes participated in paired reading sessions, allowing for new connections to be made and to share their love of reading with peers.

The day proved to be a resounding success, with children brimming with enthusiasm as they shared their favourite reads and delved into the worlds created by their house authors.



Year 6 Pupils Share Learning at University of Greenwich's International Holocaust Memorial Day Exhibition



On Tuesday 23rd January, the University of Greenwich hosted a launch for the 'This is our Story' Exhibition linked to the International Holocaust Memorial Day (IHMD) theme, the 'Fragility of Freedom'.

Ten Jewish members of the University and the wider community contributed their personal stories of life, persecution, and resilience that show the diversity of Jewish life, but also commonalities through shared experience of the fragility of freedom.

By telling these stories, the exhibition aims to encourage education about the Holocaust, something that is on the decline. A key part of the project was working with some of their partner schools, and we were invited to share some of our pupils' responses to learning about the Holocaust and World War II.

It was a privilege for our Year 6 children to display their learning at the exhibition and they valued the knowledge they acquired about these significant historic events. Thank you to our Year 6 teacher Miss O'Leary for curating the learning pieces which formed part of the exhibition about shared stories, and showing empathy and understanding.

At Woodland Academy Trust, we value our partnership working with the University of Greenwich and look forward to future opportunities to participate in.

Some examples of our Year 6 learning outcomes that went on display at the Exhibition

Dear diary,

I've been secretly hiding for 696 days in a depressing, uncomfortable annex above my father's office. All because of a selfish, insecure man - Adolf Hitler. For 696 days, I've not been able to express my emotions properly as I can't make noise. For 696 days, I haven't been able to see my friends. For 696 days, I can only use the toilet at night as the flush is too loud. The list goes on and on! Why must this war affect me?

A crusty, old dentist joined us 17 days ago. I did have my own room but now I need to share it with him. Why me? The worst thing about him is that he snores all night and he leaves his fungus-infected toenails on the floor. He always denies it when I confront him. No wonder he's been single all his life...

To pass the time, my sister and I brought some books and board games. What's unfair is that we can't celebrate winning. We can't cheer and we can't get angry when we lose. This is all so draining.

When Margot and I were playing snakes and ladders last night, we heard frantic rattling on the door. We froze in fear as everyone bunched up and slowly crept to the top of the stairs. All sounds of breathing stopped. Margot grabbed my hand and squeezed it, looking at me with shock. All of a sudden, the door crept open and my heart was pounding like a drum. I whispered to my family that I love them and prayed it wouldn't be the end.

A head peered around the corner and everyone let out a sigh of relief; it was Mr Kleiman. (our neighbour). He came in and we all snuck back upstairs, carrying on with what we were doing.

I was trying not to picture the horrifying terror that would happen if we got caught. I know we haven't been caught yet, but it's only a matter of time. Knowing that the Nazis are mercilessly killing Jews makes it difficult to keep a mask of happiness plastered on my face.

Until tomorrow diary,
Anne Frank

OVER SIX MILLION JEWS MURDERED!

What really happened in concentration camps... II happened.



OVER the past week, the mass killing of over six million Jews has come to life, due to Hitler's terrible army - the Nazis. This was because of concentration camps that were all over Poland, Austria and Germany. They have been investigated and their terrifying secrets uncovered. This was all part of Hitler's campaign to get rid of Jews all over Europe, and that's why World War

For loads of Jews, the only way to avoid death was to hide. An interesting fact is that some people tried to do this in plain sight; they changed their identity and this was by getting false papers or moving to a different area - where they wouldn't be found. (similar to Anne Frank). Jews would hide in barns, attics, annexes, cellars and caves. Diet Emen stated, "They thought we were stupid to do it, (hide Jews) of course; in fact it was beyond their comprehension that we would risk so much for Jews."

Year 6 Conquers Challenges and Builds Bonds on Merchant's Hill Adventure

Year 6 embarked on a thrilling residential trip to Merchant's Hill. This action-packed adventure provided a fantastic opportunity for pushing boundaries and forge lasting friendships.

The itinerary was brimming with activities guaranteed to get hearts racing. From mastering the art of archery and rock climbing to scaling new heights with abseiling, the students embraced each challenge with determination. Evenings were dedicated to honing communication and collaboration skills through a thrilling ambush activity – a woodland hide-and-seek that tested their strategic thinking.

This experience fostered a deeper sense of teamwork and connection, strengthening bonds with one another. With newfound confidence and memories to cherish, we hope to revisit Merchant's Hill in the future.



Peareswood Strengthens Reading Skills with Engaging Family Phonics Workshops

This term, we welcomed over 60 parents and carers to participate in Family Phonics Workshops across Reception and Year 1 classes.

The event proved to be a resounding success, with children enthusiastically joining their families to showcase and participate in the many phonics activities that form the foundation of their daily learning.

At Peareswood, we make phonics fun and our dedicated team is constantly developing new, exciting, and engaging games to build strong early reading skills. The Family Phonics Workshops served a dual purpose. By sharing these techniques with families, the school empowers parents and carers to continue the fun and learning beyond the classroom walls.

We hope these workshops have equipped families with easy and enjoyable ways to integrate phonics practice into their daily routines and look forward to hosting more for our community.



Want to know more about us?

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Willow Bank Primary School

Bexley English Leaders visit Willow Bank for Collaboration and Best Practices!

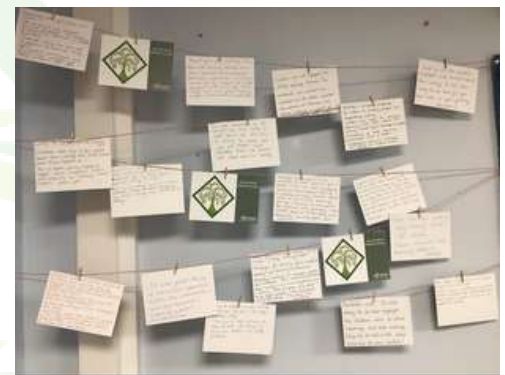
We had the pleasure of hosting English subject leaders from across 17 Bexley schools who meet half termly to collaborate and share good practice and focus on specific areas of improvement. Our Assistant Headteacher and writing lead Mr Poole delivered a session to the leads focused on planning an effective writing learning journey. The leads also toured our school, dropping into classrooms to observe English sessions, looking in children's books and speaking to staff and children.

We received great feedback! Here are some of our postcard comments that they left for us:

"Fabulous visit! It was lovely to see how engaged the children were in their learning and how willing they are to articulate their learning to new visitors!"

"It was so lovely to see how your learning environment provides inspiration in every corner of the school for both reading and writing. Particularly how all your displays model presentation expectations."

"Thank you for sharing your wonderful writing and learning environment. Reading/writing in reception class was excellent. The environment/activities were exciting and encouraged learning - oracy and purpose very clear. This high quality was consistent across the school. Quality and excellence!"



Willow Bank Soars at Young Voices 2024

A special congratulations to our school choir for their outstanding performance at the Young Voices 2024 event held at the iconic O2 Arena in Greenwich. The 7,900 strong choir, which included our talented choir of Year 3 to Year 6 children, sang their hearts out alongside guest artists and performers, such as MC Grammar and the street dance group Urban Strides. It was truly an unforgettable experience for everyone involved and the children were excellent ambassadors for the school during the day, with the older children supporting the younger children - especially as we were in the highest seats in the stadium!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Ms Masheder who runs our weekly Choir Club for her dedication in leading the choir rehearsals throughout the year. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience of singing as part of choir of thousands and still talk about it to this day.



Local Artist Returns to Willow Bank, Inspiring Young Geographers and Budding Block Printers!



Local artist Paige Denham, a visual artist and community educator returned to Willow Bank Primary this term to work with our Year 1 class on their geography topic about the local area. This marked the artist's second visit to our school in recent years, and her presence was warmly welcomed!

Paige's day at Willow Bank began with leading an inspiring whole-school assembly. She captivated the children by sharing her artistic journey and the creative forces that drive her work. A highlight of the assembly was her discussion about her artwork centred around Thamesmead. Many of our children recognise her art pieces sparking awe and excitement at meeting the artist behind the familiar creations they encounter on their walks to school!

Following the assembly, Paige spent a dedicated session with the children, immersing them in the world of block printing showing them techniques of manipulating shapes to create unique impressions.



Paige's visits to our school are always a successful and enriching experience for the children. We are always inspired by her artistic journey and to have the opportunity for our children to gain valuable skills through her workshops which inspire the next generation of creative minds.



YASBA Rocks Willow Bank! Electrifying Music Workshops Build Confidence

This month we welcomed Rock Kidz to our school, and what an electrifying experience it was!

The children immersed themselves in dynamic music workshops in the hall, where they explored themes of self-confidence and self-esteem through the power of music. The YASBA (You're Awesome So Be Awesome) message resonated strongly, and our children reported that it was one of the best workshops they had ever participated in!

We extend our gratitude to all who enthusiastically joined in the fun.



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