

## WE ARE WOODLAND Connecting our Community

AMBITION COLLABORATION COMPASSION EXCELLENCE INCLUSIVITY

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



As we approach the end of a term filled with innovation, collaboration, and progress, it's an opportunity to reflect on both the broader educational landscape and the strides we've made as a Trust. Nationally, conversations around AI integration, teacher workload, and digital equity continue to shape the future of education. Amid these shifts, our responsibility as leaders is to ensure our schools remain adaptable, inclusive, and focused on meeting the needs of every child.

At Woodland Academy Trust, we are not only responding to these challenges but leading the way. This term's newsletter highlights the incredible work happening across our schools:

**Our Digital Journey:** From achieving the AI Quality Mark to one our schools being recognised as an Apple Distinguished School, we are harnessing technology to enhance learning, reduce workload, and empower both staff and students.

**Al Strategy Implementation:** Our AlmpowerED Conference brought together staff, external guests and partners to explore Al's transformative role in education, sparking new ideas and connections.

**Community and Inclusion:** From UDL workshops to local enrichment activities, our aspiration remains that every child is supported, included, and inspired.

Beyond these achievements, I want to acknowledge the important work we've continued to do together as a group of schools and Trust to strengthen our organisational culture. We continue to focus on fostering a 'One Trust' mindset—a shared commitment to collaboration, support, and professional growth. By investing in relationships and creating spaces for reflection and connection, we are building a culture where every member of our community feels valued, heard, and empowered. This is the foundation that enables us to thrive as individuals and as a Trust.

These successes are a testament to the dedication of our staff, the unwavering support of our families, and the remarkable efforts of our children. As we look ahead, I am confident that together in 2025 we will continue to *ignite the spark and reveal the champion* in every child.

Thank you all for the role you have played in this and for being part of this journey. Wishing everyone a restful, joyful holiday season and a bright start to the new year.

Warmest wishes,

Nav Sanghara Chief Executive Officer



### Hosting our AlmpowerEd Conference!

In September, we proudly hosted our AlmpowerED Conference, bringing together staff from across the Trust and external attendees to explore Al's transformative role in education. The event was a dynamic platform for knowledge sharing, skill-building, and meaningful networking.

We had incredible experts who delivered insightful keynote presentations and hands-on workshops, sparking collaboration and driving innovation. Their passion and expertise are helping to shape the future of education, leadership, and community, empowering us to adapt and embrace the impact of AI. We also loved seeing our attendees connect with the brilliant EdTech Marketplace exhibitors.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event and a special thank you to our sponsors —this event wouldn't have been possible without their support.

"The conference has given us the opportunity to capture staff's thoughts so that it shapes our development of AI processes, our feedback sessions and also our CPD offer that is out there." Julie Carson - Director of Education at Woodland Academy Trust.



Watch this video to discover why we wanted to host our AlmpowerED Conference and how discussion around AI is helping to shape our Universal Design for Learning journey.



Special thanks to LGfL for producing this video.



Faye Ellis • Following Digital Learning Specialist, Apple Distinguished Educator, Google Innovator and M... 3mo • Edited • 🕲

My closing keynote was called 'The Creative Power of Al' and explored ways that Al can spark student creativity and work with students as a co-creator. I explained how Al has really sparked my own creativity as a teacher and for our students. I love that the **Woodland Academy Trust** motto is 'Ignite the spark, reveal the champion', as I feel that's exactly what Al can do - ignite a spark and empower us to become more playful and creative.



Adam Webster . Following

Chief Executive Officer at Sphinx AI & Deputy Head (Innovation) at Caterham School 3mo • 🕥

What a great day at the Woodland Academy Trust #AInspirED event today. Fantastic to see a trust be so thoughtful and progressive about #AI and bring all their staff along for the discussion. Great speakers and a wonderful opportunity for us to share the work we have been doing. Thanks Julie Carson for the invite!



Daren White . Following

I help people find creative solutions to their big challenges in fun and engaging w... 3mo +  $\textcircled{\sc 0}$ 

A real privilege to attend and facilitate 2 workshops at the Woodland Academy Trust #AImpowerED conference today.



Dr Fiona Aubrey-Smith • Following Founder of PedTech, Bestselling Author, Consultant Researcher 3mo • (\$

Woodland Academy Trust are leading the way in providing a phenomenal breadth of training and support for all stakeholders across the trust as they embrace the many provocations that Al raises for schools. ...more



Al Kingsley • 1st All things #Education, #EdTech, #Ai, #Digital & Growth. CEO NetSupport, Multi Ac... 3mo • Edited • 🕲

Super fun morning today talking all things #Ai and #Digital - #AlmpowerEd Woodland Academy Trust



Wow! What a great day today at #AlmpowerED. SO many great sessions and workshops on offer, it was a delight to be a small part of it. Here's a little collage of some of the great people I got to work with today. Thanks to @Bowiejcecc & @NavSanghara for an amazing day.



Dale Fahey • 1st Supporting the Education Sector to streamline recruitment, be compliant with KCS... 3mo • (5)

It was inspiring to hear all of the different ways AI can help the education sector from those who are already using it and still exploring the depths of what this has to offer.

### We Achieve the Good Future Foundation AI Quality Mark!

We are proud to share our achievement as the first academy trust to be awarded the **Good Future Foundation AI Quality Mark**, recognising our commitment to structured, safe, and impactful use of AI tools across our schools. This significant accomplishment recognises our dedication to establishing a robust and structured approach for responsibly and effectively integrating AI into our educational environment.

The Good Future Foundation's AI Quality Mark, awarded in Bronze, Silver, and Gold categories, requires schools to demonstrate purposeful engagement with key aspects of AI integration. This rigorous process ensures that AI tools are implemented with clear intention and safety measures, aligning with each school's mission to provide quality, innovative education.

Our Director of Education, Julie Carson, shares, "Completing the AI Quality Mark has been an invaluable experience for our Trust. It provided a structured framework that allowed us to clearly identify our strengths in AI integration while also highlighting the next steps we need to take. The logical progression through the key aspects of leadership, curriculum, and professional development helped us plan effectively.

For schools just starting out in AI, the AI Quality Mark is an excellent guide. It demystifies the process of incorporating AI into education, offering clear, actionable steps. The self-assessment tools and support from the Good Future Foundation gave us the confidence to move forward, ensuring that AI benefits both staff and students in meaningful ways."



To find out more about the Good Future Foundation Al Quality Mark, visit their website: **Good Future Foundation** 

We give our thanks to the Good Future Foundation for their ongoing support and guidance throughout our Al integration journey.

You can also listen to Good Future Foundation's podcast featuring our Director of Education as she shares insights into our Trust's journey with Al integration.

Listen to their conversation-

Al Integration Journey of a UK Academy Trust



## Conversation with Julie Carson

Director of Education, Woodland Academy Trust



**AI STRATEGY** 

2024-2025

#### Launch of our Al Strategy!

This term we shared our AI Strategy for 2024-2025.

You can visit our website to view the full strategy and if you would like to know more, please get in touch!

https://www.woodlandacademytrust.co.uk/learningand-innovation/artificial-intelligence/



## Woodland Academy Trust one of 23 MATs leading the way with pathfinding Artificial Intelligence report

We are thrilled to have been part of a unique pathfinding artificial intelligence project with Educate Ventures Research.

The Shape of the Future Report is now available and you can find the full report and details of the project on our Trust website → <u>Shape of the Future Report</u>



## The 2nd International UDL Symposium

It was honour to share our Universal Design for Learning journey at the UDL 2024 International Symposium held in Kildare. The event saw attendees from around the world come together to share inclusion and UDL work in policy, practice, and research.

Our Director of Education, Trust Digital Development Lead and Peareswood Primary Headteacher hosted a workshop titled 'Inclusion by Design'.

We were thrilled to receive positive feedback for being very innovative in our approach. Thank you to everyone who attended the workshop!

## LGfL EdTech Hubs

We are proud to be part of the LGfL EdTech Hub for London!

As part of this, we offer Digital Discovery Days at our schools! Find out more about the events that we are supporting-

## Upcoming EdTech Hubs events

## The LGfL 2024 EdTech Hubs Summit

Our Director of Education, Julie Carson, delivered a keynote exploring our UDL approach and use of AI to support teaching and learning. Our Trust Digital Development Lead, Dan Davies, also took part in an EdTech Hubs Relay panel answering the key questions:

What started your EdTech Journey What was your best mistake? What nuggets of advice would you give?

Watch their discussions from the day! <u>EdTech Summit 2024 discussions</u>











Sync ADS and RTC Community Showcase

Our Director of Education and Trust Digital Development Lead were delighted to be part of Sync's very first Apple Distinguished Schools and Regional Training Centres Community Showcase sharing our Trust's story and engaging in discussions to share approaches and impact that drive innovative change in education.





**Kent and Bexley** 

Regional Training Centre

### Peareswood Primary School achieves recognition as an Apple Distinguished School!

We are proud of everyone involved for achieving this fantastic recognition. The school's dedication to digital excellence and innovation is truly inspiring- well done to all involved!

Read all about their achievement on <u>page</u> <u>22</u> of the Peareswood Primary news!



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

We are delighted that we have been reaccredited as the Apple Regional Training Centre (RTC) for Kent and Bexley for another year.

As part of our Apple Regional Training Centre for Kent and Bexley, we run a comprehensive offer of core professional development opportunities. Visit our dedicated <u>Apple RTC page</u> 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! X @KentBexleyRTC

If you have any questions about our digital journey, we would love to hear from you! info@watschools.org.uk



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.

**JOIN US!** 

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: <u>www.woodlandacademytrust.co.uk/join-</u> <u>us/work-with-us/</u>



You can also find our our job opportunities on My New Term! Check out our Trust recruitment page on the site!

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

## We are proud to be a hub school through our partnership with Teach In Kent.

We offer initial teacher training through the teaching apprenticeship, working in partnership with the Tes Institute. To find out further information or to apply, visit their website: **Teach In Kent** 



We also work in partnership with the University of Greenwich and Canterbury Christ Church to offer student placements for students following different routes of teacher training including BA 1st and 3rd year placements as well as PGCE. You will often find us delivering professional learning days for the University of Greenwich and Teach In Kent and students may even visit one or some of our schools for training. We are also regular faces at teacher recruitment fairs.

We also explore the opportunity to offer QTS assessment only route with our partners for those who are experienced teachers, looking to gain QTS.

To find out more visit <u>Get Into Teaching</u> or you can email us at **recruitment@watschools.org.uk** where we are more than happy to provide advice.



Visit our <u>Woodland Academy Trust YouTube channel</u> to get a glimpse into what our schools offer.

## **Local Academy Committees**

The Local Academy Committee at each of our schools is a local governing body composed of volunteers drawn from the community, each bringing a range of skills, expertise and professional experience. The governors provide essential links between the school, parents and carers and the local community.

Governors work with staff and parents in an atmosphere of co-operation to provide the best possible framework for educating our children. They are involved in all aspects of school life and have the opportunity to influence the school experience and the lives of the children in our schools.

You can visit our Trust's and schools' websites to find out more about governance at our Trust.

Woodland Academy Trust Governance



Join Us and Make a Difference!



## WE ARE SEEKING A CHAIR

## OF OUR LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE

Lime Wood Primary School is looking for a dynamic and committed individual to take on the vital role of Chair of our Local Academy Committee.

## What You'll Gain:

The opportunity to directly influence the education and development of children in the community.

A platform to apply and develop leadership skills in a rewarding environment.

A deeper understanding of school governance, leadership, and operational management.

The fulfilment of giving back to your community and making a tangible difference.

☑ lwpoffice@watschools.org.uk



## OUR SCHOOLS ARE SEEKING LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Our schools are seeking dedicated and community-driven individuals to join their Local Academy Committees. This is a fantastic opportunity to make a real, lasting impact on the education of the children and contribute to the success of their school.

## What You'll Gain:

A rewarding opportunity to shape the educational experience of local children. A platform to contribute your skills and expertise to improve school performance. Insight into school leadership, operations, and strategic planning. The fulfilment of giving back to your community and making a tangible difference.

clerk@watschools.org.uk

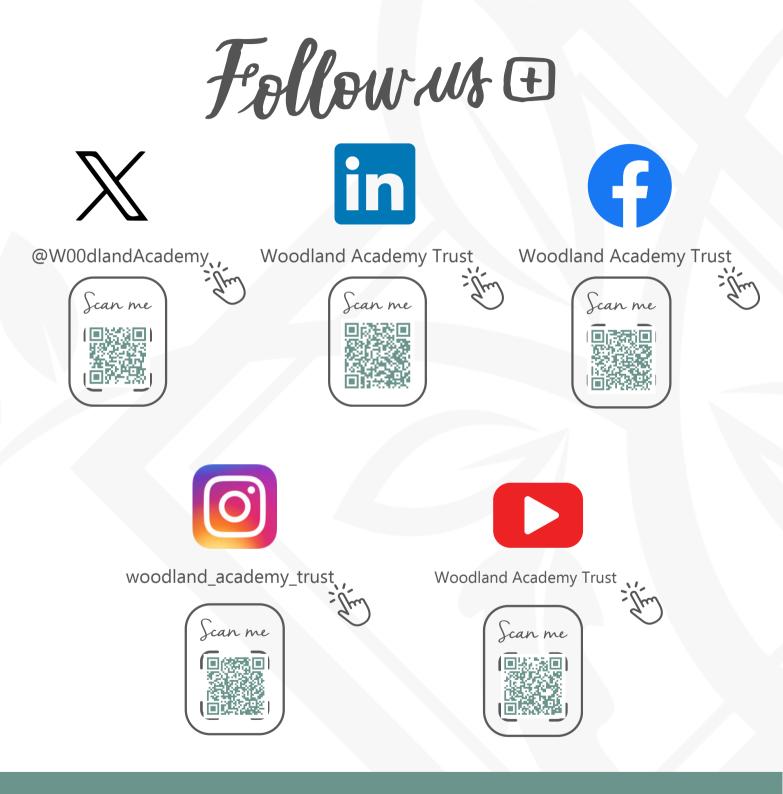
**Get in Touch!** 

If you are interested in becoming a Trustee or a Local Academy Committee member, get in touch with us! We'd love to hear from you.



clerk@watschools.org.uk

# Join our growing community on our social media platforms!



www.woodlandacademytrust.co.uk



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## Knockhall Primary School

### **Exciting Curriculum Enhancements!**

At Knockhall Primary School, we believe that learning goes beyond the classroom walls. That's why we place a strong emphasis on inviting visitors to enrich our curriculum and provide children with broader knowledge linked to real-world experiences.

These opportunities help spark curiosity, deepen understanding, and make learning memorable by connecting what we teach to practical, everyday contexts. From environmental awareness to local heritage and pet care, our visitors bring invaluable perspectives to our pupils, broadening their horizons in meaningful ways.

### Year 2 Enjoy a Visit from the Pearly Queen of Bexley

Our Year 2 pupils were delighted to welcome the Pearly Queen of Bexley, who brought history to life in the most captivating way.

The children were fascinated to learn about her important role in supporting the community and the charitable work carried out by the Pearly Kings and Queens. They also had the opportunity to ask her questions, sparking a lively discussion about heritage, tradition, and kindness.

It was a wonderful experience that connected our pupils with a unique piece of history while reinforcing the values of community and compassion.





Learning About Responsible Pet Care with the Dogs Trust

Years 1 to 5 were treated to a special visit from the Dogs Trust, who delivered engaging workshops on the importance of caring for pets responsibly and staying safe around animals.

Thank you to Phillip at Dogs Trust for a wonderful assembly and workshops. It is important that we teach our children how to care for animals and our children have now been given the advice and tools to keep themselves, and dogs, safe.



#### AI Enhances Learning at Knockhall Primary School

In our ongoing effort to provide the best learning experiences for our children, staff at Knockhall Primary School have introduced AI tools to assist in lesson planning. These tools help us create engaging and tailored lessons by offering fresh ideas, resources, and activities aligned with our curriculum goals. AI allows teachers to save time on preparation, so we can focus more on supporting individual student needs in the classroom.

Teachers, particularly those involved in the AI Lesson Planning Project, have been utilising a range of AI tools such as Oak Academy, Chat GPT and TeachMateAI to inform our next steps with the use of AI. From generating creative writing prompts to designing interactive science lessons, this technology is helping us bring out the best in every learner.

We have already seen an increase in teacher productivity and engagement of the children, so we look forward to further progression in the effectiveness of our use of AI and what more it can do! We're excited to explore this innovation together!

#### Find out more about our Trust's use of AI on their website: Woodland Academy Trust AI Strategy



Welcome, young poet! I'm Matthew Henson, your guide through the Arctic. Let's explore my adventures together and craft emotive poetry inspired by the icy landscapes! What emotions resonate with you when you think of the Arctic? Perhaps a feeling of awe or solitude? Share your thoughts and let's create something magical!

Can you give me feeling words better for petrified, please?

Absolutely, Kile! Instead of "petrified," consider words like "terrified," "stunned," "frozen with fear," or "paralysed by dread." Each word evokes a strong fear but in different ways. How do these feelings connect with your vision of the Arctic? Can you imagine a moment that left you feeling that way? Share with me, and we can craft some beautiful lines together!

> https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m0023h9c/asia Children in year 4 will be writing their own documentary script voiceover to their own animal. Using this video Asia, write down 30 seconds length of documentary voice over text from David Attenborough using standard UK English.

#### Woiceover Text (30 seconds):

Grading

B

"Asia is home to some of the most diverse and extraordinary wildlife on the planet. From the towering Himalayas to the dense tropical rainforests, this vast continent supports creatures perfectly adapted to their unique environments. In the forests of India, the majestic Bengal tiger stalks its prey with precision and power, while in the rivers of Southeast Asia, the gentle yet elusive Irrawaddy dolphin glides through the water. Each species plays a vital role in maintaining the delicate balance of these ecosystems, showcasing the richness and resilience of life in Asia."

#### **Chatbot Instructions**

Start by adding a title that clearly describes the chatbot experience, and may include a catchy phrase to engage students.

#### Title 🕐

Writing an information text about the Maya

#### Ai Instructions (?)

You are a Maya historian. The student is a curious journalist. In this scenario, the student interviews you about Maya culture, achievements, and daily life. The goal is for Alex to gather information to write an informative text. By the end, the student should understand key aspects of Maya civilisation and be able to articulate them clearly in writing. You will also encourage the student to use the key features of an information text: title, subheadings, introduction, conclusion, facts, subject specific language and pictures and captions. Also to encourage the student to include relative clauses and parenthesis in their writing





#### Learning cycles

- Investigate how to separate mixtures using filters, sieves, and magnets
- Document the process and findings of the mixture separation
  Write a scientific report detailing the investigation and results

Suggested prior knowledge

- Basic understanding of solids, liquids, and gases
- Knowledge of simple properties of materials (e.g., magnetic, soluble)
- Familiarity with the concept of mixtures
- Experience with basic scientific investigation methods
- Awareness of safety practices in handling materials and tools





## WE ARE RECRUITING FOR PARENT

## LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Knockhall Primary School is seeking dedicated and community-driven individuals to join our Local Academy Committee. This is a fantastic opportunity to make a real, lasting impact on the education of our children and contribute to the success of our school.

As a Local Academy Committee Member, you'll play a crucial role in shaping the future of our students, ensuring high standards of achievement, and supporting our school's vision, ethos, and strategic direction.



## Watch our <u>school video</u> to get insight into our school community.





www.knockhallprimaryschool.co.uk





### Pudsey Joins Lime Wood Primary for Children in Need

Lime Wood Primary School was filled with excitement as Pudsey Bear paid a special visit to mark Children in Need day. The beloved mascot brought joy and laughter to the school, dancing in the hall with Year 1 and joining Reception children during their phonics lesson.

This memorable event was made possible thanks to the school's collaborative working with ASDA and their community champion, who have provided invaluable support to our school since our opening. The day was packed with fun activities, including Gladiator-themed challenges that encouraged children to explore mental and physical resilience.

Thanks to the generosity of the school community, an impressive **£135.56** was raised for this important cause.



Our school community were proud to be part of raising awareness for Children in Need and in highlighting the power of community and the importance of giving back.



KINDNESS

TEAMWORK



#### **Building Community Connections: Playdough Party Success!**

Our school continues to prioritise working collaboratively with our community, and our recent Playdough Party was a perfect example of this commitment. Parents, carers, and families were warmly invited to join their children for a fun-filled and educational session centered around playdough.

Playdough offers countless benefits for our children. It helps develop fine motor skills as they squeeze, roll, and shape the dough, building the hand muscles essential for writing. The activity also sparks creativity and imagination, enabling children to craft various shapes and objects while enhancing their language skills through discussions about their creations.

Beyond these developmental perks, playdough activities foster concentration and offer a calming, therapeutic experience. These benefits highlight playdough as a powerful tool in promoting the holistic growth of our young learners.

Thank you to all the families who joined us!

#### **Comments from our families:**

"Such a lovely playdough party. My son was sitting nicely at the table and he enjoyed playing with the dough. I was really impressed with him and we had such a lovely time together. It was really fun. Thank you!"

"Thank you for inviting us to the Playdough Party. We all had a lovely time. It was very well demonstrated and very inclusive. Thank you."

"We really enjoyed the playdough party. It was very well organised and useful for parents to learn a new skill of making playdough and keeping our children engaged at home."

"We really enjoyed the playdough party. All the children and parents had great fun making the playdough and using different colours of food colouring and smells to the playdough. It was fun being able to sit with my child doing this activity. Thank you very much to all teachers, you are all wonderful." WE LOVE LEARNING Reception



Thank you to everyone that was able to come and support our Playdough Party this week - we hope you all had a great time! A copy of the presentation can be found on our website.



We would love to hear about your adventures making playdough at home - send us some photos!



We recently welcomed PC Ryan to deliver an engaging and informative session on the 'Clever Never Goes' programme. This initiative is designed to equip children with practical safety skills as they grow older and navigate the world more independently.

PC Ryan met with Reception and Year 1 classes, empowering them with the knowledge and confidence to make safe decisions. Year 1, who had the opportunity to meet PC Ryan last year, were thrilled to welcome her back and impressed her with thoughtful questions. Reception pupils were equally excited to meet a real-life police officer and learn more about her important role.



## Reflecting on her visit, PC Ryan said, "It was lovely to see everyone. The children were very well-behaved and participated greatly in the talks."

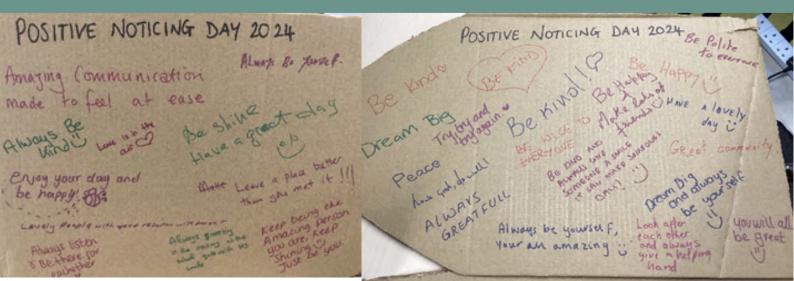
We are grateful for this valuable collaboration, which reinforces the school's commitment to ensuring pupils feel confident and secure as they grow.

## **Positive Noticing Day**

We enjoyed celebrating Positive Noticing Day, inspired by Paul Dix's principles in "When the Adults Change, Everything Changes', as part of our strategy to foster a positive learning environment. This day focused on recognising and acknowledging positive behaviours and achievements, which helped build selfesteem and confidence in our children and colleagues.



By highlighting and celebrating the good, schools can shift their culture towards more supportive and encouraging interactions. Positive Noticing Day not only benefits children but also enhances relationships among staff and the wider school community, promoting a more inclusive and positive atmosphere. We loved some of the comments we received from our parents and carers and the children wore their labels with pride!



### Embracing Makaton: Supporting Inclusive Communication at Our School

We are committed to fostering an inclusive environment where every child can thrive. One of the ways we aim to achieve this is by incorporating Makaton, a language programme that uses symbols, signs, and speech to support communication. Makaton is designed to help children and adults with communication difficulties. It is used alongside spoken language, with signs representing key words and symbols providing visual support. This multi-modal approach helps children understand and express themselves more effectively.

In our school, Makaton is becoming integrated into daily routines and lessons. Teachers and support staff use signs and symbols during instruction, and children are encouraged to use them in their interactions. This consistent use helps reinforce learning and ensures that all children feel supported. Using Makaton not only aids communication but also builds confidence and independence in children. They learn to express themselves in different ways, which can be particularly empowering for those with communication challenges.



We are proud to use Makaton as part of our commitment to inclusive education, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed and feel valued in our school community.

Follow us on social media (details next page) to catch our Sign of the Week videos!

#### Empowering Student Voice and Dialogue

This term, we developed our Oracy Action Plan and are implementing it alongside professional development from Oracy Cambridge, funded by the Violence Reduction Unit. Our focus on dialogic teaching has enabled us to introduce strategies that promote talk-based learning across the curriculum.

In every year group, we use talk guides to foster a safe and respectful space for meaningful discussions. For our Early Years pupils, we've introduced ShREC to ensure high-quality interactions:

• Sh – Share attention • R – Respond • E – Expand • C – Conversation

Additionally, our Floor Books capture weekly Pupil Voice, offering children the chance to reflect on their learning. This practice not only helps us revisit past lessons but also models how children can connect and communicate their learning. It's a wonderful way for our children to reflect on their experiences.







Local Academy Committee.

#### What You'll Gain:

The opportunity to directly influence the education and development of children in the community. A platform to apply and develop leadership skills in a rewarding environment. A deeper understanding of school governance, leadership, and operational management. The fulfilment of giving back to your community and making a tangible difference.

≥ lwpoffice@watschools.org.uk

### Want to know more about us?

## Watch our video to get insight into our school community. <u>Our School Video</u>







To deliver a curriculum that is provided by good teachers underpinned by an effective blueprint for excellence in culture, behaviour, attainment and wellbeing - to find the champion in everyone.



www.limewoodprimaryschool.co.uk🐇





## Advancing Our Digital Journey

At Northumberland Heath Primary we believe in offering our pupils a new lens to explore and understand the world through digital innovation. Our digital journey continues to gain momentum as we work toward achieving Apple Distinguished School status, a recognition of excellence in technology-enhanced education.

Recently, we took an exciting step forward with our first visit by Sync, where we successfully demonstrated our progress and were nominated for the next phase of accreditation! We are excited to continue this digital journey in inspiring learning and improving outcomes for the pupils here at Northumberland Heath.

Our staff members have also been diligently earning their Apple Teacher badges, with more joining their ranks every day! The integration of Apple technology into teaching practices continues to deepen, fostering creativity and engagement in classrooms.

For our pupils, they are becoming increasingly skilled in the use of digital tools. They are using technology to support their learning, develop new skills, and achieve better outcomes. This aligns perfectly with our vision of preparing them for the digital age.

In addition to transforming learning, we are embracing technology to support our staff. By integrating AI and digital tools into our processes, we are reducing workload and enhancing staff wellbeing.

Our digital journey is a reflection of our commitment to innovation and excellence in education. We are excited to see what the next phase will bring and look forward to sharing more of our achievements with our school community!







### Enrichment Opportunities: Inspiring Learning Beyond the Classroom



This term, there has been a wealth of exciting enrichment activities designed to enhance learning, foster teamwork, and create lasting memories.

Our Year 6 pupils kicked off the term with a three-day residential trip to PGL. This adventure was packed with activities that promoted our school values of collaboration and respect as they began their final year together.

One memorable moment this term was when the children had a visit from some owls. They were captivated by these fascinating creatures and even had the opportunity to stroke them and take photos.

Year 5 embarked on enriching trips to the British Museum and the London Aquarium, which aligned beautifully with their class topics. These visits brought their learning to life and provided valuable hands-on experiences.

Year 3 welcomed PC Ryan, who delivered an inspiring talk on individuality and community. The children were thrilled to sit in a real police car, making the visit even more memorable!

Year 1 explored Erith town centre and the River Thames, with the QEII Bridge in view, all while accompanied by their beloved mascot, Gerald the Gingerbread Man!

Year 6 also had the privilege of attending a special screening of Despicable Me 4 in London after receiving complimentary tickets—a unique and memorable treat for them.

Adding a musical twist to the term, our school hosted Rock Kidz, who delivered an empowering anti-bullying message through music. Both staff and pupils joined in the fun, dressing as rock stars to reinforce the message in a creative and engaging way.

Year 2 took a fascinating trip to the Tower of London, which tied perfectly to their topic, enriching their learning with a hands-on historical experience.

As we approached the festive season, the entire school embraced the holiday spirit. Children dressed in Christmas colours for a special Christmas dinner day and took part in a joyful Santa Dash around the playground, spreading cheer and excitement.

We are proud of the wide range of enrichment opportunities we provide, helping our pupils deepen their understanding of the world while making their learning experiences meaningful, engaging, and memorable.



#### **Community Events**

This Autumn term at Northumberland Heath has been a celebration of community spirit, collaboration, and support. Through a range of events and initiatives, we've brought together parents, pupils, and staff to foster connections, raise funds, and support meaningful causes.

From educational workshops and inspiring galleries to charitable efforts and festive celebrations, our school community has come together to make a positive impact.

Here's a recap of some highlights that have strengthened our ties and showcased the vibrant life at our school:



Bexley NHS delivered a talk to Year 6 on managing anxiety.

Generous Harvest Festival donations were made to the local church.

Year 1 Phonics Workshop provided valuable insights for parents.

A vibrant Book Fair was hosted in the playground.

The Pantry offered food samples to parents in the playground.

Year 6 Learning Gallery showcased student achievements to parents.

Year 5 Learning Gallery displayed impressive work.

Black History Month featured a Year 1 art gallery afternoon, raising £80 for the Marcus Rashford Foundation.

Anti-Bullying Week encouraged participation through Odd Socks Day.

We wore yellow to mark World Mental Health Day.

The Poppy Appeal raised an incredible £472.16!

A fantastic effort supported Children in Need.

PTFA Breakfast with Santa brought festive cheer to families.

The lively PTFA Christmas Market concluded the term on a high note.





## Want to know more about us?

## Watch our video to get insight into our school community-<u>Our school video</u>











northumberland\_heath\_primary Northumberland Heath

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NHP\_WAT@



www.northumberlandheathprimaryschool.co.uk

## Peareswood Recognised as an Apple Distinguished School!

eareswood

mary Schoo

We were excited to receive the Apple Distinguished School accreditation this term that highlights our innovative use of digital to enhance learning across the school. We are the first school in Bexley to achieve this!

Our Headteacher Mrs Ferla is thrilled with receiving this recognition, "I am delighted Peareswood Primary has been awarded the prestigious title of Apple Distinguished School. This incredible achievement reflects the unwavering dedication and ambition of our team to provide the very best for our children, as well as the enthusiastic engagement of our children and wider school community.

By embracing Apple technology, we've created an environment where our young learners not only thrive but are empowered with the tools to excel in the digital age. This recognition highlights our commitment to closing the digital divide and ensuring every child has access to opportunities for success."



You can read more about our news in the News Shopper-\_\_\_\_\_News article

We are delighted to share this exciting news with our school community and are excited to continue on our journey to inspire and develop our young learners. If you would like to find out more information or get in touch with us about our digital journey, visit our website '<u>Apple Distinguished School</u>' page.



#### We continue to develop our use of digital to enhance learning in a variety of ways.

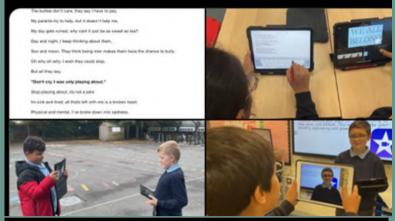
Peareswood Primary School @peareswood - Oct 22 \*\* Year have been learning how to use the app Sketches School as part of technology week. We have been making pictures linked to Jack and the Beanstalk, experimenting with the different tools and effects they have.

Peareswood Primary School @peareswood - Oct 23 .... In Year 2, today we learned about Benjamin Zephaniah. Since it's technology week, we used sketches school to add some illustrations to one of his poems.



#### Peareswood Primary School @peareswood · Oct 23

Year 6 have been learning about Claude McKay and have explored his different poems about social issues. They have created their own poem about a chosen social issue, recorded themselves using iMovie and will present to parents during Pride Time.



Peareswood Primary School @peareswood · Oct 23 ···· We learnt how to add photos onto Keynote as part of Technology Week in Year 1 today. We cant wait to make mire presentations throughoit the year!



Magma Maths: Supporting Learning and Saying Thank You!

We were thrilled to welcome **Magma Maths** to our school as they filmed a promotional video showcasing how our staff and children use Magma to enhance their maths knowledge and understanding. Both staff and pupils shared their experiences during the interviews, highlighting the positive impact of this innovative tool.

As a token of appreciation, Magma Maths funded a cinema trip for our Year 6 where they enjoyed watching a film and eating lots of snacks! Staff were also delighted to receive some delicious chocolates as a thoughtful thank-you gesture from Magma. Watch this space for the video launch!



We have had another action packed term full of trips as well as visitors to school. All are chosen to enhance our curriculum and develop the children's knowledge and understanding of what has been taught.

Ootiboo came in to deliver another fantastic workshop with year 5 designed to develop their understanding of money and budgeting. The pupils had a fantastic time and all engaged fully with the tasks.



Children (and staff!) had a fantastic time with <u>Rock Kidz</u> who teach children about self-esteem and anti-bullying through music.





We had a great time learning their PERSEVERANCE anthem promoting resilience.



We were very lucky in Year 2 as we were visited by the Pearly Queen of Greenwich!

We shared our knowledge of pearly kings and queens and she taught us even more interesting information. We also gave her the money we raised from our charity art sale!





Slade Green & North End Police @MPSNorthEndRY · 22 Nov Always enjoy our visits to @peareswood and today was no exception with all classes visited including an impromptu Q&A with Reception #SladeGreen #community #engagement #Bexley #Police

We are always delighted to welcome PCSO Piggott for a special visit. During his time at the school, he visited classrooms to see the incredible work being done by the children. Piggott's visits provide a wonderful opportunity for engagement and further strengthened the school's ties with the local community.

We are grateful for the continued support and involvement from the local police, helping to inspire and connect with the next generation.



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Trips this term have included Year 4 going to the Natural History Museum, Year 6 visiting The Museum in Docklands and Year 6 and Year 3 going to Erith Fire Station. We also placed a wreath at St Augustine's for Remembrance Day.



Year 6 PGL

Year 6 enjoyed a two night stay at Liddington in Swindon for their PGL. Although they had a rainy start they soon enjoyed all their activities including archery, canoeing, abseiling and a giant swing. They were also lucky enough to have disco with the other schools when they were there too. Everyone had a fantastic time and a good sleep on the coach on the way home!



#### **Parent Links**

We welcomed parents in for a phonics workshop with our EYFS Lead Miss Gray and Miss Lee our HLTA for SALT and phonics. They held two sessions, one for the parents of children in reception and one for parents in Year 1. Both sessions were very well attended, and Miss Lee demonstrated what a phonics session is like in school. They also shared activities that parents can do at home to support phonics and engaged with some of the activities with the children.

We have also been setting some home learning projects as part of our homework and the children have bought in some fabulous projects that they have created at home with their parents. This compliments their learning for their topic in school and gives them a chance to share their learning at home.

It was also wonderful to welcome parents back in for Pride Time to come and celebrate all the work their child has been doing in class.





## WE ARE RECRUITING FOR COMMUNITY LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Peareswood Primary School is seeking dedicated and community-driven individuals to join our Local Academy Committee. This is a fantastic opportunity to make a real, lasting impact on the education of our children and contribute to the success of our school.

As a Community Local Academy Committee Member, you'll play a crucial role in shaping the future of our students, ensuring high standards of achievement, and supporting our school's vision, ethos, and strategic direction.



## Want to know more about us?

## Watch our video to get insight into our school community.Our School Video



## Follow Ms +

### www.peareswoodprimaryschool.co.uk



## Celebrating a Term of Awareness and Unity at Willow Bank

**Villow Ban** 

**Primary Schoo** 

This term, our school community has participated in a series of awareness days and events, fostering important discussions, encouraging kindness, and celebrating individuality.



#### Honouring Remembrance Day

To commemorate Remembrance Day on 11th November and to show our respect to those members of the armed forces that have given their lives in conflicts both past and present, the school gathered on the playground for two minutes silence. Two of our talented musicians played The Last Post and Reveille to the school to signify the start and end of this time of reflection.

> You can watch this special moment on our Facebook page Willow Bank Primary Facebook Remembrance Day post.

### Celebrating Well-Being, Kindness, and Individuality

For Hello Yellow Day, our students and staff wore yellow to raise awareness of mental health and promote well-being. This was followed by Anti-Bullying Week, which included thought-provoking activities centred on kindness and inclusion. During Odd Socks Day, we celebrated individuality and diversity in a fun and engaging way.

We also marked Positive Noticing Day, which gives our school community a chance to reflect on and acknowledge the positive contributions made by individuals across our school. Children and adults wrote kind notes to each other, spreading smiles and positivity throughout the school. It was amazing to see so many uplifting messages, bringing our community closer together!







Our participation in Children in Need brought the entire school community together for a wonderful cause. Through a variety of fun and creative fundraising activities, we raised funds to support children across the UK, making a meaningful difference in their lives. The day was filled with smiles and generosity as staff and students united for this important charity.



As the term progressed, our school took part in Show Racism the Red Card, an impactful initiative that allowed students to engage in thoughtful discussions about equality, diversity, and inclusion. Through workshops and activities, they explored ways to challenge discrimination and promote fairness, gaining valuable insights into standing up for what is right.

To end the term on a truly high note, we welcomed Rock Kidz for an unforgettable event packed with music, energy, and inspiration. This uplifting experience encouraged students to believe in themselves and their abilities, fostering confidence and positivity.

These events have enriched our school community, strengthening our shared values and commitment to supporting one another. We are incredibly proud of our students and staff for their enthusiasm, generosity, and dedication to these important causes.

#### **Pupil Achievements!**

We are extremely proud of our pupils Kinfe and Nife who have both been awarded a four year scholarship from Bexley Music to develop their instrumental knowledge and skills. Both children play several + instruments, including the piano and trumpet and we know they will grab this opportunity with both hands to become ever more accomplished musicians! Congratulations to you both!





Congratulations also to our children who participated in the Young Writers Ancient Adventure Creative Writing competition!

They crafted 100-word stories based on historical events, and we're proud their work has been chosen for publication. A fantastic achievement for these young writers!





## WE ARE RECRUITING FOR COMMUNITY LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



## Want to know more about us?

Watch our video to get insight into our school community. Our School Video  $\mathbf{S}($ 





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Willow Bank Primary School







## Ignite the spark, reveal the champion





Knockhall Primary School



Lime Wood Primary School



Northumberland Heath Primary School



Peareswood Primary School



Willow Bank Primary School