

WOODCROFT ARTS SPECIAL

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The Arts Matter at Woodcroft



Welcome to the first Woodcroft Arts News Special of this academic year! At Woodcroft, we value a high quality and inclusive arts education as a priority for every child. We believe that children who engage in arts activities are advantaged in all areas of learning. Participation in the arts stimulates both the mind and imagination of every child. Our AIM@Arts programme allows our pupils opportunity to share and celebrate their achievements in a creative and personal way. The Arts are thriving at Woodcroft and things have never been busier! There is a lot to celebrate and recognise across the whole school.

I hope that you enjoy reading this special Arts newsletter

Miss Sherring

Congratulations Year 1 and Year 2!

This week has been extremely busy with performances from Years 1 and 2 of their Christmas plays. Aliens visited the school on Monday and Tuesday and the Year 2s taught them the story of the Nativity through their show 'Christmas with the Aliens!' Our Year 1s built on the fantastic standard set by Year 2 in their wonderful production of 'The Boy Who Cried Baby' which was entirely written and composed by the talented Mr Huckerby and Mr Guest. Congratulations to all staff and pupils in KS1 for yet another week of brilliant Christmas plays. We look forward to Nursery and Reception performances next Monday and Tuesday.

The Year So Far...

The Autumn term at Woodcroft has been the busiest on record! Here's a quick review of all the amazing opportunities the pupils have already engaged in:

- Our Senior Guitar Club, Senior Choir and J Rock pupils performed in the annual Burnt Oak Parade and Festival
- Our *All Ears* 6 week residency with artist Greg Sinclair. If you haven't already, have a look on the school website or Treehouse at all the fantastic work achieved across the whole school!
- Woodcroft hosted the Barnet Infant Music Festival. Our Year 2s performed brilliantly at this annual event, in collaboration with 5 other local schools and the Barnet Education Arts Trust
- Both our Guitar Clubs busked for Children in Need
- The whole school has now been to see a performance at the Unicorn Theatre as part of our Collaborate Partnership
- Art Club showed off their talents in fashion design in a special assembly
- Our Senior Musicians performed their first concert of the school year, including the premier performance from our first ever brass ensemble!
- Year 3 Ukulele gave a fantastic performance to the school and their families
- Lemon Jelly Dance crew performed 2 brilliant dance pieces to their families and friends

What's Happening

We have lots of exciting opportunities at Woodcroft for your child to engage in a high quality Arts education beyond National Curriculum requirements. Here is a timetable of all the clubs and additional learning opportunities we currently have running at the school:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
School Day	Whole Class Ukulele Tuition (Y3)	Lemon Jelly Dance		Violin and Viola Tuition (Paid)	Brass Cello Woodwind Tuition (Paid)
Lunchtime	Senior String Ensemble	Senior String Orchestra	Junior Guitar Club (Yrs 2-4) Senior String Ensemble	Percussion Club	Young Woodcroft Singers
After School	Drama Club (Y3-6)	J Rock Dance Line Dancing	Senior Guitar Club (Yrs 4-6)	Art Club Mega Movers J Rock Dance	Senior Choir

More information about all the clubs on offer at Woodcroft can be found on the school website. Please speak with the Club Leader if you're interested in your child joining.

ArtsAward



Woodcroft are proud to be an accredited Arts Council ArtsAward Centre. We run our own Arts Award programme from Nursery to Year 6 which is based on the national ArtsAward structure. Over each term we guarantee every child will:

- Participate in an artform
- Be an audience member at a concert or production
- Research and investigate artists
- Share their arts with others

This guarantee ensures every child at Woodcroft Primary will engage in meaningful Arts events and learning opportunities which enhance their National Curriculum studies. Our Year 6 pupils gather evidence of their Arts work and are moderated at the end of the year for their Bronze Arts Award. This is a prestigious national accreditation which provides our pupils certification of excellence in the Arts. More information about this exciting programme can be found on the school website.

AIM@Music



Music continues to be one of the many strengths at Woodcroft. We are constantly looking for new experiences for your child to engage in to support their social development and self-confidence in addition to developing them as musicians. All pupils have weekly music lessons and children in KS1 and KS2 also participate in weekly Singing Assemblies. Through engagement in regular music, pupils develop their creativity and problem solving skills, and are able to push beyond perceived boundaries.

The Music Department at Woodcroft keeps getting bigger and better!

Meet the music team at Woodcroft:

Miss Sherring: Music Coordinator. Miss Sherring teaches class music and coordinates both curriculum and extra-curricula music. She leads the school choirs and arranges performances and trips for our young musicians.

Miss Blyth: Strings Coordinator. Miss Blyth leads our incredible Senior String Ensemble and oversees the Strings programme.

Mr Huckerby: Guitar Lead. Mr Huckerby does a wonderful job with both Guitar Clubs and arranges many performance opportunities throughout the school year.

Mr Gagen: Percussion. Mr Gagen runs our Percussion Club. Despite having only had a handful of sessions the pupils are already demonstrating they are ready for a performance!

Mrs V Maclean: Violin/Viola tutor. This is the 3rd year Mrs Maclean has been part of the Woodcroft Music team, teaching violin and viola. She plays a key role in our instrumental collaboration projects and arranges our string ensemble works.

Mrs C Hooker: Cello tutor. This is Mrs Hooker's 3rd year at the school and we're excited to see the cello provision expand this year out of her expertise. She works closely with Mrs Maclean to arrange our amazing string performances.

Mr R Hughes and Ms M Cingo: Ukulele. Mr Hughes and Ms Cingo have been a valued part of the Woodcroft music team for 3 years now, teaching whole class ukulele to Year 3.

We also welcomed two new tutors to the team in September:

Mrs H Reeder on Brass and **Mr P Sharpe** on Woodwind. Both tutors have done an amazing job with our new musicians and the pupils have already demonstrated their new skills in the Autumn term concert.

AIM@Drama



As part of our ConnectED schools partnership, Woodcroft hosted inter-school drama workshops and welcomed the other schools from our partnership. Miss Johnston led the connectED drama events; aiming to develop pupils' social and moral skills through drama - and a bit of fun and laughter

Miss Johnston also runs a weekly Drama Club after school on Mondays. Pupils engage in numerous drama activities that develop their stage-craft skills as well as their self-confidence and social skills.

Unicorn Collaborate Partnership



Woodcroft were extremely fortunate to become the Unicorn Theatre **Collaborate** partner primary school for the 2015-2016. This partnership ensures every pupil from Nursery to Year 6 will attend 2 professional performances across the school year at the Unicorn Theatre for FREE! They will also take part in workshops with staff at The Unicorn and assist them in creating resources that will be used by schools all over London!

We also enjoyed a 6 week music residency with Greg Sinclair earlier in the term - this unique experience is documented on our website. During the project, called 'All Ears', Greg worked with every class across the school, culminating in an outstanding show performed by Year 4.

We are planning to create a display in the school foyer to showcase the fantastic work created by the pupils throughout this collaboration. Keep an eye out next week...

AIM@Art

Miss Blyth and Mrs Glass run our school Art Club, which meets on Thursdays after school. Children develop their fine motor skills and creativity through a wide range of visual art activities, as well as their social skills in mixing with pupils from a large range of year groups.

"In Art Club, we do a lot of amazing things. We have made plastic bag clothing, created new things out of used materials, stained glass art, and we made poppies for Remembrance Day. I love Art Club! We research other artists' work and use it for inspiration for our own artwork." (Olivia Caddey, 4B)

We have got some exciting plans for a new visual arts project next term - more on that in the New Year!!

AIM@Dance

Woodcroft has four dance clubs for pupils to be involved in. All aim to develop pupils' social skills and self confidence as well as enhancing their physical development. Here is an overview of our dance groups:

Lemon Jelly: Lemon Jelly is a specialist dance company. 12 of our children from across the school take part each week developing their coordination and confidence. The Lemon Jelly group performed to KS1 and their families on 1st December which, after only one terms lessons, was an amazing achievement for all the children involved. They made their teacher Jade and the school very proud. Well done!

Line Dancing: Mrs Brown and Ms Masters lead our Line Dancing Club on Tuesdays, which is for any pupils in KS1 or KS2.



Mega Movers: Mega Movers is a dance club run by Miss Stubbings every Thursday for dancers of all abilities. The aim is for the children to have lots of fun learning new moves, improving their coordination and being able to dance to a beat. We hope to have a growing amount of boys taking part and really look forward to our upcoming performances!

"It is a very fun club and I enjoyed it from the first day. I think everyone is looking forward to our first performance. For the club you need to bring your own comfortable clothes. If you come, you're going to love it!" Julia Year 4

"Mega Movers is a club where we are given the opportunity to dance and perform dances to the school. I like it because it is extremely fun and we all have the chance to learn new moves with our friends." Josie Year 4

J Rock: Our J Rockers are busy rehearsing for their first performance of their main dance this year, which is going to be based around the Egyptian story of Queen Nefertiti. 27 pupils from Years 4-6 are involved as performers, and an additional 12 are supporting as Stage Crew!



There will be at least 2 opportunities to see our J Rockers perform next term: 23rd February at the Southern Regional Final of Rock Challenge in Stevenage, and again on March 8th at the Barnet Dance Festival in Finchley.

All our dance groups will have opportunities to perform throughout the year - keep an eye out in the newsletters and on the school calendar for dates!

Upcoming Events

Here are some of the exciting events taking place at Woodcroft over the next terms:



We are very excited to be welcoming back Ollie Tunmer (former cast member of the West End hit show *Stomp!*) who will be running a 4 week residency in school. Ollie is the Artistic Director of *Beat Goes On*, and was in school last year completing Body Percussion workshops with Year 4. He will be working with pupils in Key Stage 2 on a new percussion project through January and February - keep an eye out in future newsletters and on the school calendar for concert dates!



Woodcroft are strengthening our national and international partnerships through collaborating with new external agencies. We will be hosting the MMA Music Teachers' training day on January 11th, which will include a concert for the delegates by our Senior Musicians.



On February 23rd our J Rock Dance crew will perform at the J Rock finals in Stevenage and again on March 8th at the Finchley Arts Depot.



In March, Woodcroft will be collaborating with 'Look to Learn', a visual arts company that specialises in using the work of famous artist as the starting point for curriculum projects.



On March 4th we will be collaborating with string players from Frith Manor in what is now an annual celebration of the wonderful instrumental work our young musicians are producing.

In the Summer Term we will be welcoming the Pavilion Opera Education Trust into school, who will be performing Verdi's opera of *Macbeth*. Further information about this exciting performance will be announced in future newsletters, or visit <http://www.pavilionopera.com/>.

In addition to these, we will continue our termly celebration concerts and performances from our dancers and musicians.

Treehouse

Have you logged on to the Treehouse yet? There are videos, photos and pieces of work showcased across all the pages of all the incredible things going on in school. You can practise music learned in class, re-live performances, discuss what you're doing and review special events you've seen or taken part in! Have a look at our special Arts, Music, Dance and Drama pages to see all the wonderful opportunities that are happening in school.



Arts Council

As part of our pupil leadership programme, pupils in Years 5 and 6 have the opportunity to represent the school as a member of the Arts Council. Pupils participating in extra Arts activities in school will be nominated by their session leader and will meet every half term with Miss Sherring to plan and implement ways to improve Arts in school even further.

Pupil Voice

Here's what our pupils have to say about participating in the Arts at Woodcroft:

Zeynab (6M): *"Thank you for giving us the opportunity to play these beautiful instruments"*

Najma (2W): *"Art and drawing makes me feel peaceful and happy."*

Chontae (6G): *"We were so lucky to have the opportunity to do the All Ears project."*

Najma (6M): *"All Ears gave me an opportunity to think about how beautiful music is."*

Sebastian (2W): *"I love being in Guitar Club. I get to learn all about music and music is very good for you."*

Olivia (4B): *"I really love Art Club - it's the best!"*

Carson (5V): *"I like Drama Club because we learn the different arts of the stage."*

Don (3S): *"Drama Club is really fun!"*

Sofia (4B): *"Drama Club lets me express myself in lots of different ways. I love having the chance to work with children from lots of different year groups."*

