# WOODCROFT WEEKLY

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*Together Towards Success*
*With our **AIM Values***

## Diary Dates

**March**

Book Week 2025
3rd - 7th March

M&M Theatre 'Pinocchio'
3rd March

Barnet Dance Festival
12th March @ ArtsDepot

Happy Tails Animals Visit
14th March in EYFS

Parents Evening Week
Tue 18th and Thur 20th

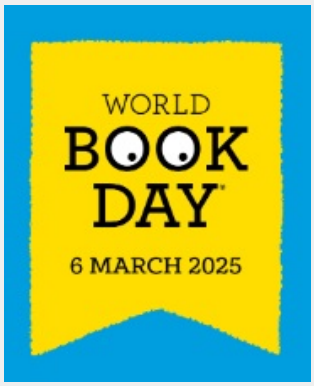
## Social Media

Follow us on Instagram:
**@woodcroft_primary**

## PSHE Themes

We are thinking about …

**World Book Day**




## *Barnet's Smartphone ban makes the news …*

Woodcroft is joining the initiative to ban smartphones from school. From Easter, at Woodcroft, and then by September across all schools in Barnet, pupils will NOT be allowed to bring in a smartphone to school.

Let's give our children a **SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD**

You may have seen our initiative featured in the news just before half term! Take a look at these articles:

BBC London Evening News
Daily Mail
Balmoral Newspaper
RF Safe News
Evening Standard
The Times



BBC NEWS

**The schools where smartphones won't be allowed**



15 February 2025, 08:25 GMT

A London borough is making moves to ban smartphones from its schools. From September, 103 primary schools in Barnet will not allow smartphones to be brought in and 23 secondary schools will commit to working towards removing smartphones entirely from the school day. **To Read More …**

**https://bit.ly/40SUEuY**

## Year 3 Bikeability



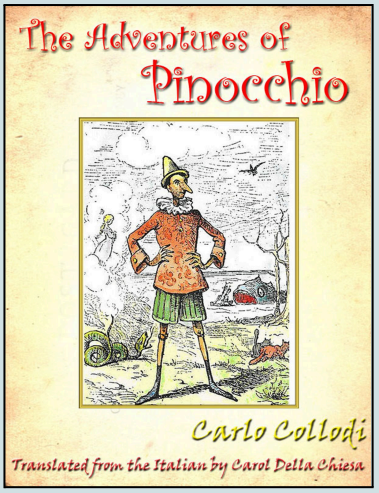




**Congratulations** to all our Year 3 pupils who took part in a two day Bikeability training course this week. Our Instructors Marcel and Philip commented that Woodcroft should be very proud of our pupils who were well-mannered throughout their training and a credit to the school.

# Book Week 2025: Pinocchio

Book Week 2025 is from 3rd to 7th March. The theme this year is 'Pinocchio' by Carlo Collodi. We have some exciting events happening!




## Reading

Book Week is ALL about reading. So, every class will read age-appropriate versions of 'Pinocchio'. This will lead to exciting activities and writing opportunities in class.

## Growing Our Knowledge

At Woodcroft we value knowledge. Leading up to Book Week 2025 pupils will be learning about the author of Pinocchio, Carlo Collodi, and his hometown of Florence in Italy. This famous city was also home to Leonardo Da Vinci so we will be finding out about the Renaissance Period and how the invention of the printing press enabled books to be shared around the world.

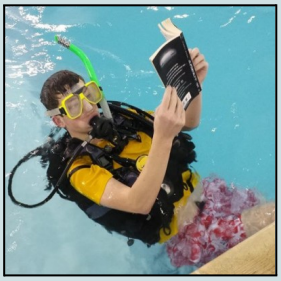
## M&M Theatre

On Monday 3rd March, M&M Theatre Company will be performing Pinocchio. This will be followed by a workshop for Year 6 all about the staging of the show.

## Extreme Reading Challenge

We are setting pupils a challenge. Take a photo of yourself reading your book in an unusual (but not dangerous!) place! During Book Week teachers will then collect these in through Google Classroom and we will create a fabulous extreme reading display.

Can you think of a wacky or strange place to read your book? It could be in your house or garden, down the park or on holiday - the stranger the better!




## World Book Day Vouchers

World Book Day is on 6th March! Vouchers were sent home before half term. They are valid until 23rd March. They can be used in any shop selling books. You can claim £1 off any book or exchange the voucher for a special edition free book. These are available in certain shops, including the major supermarkets. The FULL list of free books is on the back of the voucher.




***Dressing Up Policy:***

***At Woodcroft we do NOT dress up as book characters as part of World Book Day.*** *We believe that this results in one off purchases of expensive costumes at times when we all struggle with the cost of living. On different occasions we still like to dress up and have fun at Woodcroft, but we make our themes more general, and encourage the use of things we already have in our wardrobes at home. For example, two events are coming up this term; Sports Kit Day and Red Nose Day. On these occasions you can wear regular clothes to match the theme or just accessorise something that you already wear! We believe this is a much more sustainable approach, and one that also keeps the focus on reading during Book Week.*




# WASP SEN Group Coffee Morning
# Woodcroft's Advice and Support for Parents

**Tuesday 25th March 9.00am - 10.30am**




## Makaton Training




Miss Maynard and Mrs Smith are running this term's Coffee Morning for Parents with Children with Special Educational Needs on Wednesday, 25th March at 9.00am. It will be a time to find out about the latest information to support you and your child and a chance to meet other parents.

The focus of this term's meeting is an **'Introduction to Makaton Signing'**. You will learn 30 important signs that are a brilliant communication and comprehension system for all pupils with SEN, and also for all younger children aged 0-5 years.

Everyone is welcome, please join us. Snacks and refreshments will be available.

## EYFS Outdoor Learning

The EYFS (Nursery & Reception) classes have been excitedly exploring their outdoor learning environments, looking for the first signs of Spring.

The children have been observing snowdrops and crocuses, which they repotted in the Autumn Term, slowly emerging which has created lots of fascination and encouraged lots of scientific talk. This week, Mrs Kryj-Shahid visited the EYFS classes to plant seeds into propagators, sparking curiosity and wonder amongst the children about where seeds come from, what they need to grow and how we can look after them in our classrooms before transplanting them in our EYFS Garden as the warmer weather arrives! They look forward to exploring what minibeasts these lovely plants will attract as well as learning about the life-cycle of a plant later on this year.











## New Phone System




We had a new digital phone system installed at Woodcroft over half term. While this will improve our communications in the long run, we have been experiencing a few initial teething troubles.

These problems are mainly around leaving messages outside of school hours. Can we apologise for the "Office Closed" message that has bugged the system this week despite our best efforts to get it removed.

Fingers crossed we have resolved this matter, but please bear with us as we get used to the new phone network.

# Spring Term Events Diary

## Year 3 Bikeability Training on 27th February

***An opportunity to learn important cycling skills***

## PINOCCHIO Book Week 2025 - 3rd to 7th March

***Competitions, challenges, extreme reading, storytelling and lots more...***

## M&M Theatre perform Pinocchio on 3rd March

***A classic story brought to life!***

## Barnet Dance Festival (ArtDepot Finchley) - 12th March

***Our champion Dance Team perform***

## Happy Tails Animal Experience visit Early Years - 14th March

***Nursery and Reception classes get to meet some amazing living creatures***

## Parents Evening Week - Tuesday 18th and Thursday 20th March

***Parent consultation meetings take place***

## Comic Relief - Red Nose Day - 21st March

***Non-uniform day - dress to make people laugh***

## UDOIT Dance Competition - 26th March

***We defend our national title***

## Schools Football Week - 31st March - 4th April

***It's the annual inter-class tournament***

## Royal Albert Hall 'All Under One Sky' - 1st April

***The Woodcroft Choir perform at this prestigious venue***

## Easter Bonnet Parade - 3rd April

***Nursery, Reception and Y1 get decorative***

## Sports Kit Day - 4th April

***Support your favourite team***

## Last Day of Term 4th April

***School finishes 1 hour early at 2.15pm***

## Easter Break 7th April to 21st April

## Pupils return to school on Tuesday 22nd April

**Our extra events support the Woodcroft Value**



| 2025 Term Dates | |
|---|---|
| **Spring Term 2025** | **Dates** |
| Spring #2 | Monday 24 February - Friday 4 April |
| School Easter Holiday Holiday | Monday 7 April - Monday 21 April<br>(Easter weekend 18 - 21 April) |

| **Summer Term 2025** | **Dates** |
|---|---|
| Summer #1 | Tuesday 22 April - Friday 23 May<br><br>Pupils return to school Tuesday 22 April<br>May Day Bank Holiday on 5 May - School Closed |
| Half-Term Break | Monday 26 May - Friday 30 May |
| Summer #2 | Monday 2 June - Friday 18 July |

| **Autumn Term 2025** | **Dates** |
|---|---|
| Autumn #1 | Monday 1 September - Friday 24 October<br><br>Pupils return to School Wednesday 3 September |
| Half-Term Break | Half - Term Holiday Monday 27 October - Friday 31 October |
| Autumn #2 | Pupils return Monday 3 November<br>Final Day of Term Friday 19 December<br><br>Christmas Holiday Monday 22 December – Friday 2 January |




## The Birthday Book Club

*We are always happy to hear about pupils who have enjoyed recent birthdays and then celebrate by donating a book for their Class Library.*




***Happy Birthday to***
***Aarushi (2B) age 7 and Maxim (4S) age 9***

# Ramadan



This year, Ramadan is expected to begin on the evening of Friday 28 February 2025, and will conclude on the evening of Sunday 30 March 2025, with the exact dates dependent upon the sighting of the moon.

At Woodcroft we recognise the importance of Ramadan and aim to fully support our Muslim pupils through this period.

## Fasting

Some of our older KS2 pupils may be fasting while at school. We require parents/carers to write **a <u>letter, or note in a pupils' homelink book,</u>** to inform the school of the days that their child will be fasting.

## Prayer

We offer supervised spaces for girls and boys to pray at lunchtime after the sun has reached its height at mid-afternoon. A time for prayer and reflection is provided between 1.00pm and 1.30pm. We expect children observing prayer to be responsible and well behaved. Prayer mats can be brought into school and left in the main hall.

## Lessons

We expect all pupils to take part in **<u>every</u>** school lesson and activity. If an aspect of the lesson proves difficult for a child due to religious observance then the teacher will modify aspects of their participation. For example, pupils may help the teacher during PE instead of doing vigorous exercise.

## Events

If a specific event is taking place such as a test, school trip, dance competition or sports match we ask that an older child has their parents' approval to break a fast on that day to enable them to take part. Also, if a child has a weekly sports club, e.g. Dance or Football, then parents may either decide that their child does not fast on those particular days of the week, or the child does not attend during Ramadan. Please notify your child's club teacher of any decision. However, it would not be safe to carry out additional vigorous exercise while fasting.

## Support

Please speak with a member of school staff if you have any questions or concerns and ensure all notification letters are provided to school before your child starts fasting. Thank you for your support.

**Whole School Attendance**

**⇧ 92.7% ⇧**

## <u>Weekly Attendance Awards</u>

**Y1/Y2 Class of the week: 1S (95.2%)**

**Y3/Y4 Class of the week: 3R (96.8%) 🏆TOP CLASS🏆**

**Y5/Y6 Class of the week: 6C (95.9%)**

















Barnet
A Sure Start Children's Centre

# Child and Family Early Help

Silkstream
A Sure Start Children's Centre
and Whittington Health NHS

# Chatty Children Parent Workshop

**Provided by Barnet's Speech & Language Therapy Department**

**Wednesday 12th March 2025**
**10 – 11am**



- **Practical advice and fun ways to encourage talking and understanding in children**
- **For parents of children under 5**
- **Free one hour training session**

**Lata Mistry will answer questions on how children learn to understand and use words to communicate and will be sharing tips on how to support your child's development.**

Silkstream
A Sure Start Children's Centre

**Silkstream Childrens centre**
**Silkstream Road, Burnt Oak, HA8 0DA**

To book a place please call 020 89057605 or email:
SilkstreamCC@Barnet.gov.uk

Child and Family Early Help

Childrens Centres

Caring for people, our places and the planet

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