



Together Towards Success
With our AIM Values



Diary Dates

February

21st Feb EYFS Writing workshop

26th Feb Y4 Dodgeball Tournament

28th Feb EYFS Stay & Play looking at writing

29th Feb Piano Recital
Beethoven Sonata to KS1 and KS2

Twitter / X



Follow us on X / Twitter:
@WPS_Success

PSHE Theme

We are thinking about
5 Steps to Wellbeing



Happy Lunar New Year



UK Government says **NO** to Mobile Phones for Children

This week the Government has requested that ALL schools prohibit the use of phones in school. It has issued new guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phones-in-schools>



At Woodcroft we do not allow pupils to use phones on site.

Our rule is simple. If we see or hear a phone it will be confiscated immediately and then only be returned to an adult. Our [policy on mobile devices](#) is available on our website.

However, the problem is much bigger than this and many parents are now realising that children accessing mobile phones is extremely damaging. A campaign is gaining momentum called Smartphone Free Childhood.

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>



A staggering 83% of 11 year-olds in Britain have a smartphone. This is despite increasing evidence that phones damage developing brains, raise the likelihood of childhood mental illness and open the door to inappropriate content.

Take a look at some international research by clicking the links:

- [SMARTPHONES ARE HIGHLY ADDICTIVE](#)
- [SMARTPHONE LINKS TO MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS](#)
- [SMARTPHONES EXPOSE CHILDREN TO HARMFUL CONTENT](#)
- [SMARTPHONES REDUCE ATTENTION IN SCHOOL](#)

If you want your child to be healthy, safe and successful at school then our advice would be to delay smartphone use until their teens at the earliest. Giving your child a smartphone might seem a kind thing to do, but as the evidence is now increasingly showing, you are potentially harming your child.

If your child absolutely needs a phone for safety and travel reasons then buy them a traditional 'brick' phone that allows calls and texts only. This may not be cool and trendy, but it could possibly be the best decision you make to protect your child and enhance their academic success.

Childhood is too short to waste on a smartphone

Barnet Council Spring 2024 HAF scheme

Spring BACE 2024 will open for bookings on Tuesday 27 February 2024 until Sunday 17 March 2024. Vouchers will be distributed next week to eligible families. For more details visit ...

<https://barnetyouth.uk/>



BACE Holiday Activities / Camps run throughout the Spring Holidays from: 02 April 2024 until 12 April 2024*

Children who are **eligible for benefit-related Free School Meals** within the borough of Barnet can attend a maximum of 4 fully funded activities/days throughout the Spring Holidays. Each child can attend a maximum of 1 fully funded (FREE) activity per day by supplying the Holidays Activity Voucher in your cart.

If you receive food vouchers via school you will also be eligible for activity vouchers and will be issued with a 16 digit BACE Holiday e-Voucher Code if you are eligible for a fully funded space at BACE. If your child is not eligible you can either pay to attend a BACE camp and book with the provider directly or access the fully funded (FREE) Positive Activities offer for all children book [here](#).

World Book Day Vouchers



World Book Day vouchers will be distributed next week. These vouchers entitle children to £1.00 off any book at a retailer until **Sunday 31st March**. They are not valid for online purchases.

Alternatively, there is also a selection of £1 books that can be purchased from participating shops, including Asda, Morrisons, Sainsbury's and Tesco.



Nursery and Reception 'Writing' Workshop



PARENT WORKSHOPS

It was another full house on Wednesday when we held our latest Parent Workshop all about 'Writing Development'. Teachers led a practical presentation about how we begin to teach children the essential skills. If you missed the session you can find all of our workshop presentations on the TreeHouse. Next Wednesday it is '**stay and play**' time again. We hope that parents and carers will join us, after drop off, to watch their child take part in a writing lesson led by their class teacher, followed by an opportunity to explore our continuous provision activities. This is a great opportunity to support your child in their classroom environment, as well as learn some new strategies to help with their writing at home

Remaining 'Parent Workshops' and 'Stay & Play' sessions

Subject of Parent Workshop	Date of Parent Workshop	Date of 'Stay & Play' session	Workshop leader	Supporting staff
Writing	21.02.2024	28.02.23	Mrs Patel	Ms Khan
Mathematics	06.03.2024	13.03.2024	Ms Richards	Ms Khan

Nursery admissions now from age 3 years old

Woodcroft Nursery now accepts applications for children to start from the age of 3 years old.

We enrol children at the start of each term when they are three:

- For a **September** start date a child must turn 3 before 31st August.
- For a **January** start date a child must turn 3 between 1st September and 31st December.
- For an **April** start date a child must turn 3 before the last day in February (28th/29th)

Apply Now

Applications for Woodcroft Nursery are made directly to the school. You can register your child for our waiting list at any age. Please contact the Main Office to register or book a visit.

For the current 2023 – 2024 academic year the key admissions dates are:

September 2023 start – born between 1st September 2019 to 31st August 2020.

January 2024 start – born between 1st September 2020 to 31st December 2020

April 2024 start – born between 1st January 2021 and 31st March 2021

2024 - 2025 academic year

September 2024 start – born between 1st September 2020 to 31st August 2021.

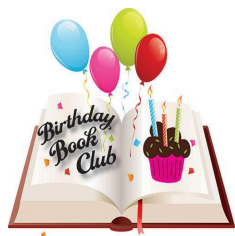
January 2025 start – born between 1st September 2021 to 31st December 2021

April 2025 start – born between 1st January 2022 and 31st March 2022



Parents of three and four year olds that are registered with Woodcroft's Nursery can also apply for the new **30 hours free childcare** offer. Parents need to register in advance for these childcare offers, through the Government website. **Apply now for April at**

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.



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
Maxim (3A) age 8 and Heeba (6G) age 11

Diary Dates

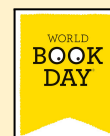
February

- 26th Feb WEBB Schools Dodgeball Tournament for Y4 (**WEBB** Schools are **W**oodcroft, **E**dgware **B**arnfield and **B**roadfields))
- 28th Feb EYFS Stay & Play Morning - writing focus
- 29th Feb Piano Concert - Beethoven Sonata recital to KS1 and KS2

March

4th March - 8th March - Book Week

- 4th March - M&M Theatre Production of Oliver Twist (for KS1 and KS2)
- 7th March - World Book Day (no dressing up)



- 6th March - EYFS Maths Workshop - Time Theme (Science Week Link)
- 6th March - Barnet Dance Festival - Dance Team Perform at the ArtsDepot Finchley
- 11th March Great Big Dance Off (Regional Finals) - Dance Team Perform at Milton Keynes
- 11th - 15th - British Science Week - Time
- 13th March - EYFS 'Stay and Play' all about Maths
- 13th March - Y3 Egyptian Day: Portals to the Past
- 15th March Comic Relief - Red Nose Day - Are you 'Reddy' for Red Nose Day?
Non-uniform day! Dress to make people laugh. Be as **red** as you can -
A red shirt, red hair, red face paint, red socks - it's up to you ;-)
- 18th March Y3 Ukulele Concert + Guitar and Piano Musicians
- 20th & 21st March Parents Evenings (in person on Wednesday and Thursday evening)
- 21st March Strings Concert - 2.30pm
- 26th March Easter Bonnet Parade (N, R, Y1) (Tuesday)
- 27th March UDOIT Dance Competition
- 28th March - Last Day of Term (2.15pm Finish)



29th March April to 12th April - Easter Holiday
(Easter Weekend Friday 29th March - Monday 1st April)
Pupils Return to school on Tuesday 16th April