

Woodside Matters

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19.9.2025

www.woodside.gloucs.sch.uk

[ourschoolsapp](#)

This term's school value is determination

Congratulations to our certificate winners this week:

Dojos: Nolah, Arthur, Angus, Jaicob, Freddie, Theo & Oliver

Reading: Dylan, Fearne, Corey, Lucy, Alyssa & Bartie

Achievement: Lola, Clara, Sabrina, Lucas, Toby, Sienna & Eve

Well done to Lucy for doing so well in a recent trial bike competition where she came 3rd, to Bertie who won his 4 games in darts, Demaris for her 25m swimming certificate and badge and to Freddie who has had an excellent week! Freddie shared her player of the week in rugby trophy and her Bronze Rookie Lifeguard certificate. Congratulations to you all.

Congratulations to Mrs Matthews!

We're thrilled to celebrate Mrs Matthews' remarkable 25-year milestone with us! Mrs Matthews has worn many different hats in her time with us: as our wonderful family support worker, office administrator, governor, teaching assistant and general all round wonder-woman Mrs Matthews is a key part of our team at Woodside. We're so pleased to share her 25 year long service award that has been presented by the county council. Her dedication, warmth, and organisational skills have made a lasting impact on everyone she works with. Thank you, Mrs Matthews, for all the love and care you put into everything you do—we're really grateful to have you as part of our school.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Mrs. Matthews and Mrs. Jeavons would love to see as many as possible for our Macmillan Coffee morning on the 25th September from 10.30 - 11.30 am. Brownies and Scouts from local packs will be helping serve. (Please see Mrs Matthews if you'd like to help!) If you could let us know if you are able to attend and if you are able to make a cake it would be very much appreciated.

gmatthews@woodside.gloucs.sch.uk

**It's time for
a Macmillan
Coffee
Morning
and you're invited**

Let's do whatever it takes
to support people living with cancer.

Term Dates 2025-26

Autumn term 2025

Sept 1st—19th December

Half Term: 27th —31st Oct

Spring term 2026

5th January—27th March

Half Term: 16th—20th Feb

Summer Term 2026

13th April—20th July

Half Term: May 25th—29th

INSET days:

October 24th

January 5th

May 22nd

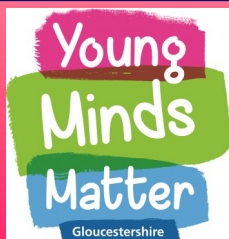
July 20th

These may be changed but are an indication for those of you who want to plan early.

Class contact

If you have a class-based query, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance via the school office. Please be assured that teachers will respond, but not necessarily on the same day. Teachers are not expected to respond whilst they are teaching or beyond 5pm; your patience is appreciated.

We promote British Values and uphold our own school values of **friendship, determination, respect, tolerance, courage** and **self-belief**. As a reminder our Safeguarding, Behaviour, Complaints and other policies are on the website should you wish to view them.



West Gloucestershire
Schools Partnership

Upcoming dates

25th September—MacMillan Coffee morning

26th September—individual photographs

6th October—Parents evening

13th October—Community Van visit to school

13th October—Cheltenham Literature Festival Year 3 & 4

15th October—Parent's evening

20th October—Flu vaccinations

27th October—Half term

7th November—Life Education Bus

Rights Respecting

Children have weekly Rights Respecting assemblies. This week our assemblies have focused on:

International Day of Democracy- Link to Emmeline Pankhurst, Emily Davison. Article 13- Every child has the right to share freely their opinions. Article 12- Children have the right to give their opinions freely



Find us at Woodside Primary School on 13th October!

Our **Community Engagement Vehicle (CEV)** will be coming to your child's school, at the end of the school day, to share what is going on for young people in the local area



Contact us: hi.ya@fvaf.org.uk



100 Club

For all children wishing to take part in our school's fundraising 100 Club please contact the school office.

Congratulations to Ava who is our winner this week!

It's a great way to support the school as money raised goes towards funds for the children.



Flu vaccinations on the 20th October

Please can parents make sure they have filled in the form at:

<https://www.ghcimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

Our school code is GC115519

School dinners

Hot dinners are available daily at a cost of £2.85 per meal. Children can order on the day (see menu choice on the app) during registration.



RUARDEAN WOODSIDE MEMORIAL HALL

QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 18 October

Start 7.30pm



Entry per person £5 or £10 with Fish & Chips – these need to be ordered by **Monday 12 October**.

Bank transfer available – (Ruardean Woodside & District Memorial Hall Fund)

Details available from:
Gina – 369605
Mo – 543603

Attendance

The Department for Education introduced updated statutory guidance on school attendance in August 2024, known as "Working Together to Improve School Attendance", to address the growing concern over declining attendance rates across the UK. The guidance aims to reduce term-time holidays, unauthorised absences, and offer support to families whose children are struggling to attend school. The key points from the guidance as follows:

Support First

The guidance stresses a "Support First" approach, encouraging schools, parents, and other agencies to collaborate to understand and address the reasons behind a child's absence. Schools are expected to offer early support to families to prevent further absences. Parents are encouraged to reach out to the school if attendance becomes a concern.

Formalizing and Intensifying Support

If informal support does not improve attendance, or if it is not engaged with, the school will work with partners, including the local authority (Gloucestershire County Council), to formalize the support.

Measures may include:

Notice to Improve: Issued if a child has 10 or more sessions of unauthorised absence within 10 school weeks. This can include unauthorised absences, being late after the register closes, or taking term-time holidays.

The notice will outline expectations for attendance improvement. If not met, a Penalty Notice may be issued.

Notice to Improve

A Notice to Improve will be sent if a child accumulates 10 or more unauthorised absences in 10 weeks. Absences can span across different terms, academic years, or schools. The notice will specify the expectations and time frame for improvement. If expectations are not met, the school can request a Penalty Notice.

Penalty Notice

Penalty notices can be issued if a Notice to Improve is ineffective or for holiday-related absences that exceed 10 sessions within 10 weeks. Penalty fines are set at £160 (reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days). For a second penalty notice within three years, the fine is £160 with no reduction. Penalties apply to all adults with responsibility for the child (including step-parents), and fines are issued per child.

Holiday Absences

Schools are prohibited from approving term-time holidays unless there are genuinely exceptional circumstances. Penalties may be issued if a child misses 10 sessions in 10 weeks, even if part of that is due to a holiday.

Consequences of Unpaid Fines

If a penalty notice is not paid within the specified time frame, the case may be taken to court by the local authority.

Purpose:

The overarching aim of the guidance is to ensure that children do not miss out on their education, as absences can significantly impact their learning and development. For more details, parents are encouraged to visit Gloucestershire County Council's attendance pages and review the updated school attendance policy available on the school's website.