

THIS EDITION'S FEATURE ARTICLES:

Moral - New Year, New Resolution

Social - Thrilling Think Tank Visit

Spiritual - Achieve With Me

Cultural - National Storytelling Week

Health - The Importance of Sleep!

Values - Amazing Animations in Year 3!

Special focus on Year 2 and 3!

New Year, New Resolution

MORAL article by Afia and Sam

The history of the New Year

Around 2000 B.C. the Babylonians celebrated the New Year during a 12-day festival called Akitu (starting at the vernal equinox). This was the start of the farming season to plant crops, crown their king, and make promises to return borrowed farm equipment and pay their debts and this is how the celebration of New Year began.

The current New Years

Every year, on the last day of December, people reflect on the year they have had and many think of new year's resolutions for the following year. In Woodland View, we all have different goals all the time, but the whole school's resolution is to come into our assemblies quieter. This was agreed in a special New Year assembly led by our Headteacher Mr Horsley. He also shared with us his personal resolutions, which would be based on three Fs which are: Friendship, Family and Fitness. He decided that he would help his daughter with her maths and that he would meet up more with his family and friends.

School resolutions and why they are good ideas

During the assembly, Mr Willars (6JW's class teacher) shared as his personal resolution that he wanted to get into cooking, whilst some of the other teachers decided they wanted to follow a variety of other resolutions. "I chose cooking because I enjoy cooking and so it wasn't something that I wouldn't have to be motivated to do. I also wanted to be able to cook so that I wouldn't have to buy takeaways for guests! I think it is important to acquire new skills," Mr Willars explained.

Resolutions are like goals or targets, which we often use in our day to day lives in school to provide challenges for things we want to achieve or improve upon. It was great to see during the assembly that lots of pupils and teachers had set themselves personal goals and it was interesting to see Mr Horsley share his assembly challenge resolution as a group effort too.

We spoke to Miss Sanders - a class teacher in Year 3 - and she told us all about her New Year's resolution. She wants to learn how to ice skate and read 100 books this year. She explained that she wanted to learn how to ice skate because in her childhood she was a dancer. However, she did mention falling over a lot of times (something that may happen even more on ice!). Both her resolutions are ambitious and fun - so we wish her the best of luck.

We spoke to some boys and girls in Year 1 and they said that they had many different ideas of what they wanted to do explaining, "New year resolutions are important because they allow you to try new things and have great experiences." **This year, we want to encourage all our pupils to try and come up with a goal of what they want to achieve this year - and try and stick to it!**



What is your New Year's resolution?

Thrilling Think Tank Visit

SOCIAL article written by Jai and Daliyah

A lovely way to welcome the Year 2s back to school in 2024 has been their exciting trip to ThinkTank, located in Birmingham.

You may be wondering: What is ThinkTank? A quick search of their webpage tells you that at ThinkTank you can see many amazing exhibits: explore MiniBrum, a child-sized mini city; visit a 4K Planetarium where children can journey to the stars; discover a world of science in an interactive outdoor Science Garden; learn more about Birmingham's industrial past; and see steam engines, trains, cars and planes from yesteryear. Plus, come face to face with a dinosaur and even more!

Woodland View's amazing children had a blast and spent a whole day looking, exploring and interacting with the Think Tank's whole range of outstanding exhibits.



The Woodland Times interviewed some of the children in Year 2 to see if they found it just as exciting as it sounded. Kydan excitedly told us, "I liked seeing all of the incredible inventions in the Think Tank! Particularly the interesting mechanical processes of moving lots of water between different containers, like when a tank dipped down in to a box!"

Many of the children expressed how they had a brilliant time. Haily, Year 2, joyfully said, "I liked the giant robot and how it sang a silly song when we pressed the buttons to programme it - It was hilarious!"

As well as being a sensational, educational trip, the teachers were glad to know that the children found part of the experience funny as well. Miss Hicklin, was one of the teachers in charge of the whole adventure and the Times was interested to find out how she found the day.

"When Year 2 visited ThinkTank - which was a brilliant trip linked to our topic: Inter-Nation Media Station - we had a brilliant day full of fun and interactive learning. The children behaved extremely well and had a wonderful day!"

Thanks to all the wonderful staff for enabling this to happen and giving our precious Woodland View children a marvellous time! The year 2s really enjoyed the trip and will hopefully always remember that day as one of their stand-out, memorable moments of Year 2!



Year 2s examine the exhibits at the Birmingham Think Tank.

Achieve With Me

SPIRITUAL article written by Arjan and Skyla



Every year group had an Achieve With Me session, where parents were invited to join their children in class.

Achieve With Me week was a great success! It gives parents the opportunity to come into school and participate in activities with their children, in order to see what they are learning about and how well they're achieving!

This happened on different days of the week for different year groups. For example, on Monday parents of Year 2 and Year 5 children were invited to attend. Tuesday was Year 1's turn and Wednesday saw our youngest children's parents participate along with year 4 too. Thursday got Year 3's parents involved and Friday finally gave our oldest students (Year 6) the opportunity to show off their skills!

Woodland View encourages our children to have a great understanding of their topics so they can share and teach others about them too. Giving parents an insight and a chance to understand what learning is happening in the school days is also important.

Making use of all areas of our outstanding school - the ICT Suite, Main Hall, Library, Classrooms and Break-out spaces, saw our students and their parents engaging in a variety of activities, including - puzzles, times tables games, Maths and English worksheets and much more. Our amazing teaching staff prepared and lead the various sessions across the week..

Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Cox, stated, "Achieve With Me sessions provide an important opportunity for parents to find out what happens during in the school day in our Woodland View Community".

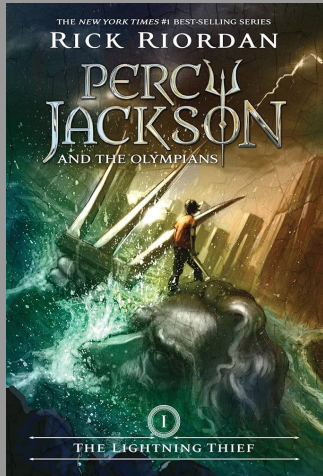
We spoke to our young friends in Foundation Stage, Finley and Darcy-Mae, they said they loved having their mums come into school and share in the activities they were doing: "It was so fun and exciting". We also spoke to Seb, from Year 4, about his experience of Achieve With Me: "I loved playing maths games with my dad. It was a great opportunity to learn with parents, not just teachers." *(Continued on page 5)*



Reading Recommendations

Year 6

Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief
- Rick Riordan



Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson is on the most dangerous quest of his life. With the help of a satyr and a daughter of Athena, Percy must journey across the United States to catch a thief who has stolen the original weapon of mass destruction – Zeus’ master bolt. Along the way, he must face a host of mythological enemies determined to stop him. Most of all, he must come to terms with a father he has never known, and an Oracle that has warned him of betrayal by a friend.

Please enjoy three more recommendations of books from children in our school.

It is a really interesting and dramatic and teaches you a lot about Greek mythology as the story progresses. I recommend this book to Year 5 and above as a good book to get you interested in longer reads. This is a book that suits everyone (boys and girls alike) as there are 3 main characters - such as Annabeth, who is brave and likeable. There is a whole set of Percy Jackson and the... books - 5 I think - and I am looking forward to reading the rest of the series!



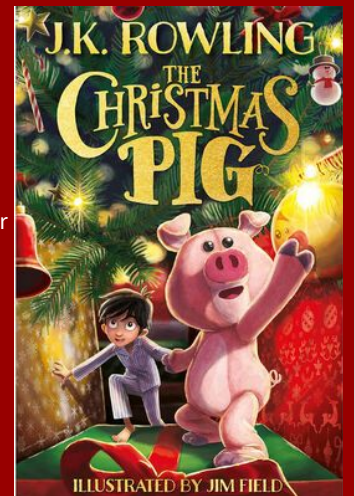
Year 4

The Christmas Pig - J.K. Rowling



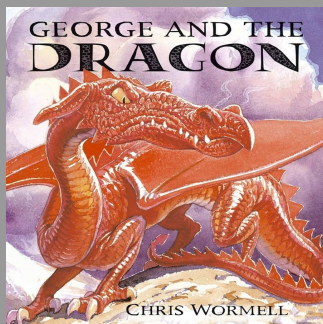
The best character in my opinion is Jack's Mum. She is kind to him when he loses his favourite toy. This is a dramatic book because when Jack loses his toy he starts throwing his things around the room. However, all of the adventures do lead to a happy ending. I would recommend this as a good book to read TO a child from Y3 upward.

Jack is distraught on Christmas Eve after having lost his best friend, his toy Dur Pig (DP), in a terrible accident. He hates DP's replacement, the Christmas Pig (CP), and cannot comprehend how the older people around could even try to supplant his best friend with another toy from the market. CP smells new, feels soft, and is nowhere close to DP's greyish, faded body that smelled of their countless adventures together. Christmas Eve is, of course, a night of miracles and hope. When CP comes to life and proposes to Jack a daring plan to rescue his best friend, Jack agrees without a second thought – even though it means abandoning the world of the living to descend into a strange realm. And so begins the quest of Jack and CP as they set out to find DP in 'the Land of Lost Things'.



Year 2

George and the Dragon - Christopher Wormell



The dragon in this tale is a fire-breathing beast, who can fly higher than the clouds and faster than the birds and knock down castles with his tail, but there's one thing that makes him cower in fear. When this terrifying creature moves in next door, the dragon soon forgets about the beautiful maiden he's brought back for lunch and flees. This is good news for the maiden and the dragon's new neighbour, George the mouse, who is soon relocated to a luxury hole in the castle wall. This is a witty modernisation of a popular legend.

This is a really good book because it shows one of our six values - courage. It also teaches you the lesson of not to be afraid of your fears. This a good book for Year 2s and children who like stories about animals or dragons!





The Importance of Sleep!

SPIRITUAL article written by Alice, Ayodunni and Jakub



Sleep is so important for every person's physical and mental health. The sleep cycle repeats several times throughout the night and it recharges your brain for the next day. Lack of sleep can cause lots of different things: poor concentration and memory, mood, disturbances, impaired judgement, reaction time, and poor physical coordination. Fun fact! Did you know that humans spend a third of their life sleeping? Adequate sleep duration varies by age, but adults generally need at least 7 hours per night and children need an average of 10-11 hours of sleep. Do you know how much sleep you and your parents are getting?

How many hours of sleep do you get?

Adequate sleep duration varies by age, but adults generally need at least 7 hours per night and children need an average of 10-11 hours of sleep. How many hours of sleep do you get? Well, we asked a year 6 boy and he gave us some very interesting answers!

Jacob C, year six, replied, " I think it is important to sleep because it will give you enough energy to last the next day and you will be able to concentrate the next day in school. In my opinion you should get around 9-12 hours of sleep; although, I seem to be getting only around 5 hours of sleep each night!" You have to be very careful of the amount of sleep you get because it can change your behaviour thoroughly, whether you're on a walk, in your house or even at school. That's why we were delighted about how much sleep David in year two got! He said, " I think you should get 12 hours of sleep but I think I get 13!" Sleep is just amazing so make sure you always sleep all 12 hours of the night!

What can you do to get better sleep?

Let's think about what stops you from sleeping well and how you can sleep better. Don't use screens at least half an hour before going to bed. Instead, you could read a book which would help you think about what happened in the book and you will dream much better. Now, we know for a fact that children love hot chocolate, but you shouldn't drink it before bed otherwise you won't be able to sleep. How about having water before bed and save the sugary deliciousness of the hot chocolate for the day? If you always have trouble with getting to sleep, why not try a nice warm bath before getting your head down? Finally, we asked Titus in year four how much sleep he gets and he replied, "I think you need 9-8 hours of sleep, so I get round about 8 hours of sleep per night."

Improving your sleep schedule!

We know how to improve our hours of sleep and what to do to stay healthy but the question is do you? Sleeping is really important for your mental and physical health; it's something that everyone should think about. Now, our challenge for you is to start waking up at a sensible time and going to bed at a sensible time. It really can make a difference to your day, your friendships and your work at school. Just remember to go to sleep at a great time and follow our top tips!

Amazing Animations

(from Year 3)

VALUES article written by Erin and Myrna

This term's value being cooperation, Year 3 have been working on some exciting and intriguing animations as part of their curriculum topic work. This has meant that the Year 3 children have had to work closely together and show cooperation to achieve some interesting outcomes. They have been learning about different types of animations: flip books, Walt Disney's classic cartoons, stop-motion animations and more!

Cooperation means working together to achieve goals and ideas. Mrs Jakeman - one of the Year 3 teachers - shared a brilliant example of cooperation within the year group. "We have used many different types of resources: I pads, colouring pencils and post it notes and we have needed the children to cooperate with each other and share the resources sensibly." Therefore, we have chosen Year 3s as a good example of not only this term's value of Cooperation, but also this term's Curriculum C - Communication.

Did you know?

- Most animations take up to 8-10 weeks to make. That is a crazy amount of time!
- Animations have dated back since the early 19th century. That's amazing!
- Walt Disney received not only an Oscar award for the cartoon "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," but one large figurine and seven smaller ones!

Isabel, from Year 3, told us she enjoys cooperation in her work and thinks that it is important. This is because through using teamwork and working together - you get lots done! She also told us that Mickey Mouse is her favourite cartoon and enjoyed learning about how cartoon animation gets made.

Neve, also from Year 3, explained that cooperation is key when producing animations. "My favourite animated character is Mickey. I also think cooperation is very important. As when we work together, we can do harder things than we struggle to do on our own. Making stop-motion or flip book animations are a fun and good example of this"

If you want to see more animations from Year 3 go to our new website - www.wvps.northants.sch.uk look under the NEWS AND EVENTS section and explore the year group blogs. Here you can find lots of pictures of the Y3s topic this term as well as images from the other year groups.



Year 3 produced animations in different ways - such as flipbooks.



(Continued from Page 2) Finally, we managed to talk to a very busy, Miss Brown, who also happens to be a parent of children in our school too. We asked her about her views on the importance of Achieve With Me sessions, what she learnt from them and if she enjoyed it:

“I think Achieve With Me is important in order to gain knowledge and insight of what my children are learning in school. I think other parents would agree. One of my daughters taught me there were many more tenses than just past, present and future and my second daughter taught me what a ray is! Yes - I enjoyed Achieve With Me and engaging one on one with my children. I know they enjoyed showing me what they had learnt too.”

Overall, Achieve With Me was a roaring success from children, parents and teachers, everyone agrees we should continue to have more days like this. At the Woodland Times we think this is another example of showing how ‘We’re not just a normal school.... WE ARE WOODLAND VIEW!’

National Storytelling Week

SPIRITUAL article written by Jai and Myrna



The children in FS/Y1 and Y2 have all been given Reading Bears to help develop their storytelling skills at home.

Storytelling is the vivid description of ideas, beliefs, personal experiences and life lessons through stories or narratives that evoke powerful emotions and insights. All films originate from the written stories and although you may not know it, the written version is often more interesting than the film. National storytelling week 2024 started on Monday 29th January and ended on Sunday 4th February. Additionally, on the new school website there were different staff telling stories every night during the week for the children to watch.

This year, Mrs Matsangou is playing a big part in storytelling week at Woodland View. In her assembly, which introduced this year’s Storytelling Week to the children, she talked about different books, ways to tell stories and how people benefit from telling, reading or listening to stories. We asked Mrs Matsangou about what she thinks about stories and she replied, “I love telling stories everyday because stories teach us the most important lessons in life. They make us love, cry, feel happy and help us to understand each other and teach us to be good people. Everything there is to know can be found within a book.”

Why do people tell stories?

One of the first storytellers was Aesop from Greece and he is famous for telling one of the first stories ever: The tortoise and the hare. Nowadays, people tell stories to explain things, to teach morals, to warn of dangers, to entertain, to share myths, legends and fairytales, for religion and as a way to reason with the world. Stories can be read to children and adults before they go to bed to calm them down, as a way to relax and to improve their vocabulary and sometimes just to have fun in general. There are millions of stories in the world which also results in a large variety of authors.

Mrs Matsangou told us, “My favourite author is Kiran Millwood-Hargrave. Two of her books made me cry and I also love her because she says, ‘Being a writer lets you imagine whatever you want’. My favourite book is The Island At The End Of Everything and I like it because it teaches whatever you put your mind to, you can do anything.”

We asked a few children who their favourite authors are and why?

Daisy, in year 6: “JK Rowling because she has many different genres and stories to read. I also enjoy how she includes emotive language in her books, you can really feel what she's trying to put out there!”

Theo, in Year 3: “I like Enid Blyton because her books are good and she wrote a variety of stories. My favourite book is Christmas Tales because it is really funny.”

At Woodland View we all enjoyed Storytelling week as it’s an amazing opportunity to read more. It’s never a bad thing to do too much reading! Foundation Stage, Year 1s and Year 2s have especially loved this year’s National Storytelling Week because of the addition of our new reading bears - they have to read the bears a book. We are now excited for World Book Day 2024, coming soon (look for details in an upcoming newsletter)!



The school value for next half-term is **Honesty**

Why is it sometimes hard to be HONEST? Why is it important to be an HONEST person?

