



**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023**

## **Headteachers report of the week.**

Christmas is always a time for reflection because it marks a point in the year where we often think “how have we got here again so quickly?” and this is no different for me as I look back on this year at Woodlands, and what a year it has been! Over half the pupils we have now weren’t with us when we started 2023, but it feels like we have known them forever. We have also welcomed so many new staff I’ve actually lost count!

I spent some time with our youngest pupils last week talking to them about the history of our school. In the early 1940s Woodlands, then known as Trench Hall, was a residential school for Jewish refugee children, escaping the horrors of the Holocaust. It was a place of safety, where children were nurtured and cared for and given an education that they would not have received had they not left their homes. I am always really proud of the history of Woodlands and hope that our school is a safe place for our children.

One little boy, Martin, died during his time here and is buried in the church yard in Wem. Every year we take a wreath at Christmas to put on his grave to show that we haven’t forgotten about him. This year Alex, Tommy and Oscar from Acorns 2 went to do this very important job and held a minute’s silence to remember him quietly. It feels especially important to remember this little refugee at a time when the Christmas Story tells us of baby Jesus escaping from harm as a refugee himself. I am really glad that Tommy and Alex got to represent us doing this important job for Martin. Well done boys.

I hope you all have a peaceful and safe Christmas and that 2024 is a wonderful year for all of our Woodlands Family.

**Best Wishes Jules**



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Three lower school students represented the school by visiting the grave of Martin Ernst Solmitz, one of the Jewish refugee children from Germany. He travelled to Shropshire by Kindertransport between 1934-1946. Unfortunately, at aged 13 he died at the then called Trench Hall.

Students placed a wreath and held a one-minute silence as sign of respect.

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# Careers Day

Students took part in careers day - the day offered students an insight into various careers to help students make informed decisions about their future. The day offered students the chance to experience a career that may be of interest and give them an honest insight into the field they may be interested in so they can commit to it, or students can investigate alternate careers. Either way offering some valuable information to them to help them make the right career choices. The day was informative, fun and educational. Students glimpsed into the realities of a career, they were able to talk with confidence and learned new skills. Students had the opportunity to learn about being self-employed and running their own business, also students picked up valuable skills for their future career in CV writing and Leo gained work experience being a presenter's assistant! Students fully embraced the Animal Mans experience and got hands on with the animals and immersed themselves in the role.

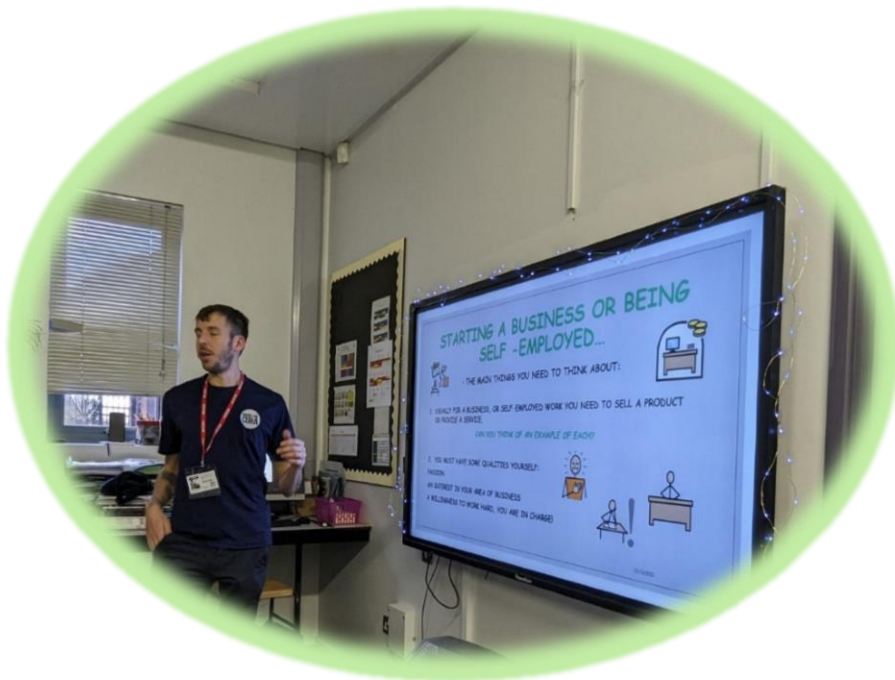






# Being Self-Employed

## Catering





CVs

Harrison used his skills to make some lovely gingerbread and sat beautifully concentrating hard while he decorated them with precision. Once all the hard work was done the best part was enjoying tasting his efforts.





Staff and students received their plaque this week for their Gold Award for the Green Tree School from the Woodland Trust.



This is to certify that the pupils of

**Woodlands School**

have achieved the

**Gold Award**

on the Woodland Trust's  
Green Tree Schools Award

**Darren Moorcroft**  
Chief Executive



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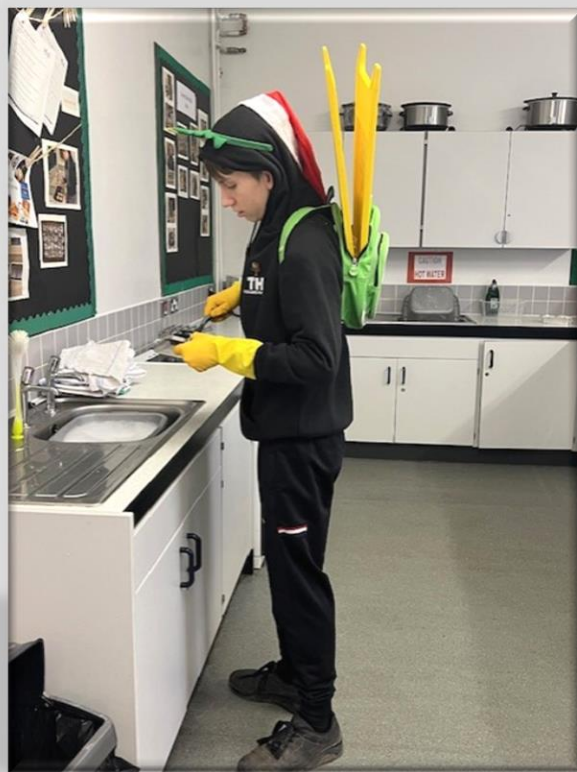
# End of Term Awards And the Awards Went to

English - Alex, Romeo, Lars  
Forest School - Ollie  
Art and Design - Destiny, Ollie, Millie  
Humanities - Willow  
PSHE - Caleb  
RE Luke  
Food and Nutrition - Jodie  
Maths - Taylor, Tyler, Willow, Luke  
Science - Kieran, Romeo, Luke  
Motor Vehicle - Aaron  
Construction - Harvey  
I media - Brandon  
PE - Arran, Ollie, Brandon  
Teaching Assistant Award - Corey





**Move over Gordon  
Ramsey, Presenting  
the  
Woodlanders and  
their Cafe**



**With all  
this  
cooking, we  
needed a  
good clean,  
who better  
than our  
very own  
super  
cleaner  
Tyler!**



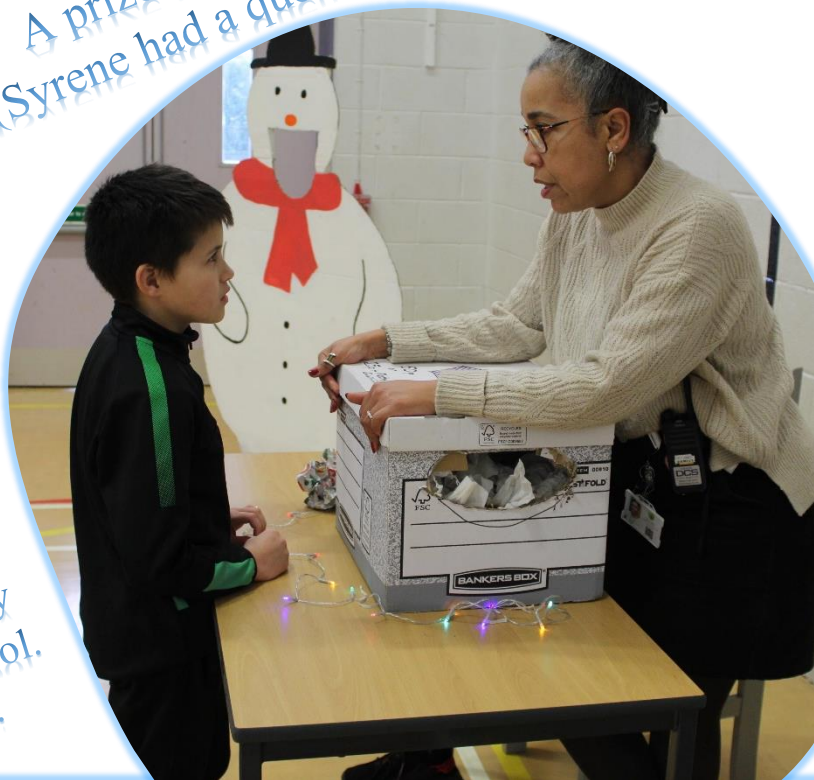
Carol Singing  
with Lydia and  
Matt



I wish my son  
had found this  
school sooner,  
he's so happy!



A prize for 2 maths questions!  
(Syrene had a queue!! And sold out)



Some beautiful handmade  
gifts from Beryl who kindly  
donated her money to School.  
Thank you from us All!







Pin the nose on Rudolph



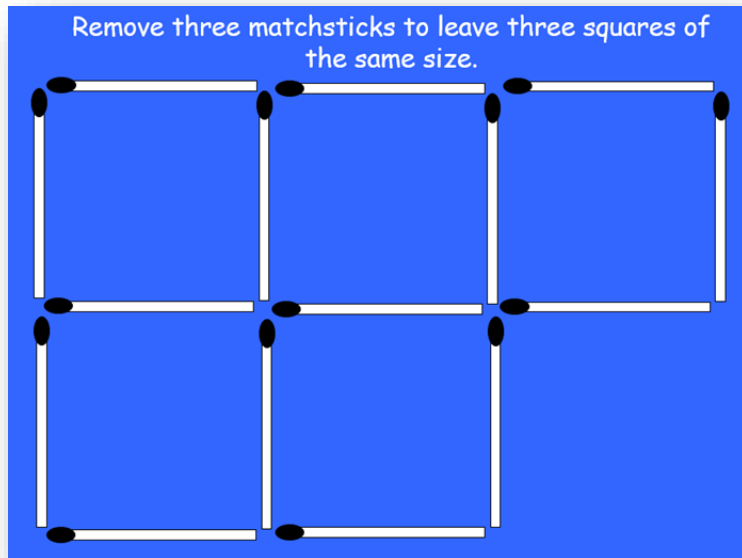
SPLAT!

Thank you to all  
the Woodlands  
Community for  
helping the  
Bazaar be such  
a success!



This week students were creative and used their art and literacy skills to make beautiful Christmas cards.

# Problem Solving. Thinking Outside the Box!



**Having trouble with Maths Problem Solving?**

**Ollie is here to show you how it's done.**

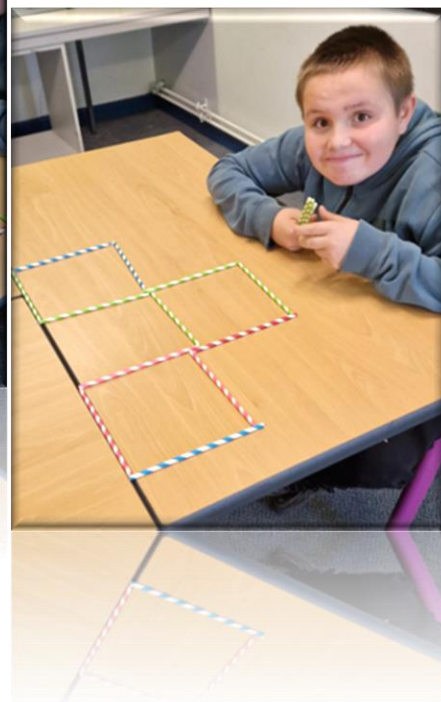
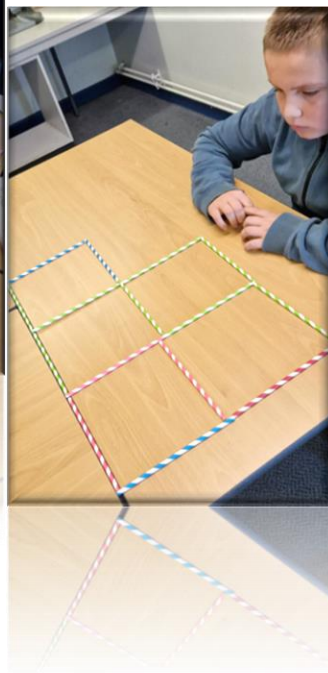
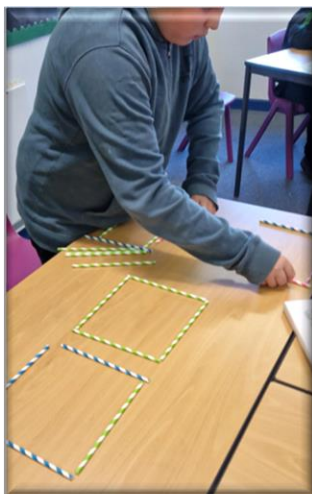
1<sup>st</sup> [Understand the problem](#)

2<sup>nd</sup> [Devise a plan](#)

3<sup>rd</sup> [Carry out the plan](#)

4<sup>th</sup> [Look back and reflect](#)

5<sup>th</sup> [Practice makes progress](#)





# **FRIENDS OF WOODLANDS SCHOOL**



## **Being involved makes a difference!**

**Here at Woodlands, we would love Parents to become part of our community.**

### **Interested in joining us? When and where do we meet?**

Being part of the Woodlands Family is not a huge commitment and it is very rewarding as well as a great way to meet other parents and have fun being involved in our fundraising events.

We aim to meet once a half-term, during the day at different locations so meetings are accessible to all members. We would welcome all new members to our friendly team. You may only wish to be involved with one event throughout the year or just come along to find out what is coming up. We welcome any ideas you may have for fundraising events or activities and suggestions on ways to spend money raised. Attending meetings isn't compulsory; you may wish to be a 'friend of the friends.' If you are interested in joining, please contact us with your name and contact details and we will keep you up to date on upcoming events by email or phone.

### **How to contact us**

We can be contacted via email at [rachel.bates@wdl.mmat.co.uk](mailto:rachel.bates@wdl.mmat.co.uk) Alternatively, if you prefer contact by telephone, please ring the school office and we will get in touch promptly.

**Thank you for your time!**

**Jo Wildman and Rachel Bates**

# This Week at WOODLANDS



- Aaron has had a fantastic week! Andy had an amazing apprentice alongside him with some great woodwork skills. Well done, Aaron!
- Great to see Morgan at Forest School, really positive afternoon. – Great work Morgan!



- Millie has been very supportive with Arran who is now in her taxi – helping with his seatbelt etc – Superstar Millie
- Well done Scott for getting a GOLD Token from Jules for supporting Alex in food tech – Great Job!
- Tyler and Ewan had a brilliant competitive maths lesson and learned so much more.
- Year 7's had a lovely time at breakfast this week

**THE BEST PART OF  
COMPETITION IS THAT  
THROUGH IT WE DISCOVER  
WHAT WE ARE CAPABLE  
OF - AND HOW MUCH MORE  
WE CAN ACTUALLY DO THAN  
WE EVER BELIEVED POSSIBLE**



- Destiny performed Matilda this week and was absolutely amazing!! Superstar Destiny! Well Done! A big shout out to Lydia for the rehearsals and support to Destiny.
- This week Willow and Jodie conquered their fears and held a tarantula.
- Ewan's knowledge and engagement with animals was awe inspiring.
- Students asked some very intelligent questions to Greg who visited on Careers Day to give some catering sessions, he was very impressed.
- Brandon told us "He's not ready to leave school and I don't ever want to leave here." – Staff are so pleased you feel safe and secure and we are here to support you in your journey to adulthood.



### **Students with 100% Attendance last week**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Registration form(s)</b>
Taylor	Acorns 1
Kiean	Acorns 1
Destiny	Acorns 1
Alexander	Acorns 2
Millie	Oaks 1
Scott	Oaks 1
Luke	Oaks 2
Brandon	Oaks 2
Caleb	Oaks 2
Corey	Oaks 2
Jack-Junior	Oaks 3
Aaron	Oaks 3
McKenzie	Saplings 1
Riley	Saplings 1
Leo	Saplings 1
Tyler	Saplings 1
Tyler	Saplings 2
Willow	Saplings 3
Ollie	Saplings 3
Robert	Wave 4

## **Challenge of the Week**

For Parents/Carers, Students and Staff the challenge this week for anyone willing to give it a try is to

## **Learn a life skill**



## **Headteacher Awards**

- **Oaks: - Corey for being the most amazing TA**
- **Oaks: - Aaron for making great decisions, being a great role-model and helping Andy and Brian with maintenance tasks.**
- **Acorns: - Destiny for her skill and concentration decorating Gingerbread.**
- **Saplings: - Ewan for his focus and high quality of work in Food Tech.**

# Mental Health / Wellbeing

## The STOPP Technique



Right now, what do you need to help you find a sense of calm?

**STOP**

Pause for a moment.  
Do not react immediately.

**TAKE A  
BREATH**

Breathe slowly in through the nose, then breathe out through the mouth.

**OBSERVE**

- What thoughts are going through your mind?
- What are you reacting to?
- What sensations do you notice in your body?

**PULL  
BACK**  
•  
**GET SOME  
PERSPECTIVE**

- What's the bigger picture?
- Think: What advice would I give to a friend, or would they give to me?
- Is this thought, fact or an opinion?
- How important is this?
- How important will it be in 6 months' time?

**PRACTICE  
WHAT WORKS**  
•  
**PROCEED**

- What is the best thing to do right now?
- What is the most helpful thing for me, for others, for the situation?
- Where can I focus my attention right now?
- Do what will be effective and appropriate.

**You are not alone:**