

THE WOODLANDS FAMILY NEWSLETTER



Autumn 1, 2025

Welcome Back To Woodlands!

It's been a joy to welcome our students back after the summer break—and a special warm welcome to all our new pupils and families joining us this term. We're so pleased to have you with us and hope you'll feel happy and supported as part of our school community.

This term's newsletter is packed with useful updates, reminders, and ways you can stay involved in your child's learning journey. We encourage you to take a few moments to read through it and stay informed.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child, please don't hesitate to contact their class teacher via email. For advice or support with family matters, our Family Team is here to help—just call 01582 572 880 and select option 2.

Here's to a fantastic term ahead!



This term...

We've got a full and exciting term ahead, involving a range of important activities, including student vaccinations, coffee mornings for parents and carers, and transition planning for our older students.

To stay informed, please keep an eye on your ParentMail notifications—this is the best way to receive timely updates and details about upcoming events.

Your engagement helps us ensure everything runs smoothly and that your child receives the best possible care and support. Don't forget to check the back of this newsletter for key dates and our full term calendar. We look forward to seeing many of you at our events!



Meet the team!



Each term, we're excited to introduce a different team within our school, helping you get to know the wonderful staff who support your child's journey—both in and out of the classroom. It's a chance to understand who does what, and to put faces to the names you may have already heard or spoken to. Last term, we introduced you to our fantastic Family Team. This term, we're shining a light on our amazing Nursing Team!

A Warm Welcome from the Nursing Team

Hello from the Nursing Team at Woodlands! We're excited to introduce ourselves to all our families. While we're part of a wider community team of 11 nurses, you'll most often see Shanaz, Shazia, and Kayleigh here on site. Our office is located near reception, and we're always happy to help. Throughout the school day, class staff can reach out to us with any medical concerns about students. We support with a range of health-related needs including health assessments, medication management, growth monitoring, and creating individual health plans.

We may contact you if there's important health information to share about your child, and of course, you're welcome to call us anytime if you have questions or updates. We're here to work together to keep your child safe, healthy, and thriving at school.

We're proud to have
such a skilled
and caring team
on board!



PARENT POWER!

This term, let's get talking about Annual Reviews....

Understanding Your Child's EHCP Annual Review

As a parent or carer of a Woodlands student, you'll already be familiar with your child's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The annual review is the statutory process of looking at the needs, provision and outcomes specified in an EHCP plan, and deciding whether these need to change. Your local authority (LA) must complete the first review of your child's EHC plan within 12 months of the EHC plan being finalised. Subsequent reviews must be completed within 12 months of the previous review.

The following steps must take place in an annual review:

- A parental contribution sheet will be sent to you along with your child's EHCP paperwork, so that your views, wishes and feelings can be taken in to account. But many parents chose to contribute verbally in the meeting instead.**

An annual review meeting must take place to discuss the EHC plan.

- After the meeting, Woodlands will update any paperwork with any agreed amendments.**
 - After the meeting the LA reviews the EHC plan.**
 - The LA will notify you of its decision / any changes within four weeks of the meeting.**
- All of these steps – not just the meeting – must be followed in order for an annual review to be completed.**

Your Child's Annual Review – A Special Invitation

We'll be sending you an invitation for your child's annual review—and we'd love for you to join us. These meetings are a wonderful opportunity to sit down with your child's teacher and celebrate all the progress they've made this year. This is a chance for us to hear your views and what you feel is important for your child, and an opportunity for you to make requests for additional support.

It's a dedicated hour where we come together to share insights, discuss any concerns, and explore ways we can continue to support your child's learning and wellbeing. You'll also have the chance to meet other professionals who may be involved in your child's journey, such as the transitions team.

Most importantly, it's a personal and uplifting moment to hear stories from the classroom, see your child through their teacher's eyes, and feel proud of everything they've achieved.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Want to Learn More About Annual Reviews? These two trusted sources offer clear, parent-friendly guidance:

- IPSEA: www.ipsea.org.uk/the-annual-review-process**
 - SENDIAS Luton: www.sendiasluton.co.uk/useful-information/annual-reviews/**
- We encourage all families to take a look. The more informed you are, the more empowered you'll feel to support your child's journey.**



Our EHCP Support Team includes:
Nicole Tulloch - Assistant Headteacher (SENCo and Assessment) - Oversees the EHCP process and ensures provision is tailored to each child's needs.

Fabeha Alam - EHCP Administrator - Manages documentation and scheduling to keep the process smooth and timely.



They can be contacted by phoning the school on 01582 572 880.



Half Term

With the October half term fast approaching (Week beginning October 27th), we have been on the hunt for some activities in the local area...

- **Monday 27th October at 10.30am - The Hat Factory Arts Centre** are screening **The Addams Family 2!** Tickets are £4 each, or 4 tickets for £12.
- **Wednesday 29th October, 10am to 4pm - Step Forward Luton** have organised a free **Pumpkin Patch** in **Hat Gardens!** This event includes activities such as face painting, arts and crafts, mini wheelbarrows and a photo spot, and whilst supplies last, each child can take a free pumpkin home!
- **Thursday 30th October at 11am to 12pm - Autism Bedfordshire** are holding a 'Parkour Session' for 10 to 17 year olds (siblings welcome) at **Spiral Freerun** at the **Harpur Centre** in **Bedford**. Tickets are £6 per child.
To book, email enquiries@autismbeds.org or call 01234 214871
- **Friday 31st October, shows at 2pm and 3pm - Luton Council** will be hosting **Spooky Storytelling** on the steps! Another free event in **Hat Gardens**, where your children can dance along and play mischievous games with the black cat puppet! Those who attend in fancy dress will receive a small treat!
- **Friday 31st October at 11.15, 12.30, 2pm and 3.15 - Stockwood Discovery Centre** are calling all witches, vampires and ghouls to join in with some eerie arts, ghostly art and a terrifying trail! Tickets are £4 each.
- **Saturday 1st November from 2pm onwards - Houghton Regis Town Council** will be lighting up the skies with their annual **Fireworks** event at **Thorn Park!** Entry is free, and the entertainment including a **Tom Jones Tribute** begins at 5.30pm. There is limited **Blue Badge** parking available.
- **Whipsnade and London Zoo** are offering tickets for as little as £3 per person for families in receipt of **Universal Credit** and other qualifying benefits listed on their website. Tickets must be booked in advance, online only. www.whipsnadezoo.org
- **GoBowling** in **Dunstable** usually offer fantastic discounts over the half term holidays. Keep an eye on their **Facebook** page or website for details. gobowlingnow.co.uk

Symphony of the Senses: Colour/Music installation

Featuring Woodlands Students!

SEND friendly

18 Oct 2025 - 19 Oct 2025

1pm - 4pm

Free (drop in)

Suitable for all ages

Location

Hat Factory Arts Centre

65 - 67 Bute Street

Luton

LU1 2EY

Drop in to our unique Colour/Music Sensory Installation in the Hat Factory Art Centre Studio space and create your own world of colour and music through movement.

Large fabric "sails" fill the space and reflect and mix colours and light that you, the public, create yourselves. Our resident composer, David Stevens, will be in the Space to show you how to create whole orchestras of sound with just the movement of your hands, feet - or literally any part of your body - moving over special laser movement sensors. Sound-paintings can also be played by moving your hands over the surface and you can "paint" rainbows of colour around the space.

There will be a special performance by local students from **Woodlands Secondary School of their own "Symphony of the Senses" ahead of public access. Students will have learnt new techniques of music and visual art to create a sensory performance. Then the installation stays open until 4pm for you to explore.**

**To find out more about Colour/Music events by Eye Music Trust go to
eyemusic.org.uk**

Part of the Eye Music, Arts Council-funded Tour

Dates for your diary...

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- **Macmillan Coffee Morning** - Friday 3rd October 2025, 9.30 - 11am
 - **Open evening and Transitions Fair** - Monday 6th October 2025 4 - 6.30pm
 - **Year 9 vaccinations** - Friday 10th October 2025,
 - **Flu vaccinations for PMLD, KS3 and KS4 students** - Tuesday 14th October 2025,
 - **Flu vaccinations for WISERR, Base and LOFT students** - Tuesday 21st October 2025,
 - **HALF TERM** - Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October
 - **Students return to school** - Monday 3rd November 2025
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Please have a look at our website for a full copy of this year's term dates
www.woodlands.luton.sch.uk

Please note, parents are required to attend vaccination appointments - without parents present we will not be able to proceed with the vaccination.

We hope you have a fantastic year with us at Woodlands!

