



## Woolpit Primary Academy

NURTURE • RESILIENCE • INSPIRATION • RESPECT

We have been consistently working hard at embedding our school values. Here are some of the examples of the things we have been doing to demonstrate them:

### **NURTURE:**

Nurture has been a big focus for us in school and for all in our community over this half term. It has been so lovely to hear the KS1/Reception bubble eat lunch together and share their compliments for each other during their lunchtimes when they eat together. The children and staff have cared for each others' wellbeing and the pastoral team and teachers have been busy checking and focussing on our children's mental health.

### **RESILIENCE:**

I think all of us in the school community have had to dig deep at times for the resilience that we need to get through some tough days in the situation we all find ourselves in. Having such support from parents and those in our wider community has kept us all going. The children have been the most resilient ones of all; dealing with so many changes and, in many respects, being away from many of their peers. We are very proud of them all.

### **INSPIRATION:**

Our Twitter feed has been inundated with inspirational learning that the children are handing in everyday. I have loved seeing how children have adapted and shown creative ways of completing the work they have been set. I have also been inspired with the amount of support we have received and how the school community always pulls together. Children have been enjoying their English and been really inspired with the texts that they have been focussing on, asking valuable questions and challenging ideas.

### **RESPECT:**

Respect has been shown in every aspect of the school community. Children learning online and having to adjust but still respecting each other. Having to respect other cultures and faiths in texts and lessons that they have been learning about has also shown through.

### Dates for your diary

**Half Term Week 15th-19th February**

**22nd February– 1st day of remote learning**

**Easter Holidays**

**Monday 29th March– Friday 9th April**

**12th April– Term begins**

The PATHS® Programme for Schools (UK Version)  
with Woolpit Primary Academy  
Invite you to attend a Virtual Parent  
Information Session – Key Stage 1  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021  
12.30 pm – 1.30 pm

To register your interest please  
forward your name and email  
address to  
admin@woolpitprimary.net by  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February.  
\*Please note this will event will take  
place via Zoom.

Believe in  
children  
Barnardo's

**PATHS™**  
The PATHS™ Programme for Schools (UK Version)  
Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies

The PATHS® Programme for Schools (UK Version)  
with Woolpit Primary Academy  
Invite you to attend a Virtual Parent  
Information Session – Key Stage 2  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021  
3.30 pm – 4.30 pm

To register your interest please  
forward your name and email  
address to  
admin@woolpitprimary.net by  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February.  
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place via Zoom.

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### Hedgehog Class

Hedgehog class have been working so hard this half term. We have been helping Cat in our Power of Reading lessons. George the dog has been chasing him and he asked the childrens advice on how to stop him.

In Maths we have been investigating capacity, height and measuring, we have seen lots of great 'hands on' learning.

In some of the live phonics lessons the children kept telling Mrs McGhee a wizard kept coming to see them but Mrs McGhee never saw him so it mustn't have been true!

It was a great turn out for Friday's dress up day, we had Batman, two Elsa's, a muscle man, a princess with flowing pink hair, an ice hockey player and a cowgirl!

Well done for a great week of learning!

### KS1 Key Worker

The Children in key stage one and Reception key worker group have been enjoying eating together and sharing things they have done that day and there worries. They have also enjoyed learning and practising good manners and showing each other respect. Each day we go around the table giving the person next to them a compliment.

Eating together is an important part of children growing up. It creates a feeling of warmth and belonging, where children feel relaxed to talk and support their social skills. They are learning to wait, to share, how to use cutlery, appropriate table manners as an example. Eating together also supports their communication skills. It engages the children in conversation with adults and their peers, to help with eye contact, listening, waiting and showing interest. There is so much you can learn from eating together .



### Otter Class

In Otter Class this half-term, we have been learning all about Africa!

In English, we have been reading Lila and the Secret of the Rain. We have practised using time adverbials, descriptive noun phrases and commas in lists. We have also been writing poems about the rain and have re-written the story in our own words.

In Maths, the Year 2 children have been working hard at practising their addition and subtraction skills, while the Year 1 children have been consolidating their place value knowledge of numbers to 50.

We have been learning about the continent of Africa and where it is in relation to the other continents of the world. We have made comparisons between life in Woolpit with life in a Kenyan village and explored the human and physical features of Africa.

We have also been thinking about the weather and seasonal changes. We have considered what we wear in different types of weather and have been recording the wind direction, temperature and rainfall to help us create our own weather reports.

We have created some amazing art work over the last six weeks. We have been inspired by the African sunsets across the savannah, the artwork created by the Ndebele Nation and the Tingatinga paintings from Tanzania.

### Badger Class

Badger Class have been amazing online and home learners this half term. They have shown great resilience and are working really hard. We have been keeping our bodies fit doing yoga, dance and Hiit training. In Science, we have been investigating plants, what they need to grow and their life cycles and we have produced some brilliant labelled diagrams. We have also created some fabulous jungle scenes in art to go along with our descriptive writing in English based on our class story 'The Tin Forest'. During 'Childrens' mental health week' we pressed pause on online learning and had a break from our screens to do some things with our families that we enjoy. It was also great to see everyone 'Dressing to express' in our online lesson on Friday and enjoying some fresh air with their families too. It has been a pleasure to teach Badger class this half term and hope to be back in class soon.

### Owl Class

Our online learning this half term had been based around our text called 'The Dam' telling the story of the construction of Kielder Water in Northumberland. The children have created poetry and a non-chronological report. We have been learning about dams around the work in our geography work as well as developing our mapping skills. All the children in Owls are now experts at creating spreadsheets and formulas for displaying data. Our art work has had a nature theme, also linked to our text and the illustrations by Levi Pinfold. Owls have constantly amazed me with their dedication to their work and their smiling faces have brought joy to me during our online lessons.

### Robin Class

What a half term! Robins have been super brilliant at welcoming me to Woolpit with lots of smiles and hard-working attitudes.

During our live lessons we have been working on our English text 'The Journey' by Francesca Sanna. It's a beautiful picture book, whose characters are forced to leave their home due to war and destruction. The text has invited the children to think about refugees and the importance of family. They have all created thoughtful pieces of work including persuasive letters, poetry and short narratives titled 'Terrible Tales from the Sea'. Our Geography and History work this half term has also been linked to our text, we've thought about migration, refugees, the countries in Europe and how human events can have positive and negative impacts on people's lives e.g. the war in Syria. Our art has been linked to the sea, looking at many great pieces of art with images of oceans and one in particular 'The Great Wave at Kanagawa' by Katsushika Hokusai.

And we've enjoyed using the snow within our topic of states of matter in science and changing the state, however, is snow a solid? It behaves like a liquid, what do you think?

### KS2 Key Worker

KS2 key worker classes have been working extremely hard in school. They have been completing all their lessons just like everyone at home. They have really enjoyed being able to see their friends at home on the live lesson, so please keep joining. In the afternoons all three classes come together to complete a variety of lessons and have created some amazing things. During some art and craft lessons they have made moving paper fish, pop up rainbow cards, paper hugs, and paper weaving too. In cooking they have made sausage rolls and banana and chocolate chip muffins, in PE they have enjoyed bench ball games and circuit challenges and finally in PSHE they have had some great discussions about emotions and friendships. It has been great to see all the different aged children interacting with each other during these lessons and also having some great fun together during play times

# Other News

After half term, online learning provision will continue as it has been this half term. We will await news from Boris Johnson on how and when this will change over the coming weeks and we endeavour to ensure there are smooth transitions when the time eventually comes.

New Governors.

We have welcomed onto our governing body as parent governors Hannah Alderton and Gemma Warnekey.

## Staffing updates:

Over the last few weeks, we have been advertising for a Deputy Headteacher position. I am pleased to announce that Mrs Brotherton will take the post of Acting Deputy Headteacher until September 2021. Mrs Brotherton has been such an amazing addition to the team and supported in much of the school development across the school over this academic year.

Mrs Valera will be continuing in Badgers class until the end of the academic year for 3 days a week when the children return to school and will stay full time while we are home learning. Once the children come back to school we will have made arrangements for the other 2 days a week and I will let you know these details.

On a very Sad note, Mrs Holland will be leaving Woolpit Primary on Friday the 27th February. Mrs Holland has made this very tough decision for the benefit of being with her family more of the time. This has been a tough decision for her to make and I know I speak on behalf of all of the school community when I say she will be sadly missed.

We also say goodbye to Mrs McGhee today. She has been such an amazing asset to our school over this half term and will also be very sad to say goodbye. She has put her heart and soul into Hedgehogs in her time with us and we can't thank her enough.

Over the half term break, the school will undergo the huge project of having the windows and doors replaced throughout the majority of the school. It is likely that the project will not be completely finished by the time half term ends but there should be very little disruption to the children.

The nurture room will also be painted and updated, which will be a lovely renovation for us.

Lastly, I would like to say a huge thank you to all of our children and parents. You have all done an amazing job with home schooling. As most of us are parents too, we completely understand the struggle that is 'home learning' and have been overwhelmed with what the children have done. Parents you have been great!!!!

The parents survey is still out for you to complete and the results so far have been astonishingly positive. Thank you so much. Now, have a brilliant rest.