OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Headteacher Message

What a wonderful first half term of the school year! The children have settled beautifully into their new classes and routines. We are so proud of how kind, calm and confident our pupils have become over this first half term.

Our Harvest celebration was a real highlight. It was wonderful to welcome so many family members into our school to celebrate with the children. The children in Years 1 and 2 showed kindness by visiting First Friends and Marlfield to sing and distributed the food donations to our friends at Gilmour Gardens. We will be visiting again on 17th December and would be very appreciative of offers of help from willing volunteers. Kindness and generosity was also shown in the fabulous donations provided - following the theme of 'Sharing'.

Our Open Days for Year R 2027 have been well attended and a wonderful opportunity to reflect on what makes our school great. We are incredibly proud that feedback states:

- our school has a warm, welcoming feel - like one big family
- the staff know all of the children individually
- each child is recognised, valued and feel like they belong
- staff have a wealth of experience and are a united team
- the classrooms are big, bright and airy
- the school is spacious - with great outdoor areas
- having nursery, infant and junior provision on one site enables us to work collaboratively. This brings familiarity of the environment and staff to facilitate a smooth transition

We hope you all enjoy a well-deserved break and look forward to another fun-filled and busy half term ahead!

Mrs McKee

Birthday Sweets and Treats

From September 2026, new statutory guidance known as Benedict's Law strengthens the requirements for allergy safety in schools across England. Following the tragic death of five-year-old Benedict Blythe, the guidance aims to ensure that children with allergies are kept safe. At Wootey Infant School, we are committed to following these requirements and working closely with families to ensure that children's medical needs are understood and managed safely. Please inform the school office of any changes to your child's allergies or medical needs, and ensure that any prescribed emergency medication and healthcare plans are kept up to date.

To help us keep everyone safe in line with Benedict's Law and our allergy safety procedures, we ask parents not to bring sweets, chocolates, cakes or other food treats into school to share with friends on their birthday. Even small amounts of an allergen can trigger a serious reaction in some children, and we need to ensure that all pupils can enjoy school safely and inclusively. We know that many children love celebrating their birthdays with their friends at school and to mark their special day, we would encourage a 'non-uniform day' for each child on their birthday, if they wish to, instead of bringing sweet treats to share. Thank you for your understanding and support in keeping all our Wootey children safe.

Pupil Council Update

Our new Pupil Councillors have been voted in! They are taking their role very seriously and have been wearing their badge with pride. They monitor walking in the corridors at Assembly time and at lunchtime; they sit on a bench in Assembly to share positives from what they've seen throughout the week and they attend weekly meetings. They have shared at our meetings what is going well in our school, what needs to improve and what they love about life at Wooteys.



Curriculum Update - Maths

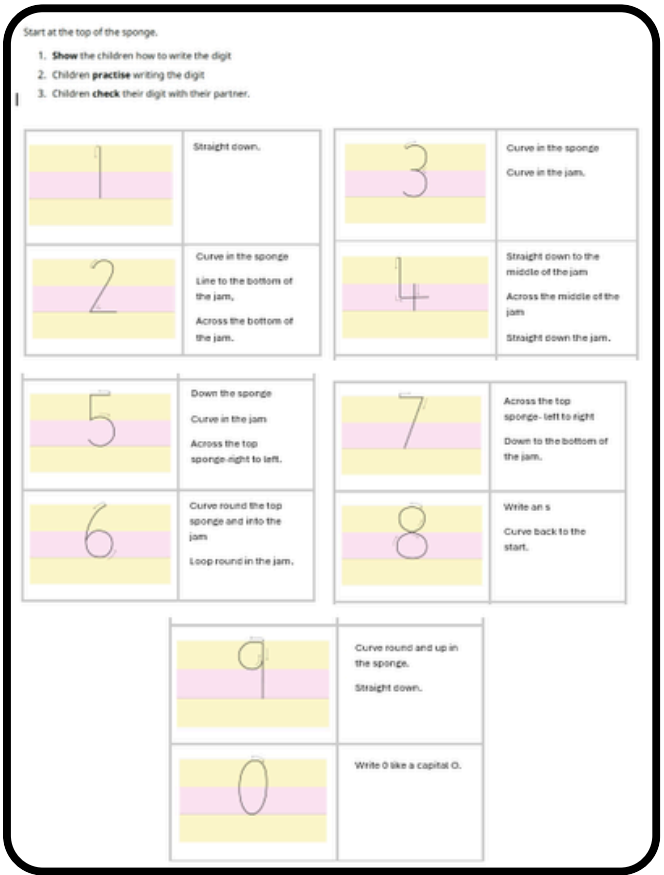
Making maths meaningful, enjoyable and part of everyday life

“School teaches the skill. Home builds the confidence. Together, we develop mathematical fluency!”

- Maths is everywhere: Everyday routines provide opportunities to count, compare, measure and solve problems.
- Little and often: Short, enjoyable activities help children revisit and strengthen their mathematical understanding.
- Understanding comes first: Help children understand what numbers represent, rather than simply memorising number sequences.
- Fluency builds confidence: Regular practice helps children recall important number facts and use them more efficiently.
- Talk maths together: Asking children to explain their thinking develops mathematical language and reasoning.
- Mistakes help us learn: Encourage children to have a go, try another strategy and persevere.
- Make it fun: Games, songs, puzzles and practical activities help children develop positive attitudes towards maths.

Together, we can make maths matter!

Mrs Barton



Curriculum Update - Art

Artistic Adventures at Wootey Infant School!

Our young artists have loved making full use of our wonderful new art room! This term, they have looked in mirrors to create detailed self-portraits and also been discovering the magic of the three primary colours and finding out what happens when we mix them together. To stretch their learning even further, the children created different hues, matching them to treasures found outside in nature! We made our own clay creations, learning where clay comes from and got our hands messy shaping Diwali Diya pinch pots! Finally, we have celebrated the art by exhibiting some pieces in the Alton Art Society exhibition and competition. The children have shared with us how much they have enjoyed having dedicated weekly art learning, saying, “This learning is so much fun.”

Mrs Hodge





Curriculum Update - Computing

In Computing this term the Year R children have started exploring technology at school and have very much enjoyed mark-making and drawing on our Interactive Whiteboards. In Year 1 the children have started to explore the 'Paint' app on the laptops, exploring how the tools and effects can be used to create artwork. In Year 2 the children are beginning to learn what is information technology and how it is used in our school and the wider world.

All children have also begun 'Digital Citizenship' sessions to support their understanding of E-Safety. Please help us to reinforce this message at home through ensuring a healthy balance of screen time amongst other appropriate activities such as reading and playing.

Miss Collins

We love to read...

At Wooteys, we feel strongly that 'every child leaves our school being able to read'. We work hard to develop the skill of Reading through our 'Read, Write Inc' lessons. Thank you to the parents who took the time to look at the Phonic offer in the hall during Parents evenings. If you were unable to speak with Mrs McKee or Mrs Barton and would like to know more about how to support your child in Phonics, please do catch us at the gate and we will arrange a further time to talk. We will provide this opportunity during next term's Parents Evenings too, but please feel free to speak with us beforehand if needed, as your child will benefit from knowing that both school and home are working together to help them become the best readers!

Alongside the 'skill' of reading, is the 'will'. Ultimately, we want all children to have a love of books. Listening to your child read regularly, revisiting familiar books and sharing stories together helps reading become more enjoyable and automatic. The more children practise, the more confident and fluent they can become.
You don't need to be a reading expert to make a difference. Just a few minutes each day, lots of encouragement and a shared love of books can have a lasting impact.
Together, we can inspire a lifelong love of reading!

'Get Caught Reading' winners: If children choose to read in 'Discovery Time' in class, their name gets entered into the weekly 'Get Caught Reading' draw. Each winner gets to choose a book to keep, taking it home to share with their favourite person, in their favourite place to read.

Reading Stars: Each week we celebrate children who have shown resilience, confidence, perseverance and enthusiasm for reading. Ms Todd-Eeles gives half termly 'Reading Star' medals to celebrate these children and adds their names to a display in our Library. This half term we have celebrated: Skylar, Isabelle, Aria-Ann, Freya, Nikanor, Tiegan, Amber, Orchid, Asmira, Tobi-Thomas, Alana, George, Diya, Testimony, Vienna, Alya and Alex.

Reading Records: Over time, we have used a variety of ways to record what your child reads at home. Mrs Barton is very keen in hearing from parents about what would work best and is setting up a 'working party' to discuss this further. If you would like to join Mrs Barton in developing this, please let us know.

HALF TERM CHALLENGE: How many children will visit Alton Library [or whichever Library is local to you] over half term? This is a free resource to use and is something we would love all of our children to experience and make use of.

Let's celebrate...

Celebration Assembly: Every Friday, we celebrate children for the focus Core Value, Golden Rule or Silver Learning Code. They each receive a Headteacher Award sticker.

iRock stars: We are incredibly proud of our budding musicians who have taken part in iRock lessons this term. Through their enthusiasm, confidence and perseverance, they have developed new musical skills and experienced the excitement of performing as part of a band. It has been wonderful to watch their talent grow, and we look forward to their end of term concert in December.

Listen2Me music: This half term, all of our Y1 children and Y2 Penguins have taken part in the Listen2Me music lessons with Hampshire music specialist Veronica Tabbush. The focus has been upon Pitch [understanding that Pitch in music means how high or low a sound is], tempo [the speed of the music; if the music is very fast, the tempo is fast, if the music is very slow, the tempo is slow] and the names of the tuned percussion instruments.

Alton Library Summer Challenge: Congratulations to the children who completed the Reading Challenge and have brought in their certificates: Charlotte, Roslyn, Isabelle and Dougie.

We are always proud to celebrate our children's achievements beyond the classroom too, including our talented gymnasts, footballers, swimmers, Beavers, Rainbows and keen runners. Their enthusiasm, commitment and determination is wonderful to see, and we love hearing about their successes and activities outside of school.

A huge well done to everyone!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Every day in school counts!

GOLD	98%+	Outstanding Attendance	You are in school nearly every day.
SILVER	96-98%	Excellent Attendance	You attend school regularly.
BRONZE	Improving Attendance		You are making progress and getting better.
AMBER	90-95%	At Risk of Persistent Absence	Your attendance is a cause for concern.
RED	Below 90%	Persistent Absence	Your attendance is below the expected level.
SEVERELY ABSENT	Below 50%	Severely Absent	Your attendance is very low. This seriously affects your learning and progress.

Good attendance helps you learn, achieve and thrive!
Let's aim high – every day, every lesson, every opportunity.

Attendance

Attendance target: 96%

- 96% school attendance equates to approximately 9 days of absence over a school year
- This is often seen as missing about 2 weeks of school
- 'Late after the register is closed' is recorded as an absence for the morning session, so it is important to be in school for 8.55am, when the register is taken.

Attendance for this half term:
Whole school attendance: **96.2%** [target 96%+]



Year R attendance: **97.6%**
21 children have 100% attendance
26 children have outstanding attendance [98%+]
27 children have excellent attendance [96%+]

Year 1 attendance: **95.7%**
14 children have 100% attendance
19 children have outstanding attendance [98%+]
22 have excellent attendance [96%+]

Year 2 attendance: **95.4%**
18 children have 100% attendance
20 children have outstanding attendance [98%+]
25 have excellent attendance [96%+]

Good attendance is vital for children's learning, friendships and wellbeing, and these results show the positive impact of our partnership with parents and carers. Thank you for helping your child make the most of every school day. Together, we are ensuring our children have the best possible opportunity to learn, grow and succeed.

Safeguarding

Gas Leak: Thank you for your understanding and swift response when we needed to close the school early earlier this term. Fortunately, incidents such as this are rare, and the boiler was repaired very quickly.
While we hope never to need them, emergency evacuation procedures are essential, and it was incredibly reassuring to see how smoothly the process worked in a real-life situation. The children were safely evacuated to Wootey Junior School, along with the children from First Friends Nursery. Having three schools on one site proved to be a huge advantage and helped ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children.
We are extremely proud of how sensible and calm our children were throughout the emergency and are very grateful to Wootey Junior School for welcoming us and enabling us to use their hall.
Our sincere thanks also go to Mrs Mills, Mrs Davis and Mr Davies, who worked at speed to contact all parents while liaising with County contractors; the Caterlink team, who quickly relocated to another school and prepared lunches for our children at Wootey Junior at very short notice; Mrs Barton and Miss Collins, who coordinated with contractors and organised the safe handover of children to their families; and, finally, all school staff, who calmly supported and reassured the children both during the evacuation and while we were based at the juniors.
This experience highlighted the strength of our school community, and we are grateful for the cooperation, professionalism and support shown by everyone involved.

Anti-Bullying Week is a national event that helps children learn about kindness, respect and celebrating differences. Throughout the week, we will reinforce the importance of treating others with kindness and help children understand what to do if they are worried about themselves or a friend. Most importantly, we remind children that everyone has the right to feel safe, valued and included at school.
At Wootey Infant School, children are encouraged to talk to a trusted adult if they experience unkind behaviour. We have a trained Therapeutic Active Listening Assistant (TALA), dedicated staff in every classroom and a range of opportunities, including assemblies and pupil council meetings, where children can share their thoughts and concerns.

We encourage children to:

1. Say, “Stop, I don't like it.”
2. Tell a trusted adult.
3. Use the Worry Monster.

The week begins with Odd Socks Day on Monday 16th November, when children and staff are invited to wear odd socks to celebrate that we are all unique.



PAWS and Volunteers

PAWS [Parents at Wootey Schools] provide Wootey children with memorable extra-curricular activities while raising vital funds for the school. Please do offer to help, even for a little while, to ensure these activities can continue.

Your involvement, whether it is volunteering, attending events, or supporting fundraisers, plays an integral role in creating a nurturing and vibrant school environment. We appreciate your dedication and commitment to our shared goal of providing the best education for our children.

The [Alton] Lions Den

Earlier this term, Mrs McKee and Mrs Barton presented to the panel of Alton Lions as part of their Lions Den initiative, similar to Dragon's Den. Our pitch focused on raising funds for a new storytelling area in the playground, supporting our aim of fostering a love of reading and stories among our children.
We are delighted to share that, thanks to the generosity of Alton Lions, we have been awarded £750 towards this project. We look forward to developing the area very soon and creating an exciting new space for children to enjoy stories together.



Dates For Your Diary

OCTOBER
26th - 30th Half Term

NOVEMBER
2nd - INSET Day [school closed]
13th - Children in Need
16th - Odd Socks Day
16th - 20th Anti-Bullying week
17th - Childhood Anxiety 10.30am [see below]
18th - Emotion Regulation 3.30pm [see below]
20th - Introduction to Family Practitioners [more details to follow]
23rd - Flu Immunisations
24th - Additional needs coffee morning [see below]

DECEMBER
11th - Christmas Performance Dress Rehearsal (younger siblings welcome) 1.30pm
14th - Christmas jumpers may be worn this week if desired
14th - Christmas Performance (no younger siblings) 1.30pm
15th - Christmas Performance (no younger siblings) 1.30pm
16th - Christmas Lunch
16th – iRock Performance
17th – Listen2Me Performance - Puffins
18th – End of Term

Link to school website calendar here

We wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable half term break.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Learn
Create
Play
Enjoy!

Fun
Friends
New
Experiences!





Fun, creative and active activities every day!

Everyone Welcome!

3.15pm – 4.15pm

Every day!

£5.50 per session

Monday

Origami



Learn exciting paper-folding creations! Animals, flowers, bookmarks and more!

Tuesday

Dance, Circus & Ball Activities



Dance routines, juggling and circus skills. Fun ball games and challenges!

Wednesday

Singing



Favourite songs, musical games and performance fun!

Thursday

Art



Painting, drawing, craft activities and creative projects!

Friday

Cooking



Simple recipes, tasty treats and learn new kitchen skills!

Join us after school for an hour of fun, creativity, friendship and new experiences!

Places available – book through the school office.

Learn ★ Create ★ Play ★ Enjoy

wootey Infant School

100 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU'RE 7

This list belongs to: _____

1 OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



- [ ] 1. Jump in a puddle
- [ ] 2. Build a sandcastle
- [ ] 3. Fly a kite
- [ ] 4. Climb a tree
- [ ] 5. Roll down a grassy hill
- [ ] 6. Hunt for bugs
- [ ] 7. Watch a sunrise
- [ ] 11. Splash in a stream
- [ ] 12. Build a den outdoors
- [ ] 13. Walk barefoot on grass
- [ ] 14. Collect autumn leaves
- [ ] 15. Spot a rainbow
- [ ] 16. Make a nature walk
- [ ] 17. Feed ducks with an adult
- [ ] 18. Visit a farm
- [ ] 19. Plant a seed and watch it grow
- [ ] 20. Picnic in a park

2 STORIES & IMAGINATION



- [ ] 21. Visit a library
- [ ] 22. Choose a book independently
- [ ] 23. Listen to a bedtime story
- [ ] 24. Make up a story
- [ ] 25. Dress up as a favourite character
- [ ] 26. Put on a puppet show
- [ ] 27. Create a treasure map
- [ ] 28. Invent a magical creature
- [ ] 29. Build a fort with blankets
- [ ] 30. Share a favourite book with a friend

3 CREATIVITY



- [ ] 31. Paint a picture
- [ ] 32. Draw a self-portrait
- [ ] 33. Make a collage
- [ ] 34. Build something with recycled materials
- [ ] 35. Create a nature picture from leaves and sticks
- [ ] 36. Make playdough creations
- [ ] 37. Learn a simple song
- [ ] 38. Dance to your favourite music
- [ ] 39. Make a birthday card for someone
- [ ] 40. Create your own piece of jewellery

4 FOOD & COOKING



- [ ] 41. Bake cakes or biscuits
- [ ] 42. Make a sandwich
- [ ] 43. Help prepare a family meal
- [ ] 44. Grow vegetables or herbs
- [ ] 45. Try a new fruit
- [ ] 46. Pick fruit from a farm or garden
- [ ] 47. Help set the table
- [ ] 48. Make a healthy snack
- [ ] 49. Learn where food comes from
- [ ] 50. Enjoy a family picnic

5 FRIENDSHIP & KINDNESS



- [ ] 51. Help someone who needs it
- [ ] 52. Make a new friend
- [ ] 53. Share a toy
- [ ] 54. Say thank you
- [ ] 55. Write or draw a card for someone special
- [ ] 56. Help tidy up
- [ ] 57. Give someone a compliment
- [ ] 58. Make someone laugh
- [ ] 59. Take turns in a game
- [ ] 60. Help care for a younger child or pet

6 EXPLORING THE WORLD



- [ ] 61. Visit a museum
- [ ] 62. Ride on a train
- [ ] 63. Take a bus journey
- [ ] 64. Visit the seaside
- [ ] 65. Walk in a forest
- [ ] 66. Explore a castle or historic building
- [ ] 67. Look at a map
- [ ] 68. Learn about a different country
- [ ] 69. Help sort recycling
- [ ] 70. Visit a local market

7 GROWING UP SKILLS



- [ ] 71. Learn to zip up a coat
- [ ] 72. Put on your own shoes
- [ ] 73. Learn your home address
- [ ] 74. Learn a parent's phone number
- [ ] 75. Help make your bed
- [ ] 76. Pack a bag for a day out
- [ ] 77. Learn to use scissors safely
- [ ] 78. Water plants
- [ ] 99. Help sort recycling
- [ ] 100. Learn to cross the road safely with an adult

8 FUN CHALLENGES



- [ ] 81. Complete a jigsaw puzzle
- [ ] 82. Build the tallest tower you can
- [ ] 83. Learn to skip
- [ ] 84. Balance on a log
- [ ] 85. Throw and catch a ball
- [ ] 86. Ride a scooter or bicycle
- [ ] 87. Learn a simple magic trick
- [ ] 88. Complete a treasure hunt
- [ ] 89. Play hide-and-seek
- [ ] 90. Learn a new game

9 WONDERFUL MEMORIES



- [ ] 91. Have a teddy bears' picnic
- [ ] 92. Camp in the garden or living room
- [ ] 93. Watch the stars
- [ ] 94. Make a family photo album page
- [ ] 95. Celebrate a special occasion
- [ ] 96. Learn a family recipe
- [ ] 97. Spend a whole day playing outdoors
- [ ] 98. Create a memory box
- [ ] 100. Tell someone what makes you happy
  Do something that makes you feel proud

10 JUST FOR FUN!



EVERY DAY IS AN ADVENTURE!

BE CURIOUS • BE KIND • HAVE FUN • ENJOY BEING YOU!

Additional needs coffee morning



Everyone is welcome regardless of the support you need or where you are on your journey. We'd love for you to join us for a hot drink and a friendly chat.

This is a great opportunity for parents to spend some time together and enjoy an informal, relaxed atmosphere. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

10:00 -11:30 at **Alton Library. Vicarage Hill, Alton GU34 1HT.**

- **Tuesday 29th September**
- **Tuesday 24th November**
- **Tuesday 12th January**
- **Tuesday 2nd March**

Available to parents and carers of children who attend schools in and around the Alton area.

Please email Sarah (s.allen@butts.hants.sch.uk) for any additional information.

Sorry, unfortunately, no children or babies can attend.

Alton Cluster Family Support

NHS

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAMS

Childhood Anxiety

Does your child show signs of anxiety? Do you know what anxiety looks like in children and what might cause it?

The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) are a team of mental health specialists supporting children and young people through Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT).

If you would like to learn more about anxiety and how you can support your child, please join the MHST for our workshop on:

Tuesday 17th November 2026

Wootey Infant School

10:30 AM

Book your place here



NHS

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAMS

Emotion Regulation

The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) are a team of mental health specialists supporting children and young people through Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT).

This workshop aims to help parents to understand child emotion regulation and build practical skills to support their child during emotional challenges.

If you would like to learn more about emotion regulation and how you can support your child, please join the MHST for our workshop on:

Wednesday 18th November

Wootey Junior School

3:30pm start

Please let your organiser know if you are able to attend!



CHAWTON PARK SURGERY



YOUR SURGERY NEEDS YOU!

Did you know there is a Patient Participation Group (PPG) that represents patients at this surgery?

Would you be interested in being part of the group and helping to support the practice in developing and improving services for patients?

The PPG is made up of a small number of volunteers who meet 3–4 times a year with members of the surgery team to discuss practice developments and help ensure that patients' views are considered.

We are particularly keen to hear from patients under the age of 60, as we are currently under-represented in this age group. Having members from a range of ages helps ensure that the PPG reflects the practice population and supports NHS Patient Participation Group guidance on achieving fair and appropriate patient representation.

If you would like to be involved, or would like more information, please complete this form and return it to the surgery. This will then be passed on to the PPG Chairperson.

Please consider joining the Chawton Park PPG (for patients aged 18 and over) and get involved.

Name:	
Contact number:	
Email address:	
Meeting availability AM/PM	
Join the virtual PPG ONLY	

I consent for my details to be passed to the PPG Chairperson: [ ] (please tick)

Alternatively please email: hiowicb-hsi.ppg.chawtonparksurgery@nhs.net