

Woodlands Community Primary School



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

Chair of Governors:

Ms Claire Ager

Email:

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Headteacher:

Mrs J Bates

Deputy Headteacher

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Jo Howard

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Language Category:

English Speaking

Dear parent / carer, this is the Governors' Annual Report to Parents for the academic year 2023—2024. Parents and carers are entitled to meet with the school governors to discuss the contents of this report. We have not arranged a specific meeting date however if a number of parents wish to discuss the report, a meeting can be arranged.

If you have any queries about the report or would welcome a meeting, please contact Alexis Barker Jones, Chair of Governors by email at clerk.woodlandsprimary@torfaen.gov.uk or letter FAO Chair of Governors of Woodlands Community Primary School.



The Eco and STEM team, who made, designed the bodywork, and drove, not one, but two cars in the Greenpower race!

Message from the School Council



We are the School Council. We were nominated by our peers to represent our class in School Council meetings. School Council meetings with our classes and as a team are really important because we can share and discuss what is going well, and what needs to be improved to make Woodlands the best place it can be! We check our class action board weekly to keep up to date with actions we need to take in our school.

Our main aim is to be leaders, role models and the voice of our peers. We all take our roles very seriously and aim to be the best we can be to collaborate, listen, feedback and take action. Our voice counts!

From the Headteacher



I have great pleasure in being the Head Teacher of Woodlands and working with such a dedicated and successful team of professionals. All of the staff have the children's best interests at the heart of everything they do. We pride ourselves on the exciting, highly effective, caring learning environment that we provide for all our children.

Our aim is to ensure that we provide an education which enables all children to do the best they possibly can in primary school but also to prepare them for secondary school and the world of work. We recognise children as unique individuals with specific talents and needs and aim to provide rich and exciting experiences to promote an enduring love of learning and high levels of success for every child.

We believe that children will learn most effectively when school and home work together in partnership. We also believe that children should play a part by taking responsibility for their own learning, hence our mission statement:

'Learning to Thrive'

Many visitors to the school comment on the vibrant atmosphere, the caring ethos and the warm welcome they receive. We hope you and your child will be very happy here.

We operate an 'Open Door Policy'. If you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact me or you can make an appointment to visit the school for a guided tour to see for yourself the rich learning experiences we provide for the children.

Governors—Who Who?

Name of Governor	Type	Office Expires
Alexis Barker-Jones	Chair Parent	05/09/25
Claire Ager	Community	06/03/2027
Mr Roy Scourfield	Community	04/06/2027
Mrs Perminderjit Mudher	Community	07/03/2026
Mrs Jaci Bates - Head	Head	N/A
Lucy Williams	LA	18/07/2026
Cllr Steven Evans	LA	16/10/2026
Gareth Lloyd-Tolman	Minor	20/12/2026
Mrs Claire Gratton	Observer	02/03/2026
Jessica Pugh	Parent	13/02/2027
Anna Todd	Staff Rep	07/10/2026
Gemma Dickerson	Teacher Rep	28/02/2026

We currently have 2 vacancies for a Parent Governor and a vacancy for a LA Governor.

In addition to this report, our School Prospectus and date card have been published. A copy is available in the office for parents who have not already received one. There are no significant changes to our prospectus since last year that are not mentioned in this report.

No meeting was held under Section 94 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.



Coding using the new Lego Spike kits.



Our lovely school council reps will be selling raffle tickets all week for these wonderful prizes! All to raise money for Children In Need



Enjoying the great outdoors in the Forest School Area.

TRANSITION

We have good links with our cluster Secondary School, Cwmbran High. This year we noticed that the majority of our pupils have chosen to apply for Cwmbran High. Of our July 2024 Y6, 1 went to West Mon, 1 went to Abersychan, 2 were home schooled, 6 went to Croesyceiliog and 31 to Cwmbran High.

We have built strong links with Cwmbran High to ensure that your child's transition is as smooth as possible. We also ensure strong links with the other secondary schools where appropriate. Below are some of the activities that we have taken part in:

- Annual meeting for parents, pupils and staff to discuss transition held at each primary school.
- Open Evenings for parents to visit prospective High Schools and meet staff.
- Secondary staff to visit the primary school and primary staff to visit the secondary school in order to team teach and build relationships between staff and pupils.
- Autumn Term LLC project focussing on speaking and listening took place at Woodlands-Pilot Project
- Summer Term Science and Technology Transition Project- planned between Woodlands and CHS-Pilot Project
- Taster days for children going to secondary school on music, ICT and languages.
- Year 5 participation with the Playmakers programme and sessions led at the primary school.
- Year 5 children are invited to attend open evenings.
- Good communication and regular meetings with Transition leads to discuss pupils. Termly Contact to discuss upcoming events
- ALNco meeting to begin in September to support and prepare children who will require enhanced transition.
- Enhanced transition for vulnerable pupils through the John Muir Project.
- Enterprise project involving all schools within the cluster and hosted at CHS.
- Year 6 write a reflective letter to their new teachers that is passed on prior to September outlining achievements, hopes, worries and dreams.
- All schools within the cluster provided samples of writing for all children going to CHS. This will be used to monitor progress in the autumn term.

SESSION TIMES

Nursery Session Times

Morning Session 9.00 11.30
Afternoon Session 12.45 3.15

Infant (Foundation Phase) Session Times

Morning Session 8.55 12.05
Afternoon Session 1.05 3.15
Assembly 10.05 10.20
Morning Playtime 10.20 10.35
Afternoon Playtime 2.10 2.25

Lower Juniors (Key Stage 2) Session Times

Morning Session 8.55 12.25
Afternoon Session 1.20 3.15
Assembly 10.05 10.20
Morning Playtime 11.20 11.35

Upper Juniors (Key Stage 2) Session Times

Morning Session 8.55 12.30
Afternoon Session 1.25 3.15
Assembly 10.05 10.20
Morning Playtime 11.20 11.35

N.B. Term dates are outlined in our date card



A fantastic turn out for the Woodlands app launch. The children loved having the opportunity to showcase their skills and talents. Don't forget to download the well-being warriors app from the Apple App Store today!

COMMUNITY LINKS

Home Family Links

We have access to a number of supportive services to help you with parenting, finance and housing. We also have our own Pastoral Lead who is available to offer support to families and children when needed. Her job is to work with children and families in a supportive way to remove barriers to learning. If you or your child need support with behaviour management, bedtime routines, bereavement, reluctance to come to school or any other issue, our pastoral lead would be happy to help.

Extra-curricular Activities and Clubs After School

We have a number of extra-curricular activities, some which involve the community. For an up to date list of our current after school clubs please contact the school office. Last year we ran the following extra-curricular clubs:

- > Dance Club
- > Gardening Club
- > Football Club
- > Maths Club
- > Netball Club
- > Clwb Cymraeg
- > Eco Club
- > Rugby Club
- > Choir Club

Police Liaison

We have 20 Heddlu Bach (Mini Police) officers from Years 5 & 6 who work with our local PCSO to promote and raise awareness of community safety, e.g. litter picks, staying safe on Bonfire Night, safe parking, speeding etc.



Local Area

We try to use the local area as a resource as much as possible. We take part in lots of community events such as sending our choir to take part in the Community Carol Concert and to sing for the OAP's Home at Leadon Court at Christmas time.

We built our own environmentally friendly cars and took part in a race against other schools.

We enter into the Cwmbran Dance Competition every year. We also have our own pay as you feel shop in our Big Bocs Bwydd to help with food poverty, reduce waste and encourage sustainability.

Pupil Voice in the community

Pupils were disappointed to hear that there were plans to close the community farm. They decided to hold a peaceful protest. Pupils attended a meeting in the council chambers where it was decided that the farm would remain open—Great work Woodlands!



Pupils with disabilities

Children with disabilities are welcomed into the school and wherever possible or practical, provision will be made to accommodate these children.

Woodlands is on a flat site and doors and corridors are wide enough to accommodate wheelchair access. We have planned a programme of improvements to the building which will further enhance access for disabled people.

Disabled children are given support in order to access all aspects of the curriculum. Thought is given to disabled children when considering all new projects.



Strategic Equality Plan

We have reviewed our aims for 2022 -2023 and set new aims for Sept 2023 to July 2024.

2022—2023	2023—2024	2024-2025
<p>Equality Objective 1. Ensure that all policies and procedures are gender neutral. <i>All policies are written with gender bias in mind.</i></p> <p>Equality Objective 2. Continue to narrow the gap between boys and girls across the school. <i>Progress of boys and girls is generally in line. Boys are generally better in maths and slightly below in reading.</i></p> <p>Equality Objective 3. Raise awareness of Equality Issues amongst all stakeholders <i>This remains a priority for 23-24.</i></p>	<p>Equality Objective 1. Adopt appropriate teaching methods, policies and procedures that reduce the chances of discrimination against pupils according to their protected characteristics e.g. race, religion and sexual orientation. <i>All policies are reviewed with equality of opportunity in mind.</i></p> <p>Equality Objective 2. Continue to narrow the gap between boys and girls across the school. <i>Boys have made better progress than girls and outperform girls in maths and are in line for reading. (Spr 24)</i></p> <p>Equality Objective 3. Ensure that all reasonable adjustments are made to avoid discrimination against pupils and staff with disabilities. <i>All physical adaptations to the building include consideration of disability. Pupils' needs are met through a number of adjustments e.g. visual timetables, additional support etc.</i></p>	<p>Equality Objective 1 Continue to educate pupils so that there are fewer incidents of bullying related to race and sexual orientation.</p> <p>Equality Objective 2 Ensure that boys continue to make good progress and perform as well as girls in maths and reading. Continue to promote girls' participation in all sporting opportunities.</p> <p>Equality Objective 3 Ensure that all reasonable adjustments are made to avoid discrimination against pupils and staff with disabilities.</p>

Sports

Sport is high on our agenda at all times. We have achieved a certain measure of success. We offer a number of sports activities after school. These include cricket, netball, football, rugby and dance. Our school cricket, football and rugby teams have taken part in various competitions with our cricket team winning a local tournament in the summer term. Our dance group has taken part in cluster festivals and immersion days. Year 5 children go swimming every week for a whole year and Year 6 children go climbing every week.



Policy Review

The following policies have been reviewed and adopted by the Governing Body in 2023/24: Safeguarding, GDPR, Induction, Positive Handling, Attendance, Prevent, Fire Safety, Education Visits.

Additional Learning Needs (ALN)/ Children Looked After (CLA)

We try to identify children with Additional Learning Needs as soon as they enter the school in the Nursery. Good communication between Nursery and pre-school facilities in the ICC mean that often we gain information about children before they start with us. This allows staff to start the ALN assessment process immediately. This process gives the child the best start to school life as we are able to meet individual needs as soon as possible. Pupils needs can sometimes become apparent as they transition through the school and are sometimes raised by their class teacher or parent. We use a graduated response at Woodlands to ensure appropriate assessment of ALN takes place. Close working with outside agencies, including the Educational Psychologist, increase the support we can offer to children as they move through the school. In general, each class has some support for the children in their class. This support is directly proportional to the level of need of the children in each particular class. Progress of ALN/ CLA children is measured through our usual testing and assessment arrangements as well as a review of their specific targets on a termly basis.



ALN children are given specific and measurable targets which are worked on regularly in class as much as possible and sometimes through withdrawal groups. Some children receive support from peripatetic teachers and some children are allocated a teaching assistant to work with them in small groups. LAC children are given extra support where appropriate and grant funding is used to meet their needs through resources and support.

School Improvement Plan

- To maintain and raise standards in literacy focusing on **reading** by introducing **Accelerated Reader** and by revisiting the teaching of **modelled and shared reading** in P1.
- To maintain and raise standards in mathematics and numeracy by reviewing the teaching and resources for **reasoning and problem solving**.
- Continue to improve **attendance**, especially for **FSM pupils**.
- Introduce **ELSA** to improve pupil wellbeing.
- Promote **Big Bocs Bwyd** involving parents.

Estyn Recommendations Autumn 2019

R1 Refine pupils' skills in spelling and grammar, to secure greater accuracy when writing. In particular, for pupils who are more able

In 2023/2024 good progress was made in addressing our targets. Professional Learning centred around Accelerated Reader training and Mathematical Reasoning.

Children in all classes were given the opportunity to design and make products to sell at enterprise events to raise money for their classes!



Welsh Language

Woodlands is an English medium school and as a result the main language used is English. However, we are proud of our Welsh heritage and try to ensure that children are given the opportunity to learn Welsh in weekly lessons appropriate to their age and ability. In addition, pupils are encouraged to use their Welsh in other lessons and around the school. We celebrate the Welsh culture as much as possible through the curriculum, additional activities, trips and visits.

School Building

We are fortunate to have good facilities both internally and externally and the building and its surroundings, including toilet facilities, are in good repair. Following a 4 year programme the building has been fully refurbished. This cycle of improvement will continue so that we maintain the school environment to a high standard. The inside of the school, including the toilets, are cleaned daily to ensure that the school environment is safe and hygienic for the children. This year we have refurbished the KS2 area to include a large sheltered area and an increase in the play space.

Healthy Eating

We encourage healthy eating and drinking through our Breakfast Club, fruit snack time, salad bar at lunchtime and packed lunch policy. Water is available in every classroom. The children are taught about healthy eating and drinking as part of the curriculum.

School Council have held Assemblies to promote healthy eating and drinking. They have spoken to the children about the healthy snacks that are available at break time and have asked the canteen to increase the choice of fruit on offer.



Rates of Authorised and Unauthorised Absences

Number of children at the school = **355** in September 2023

	Total attendance %	Total absence %	% days missed - unauthorised	% days missed - authorised
2023/24	92.9%	7.10%	2.32%	4.78%

Target for Attendance

	2023-2024 Actuals	2024-2025	2025-2026
Attendance %	93.04%	94%	95%
FSM Attendance %	91.07%	92%	92.5%

Woodland's School Accounts

Income		Expenditure	
Income	95,889	Employees	1,457,919
Carry Forward	263,484	Resources	124,383,79
Budget Share	1,513,247	Premises	162,579
Grants	117,104	Other Services	39,583
		Carry Forward to next year	207,539
		Governors' Expenses/ Gifts	0
Total	£1,726,240	Total	£1,782,185

School Fund

The School Fund Account is used to buy equipment for the children and to subsidise the cost of children's school trips and treats. All donations and fundraising monies are put into school fund. Please see below the accounts for 2023–24

FINANCIAL REPORT

STARTING BALANCE: 7251.36

INCOME

Misc	622.11
Donations	1210.51
Nursery	0.00
Photos	0.00
Trips	5294.47
Swimming	1107.32
TCBC	0.00
Book Fair	988.32

TOTAL INCOME 16474.09

EXPENDITURE

Misc	155.00
Xmas/Easter	0.00
Nursery	0.00
Photos	0.00
Trips	2551.07
Swimming	2190.00
TCBC/Cash	0.00
Book Fair	988.32

TOTAL EXPENDITURE 5884.39

CASH IN BANK 10589.70 as of 6th August

TOTAL 10589.70

Woodlands Community Primary School - Pupil Deprivation Grant 2023/2024

It is a Welsh Government requirement that the school make you aware of the way in which we use our Pupil Deprivation Grant. This is a grant that is targeted at supporting pupils who are eligible for free school meals (FSM).

This school currently has a school roll, excluding the Nursery, of 291 pupils of which 78 are eligible for free school meals. This equates to 27% of the school population and generates a grant of £104,650. Please see below how we use this grant to improve outcomes for pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM).

The school currently undertakes the following activities in order to support pupils facing the challenges of poverty and deprivation:

High staff to pupil ratio

Speech and language intervention N-Y2

COMIT N

Read, Write Inc 1 to1s - R to Y4

Maths Intervention - Y2 upwards

Catch Up Reading - KS2

Corrective Reading - Y3 upwards

Small Group Support - KS2

After school maths club for Y5 and Y6

In addition Pastoral Support is provided for FSM children in the form of:

Grief/ Bereavement/ Trauma

Attendance

Self Esteem

Behaviour - Social Skills

Thrive

As a result FSM pupils consistently make good progress throughout the school in line with non-FSM and our attendance figures for our FSM pupils are above the LA average.



Children in 4JW and our wellbeing team have prepared our allotment, planted and grown vegetables and were able to harvest them and donate to our Big Bocs Bwyd to share with our community!

Digital Leaders

We are the digital leaders. Our job in school is to keep up to date with all of the ICT and technology and help teach this to others. We run coding club at lunch times for KS2 pupils and hold drop in sessions for teachers to model and teach them how to use a range of apps and devices from green screen to scratch!



Eco Warriors

We are the Eco Warriors. We have been nominated to help our school become as Eco-Friendly as possible. As part of being in the eco team, we share information in assemblies and talk about ways to make our school more eco-friendly. We have organised a litter picking timetable and taken part in the Switch It Off campaign so far this year and we are looking forward to earning our Green Flag soon! We have been given a very exciting opportunity to build a Goblin G2 car as part of an after school club!

Heddlu Bach

The Heddlu Bach (Mini Police) scheme is a fun and interactive volunteering opportunity for pupils aged 9-11 years old. The Heddlu Bach support the South Wales Police Force priorities through participation in both educational and community settings. The children involved have to submit an application and take part in an interview process to secure their place in Heddlu Bach. With support from our local PCSO, children are given opportunities to develop their confidence through many enjoyable experiences. The children who become part of the programme help to tackle local issues, highlighted by the children in their own community. We hope to create ethically informed citizens of Wales, build resilience in young people and develop a successful and exciting future through collaboration with communities and the Police.



Criw Cymraeg

We are Criw Cymraeg! Our job in school is to watch out for people using Welsh as much as they can! Each class has their own Tocyn Iaith board and children earn points for speaking Welsh. In assembly on a Friday, we announce the class with the most points and also celebrate the children who had the most points in their class. We give out certificates to teachers and children who speak lots of Welsh and think our role is really important because the Welsh language is really fun to learn! Last year we earned the school the Bronze Award and this year we have achieved the Silver Accreditation for Cymraeg Campus. Da iawn pawb!



Sports Ambassadors

We are the Sports Ambassadors! We have a really important job in school because we ensure that sports equipment and activities are available for all children. We think our job is especially important because keeping fit and healthy helps us concentrate and be motivated to learn! Our main aim this year is to ensure physical activities during school time and after school are in place and running smoothly. We will ensure sports equipment will be kept organised and introduce new equipment, resources and games for children at lunch time.



The Well Being Team

We are the Well Being Team. We meet every week to tackle issues affecting children's well-being and play an active role to ensure children are happy at school. This involves tackling bullying, healthy eating and living and improvements to the way the our school is run so that all pupils are happy and thriving. We have recently started planting fruit and vegetables as we know that diet plays a huge part in our health, we have sold some produce in our BBB. We are committed to ensuring that children's time at Woodlands is the best it can be!



' Learning to Thrive '

