In this issue: Growth and Change. Assault course challenge King Charles III Forest school Ofsted Friends of Woodlanders Additional information Important dates



# WHAT'S ON AT VOODLANDERS?

Its been a beautiful start to the Summer term. Our topic in all the rooms is "growth and change" and we have had some visitors in the form of caterpillars and tadpoles. We are excited to spend the next couple of weeks learning all about them and seeing them transform before releasing them into the wild.





Our Oaks room children have been budding gardeners this term by growing cress caterpillars, planting sunflowers and looking at the life cycle of a bean. We have been reading and sharing the book Jack and the Beanstalk and we are busy learning about the caterpillars life cycle.

We would like to thank one of our Elms parents for visiting and talking to the children about Ramadan and lending us resources about Eid - we learnt about about how, in Islam, Eid is the holiday to celebrate the end of Ramadan, and a time to teach children the importance of helping others and being grateful for what they have, as well as sharing gifts, food and special time with friends and family.



The Elms room has also been exploring our topic of growth and change with bugs in sand, butterfly handprints, shape caterpillars and lots of outdoor play.



In our Willows room to get our wiggles out we have been "moving like a bug", we wriggled like caterpillars, zigzagged like a millipede, fluttered like a butterfly, marched like an ant and zoomed like a fly!

We have also been learning about the life cycles of caterpillars and butterflies, as well as planting our own cress



## **Assault Course** Challenge.

A massive well done to all of the Woodlanders children for putting in 110% into our sponsored assault course, they jumped, balanced, climbed, crawled and scootered around the course and helped us to raise a massive £1098 and counting!!!!

We cannot thank you enough for your support with this event and we are so excited to use all the money raised to buy brand new outdoor play equipment and resources for all our children to enjoy.



Forest school. We have absolutely loved being back at the woods since Easter.

We have been learning how to safely light a fire. We talked about having to use a spark, what materials we need and most importantly to always have an adults help!





**Coronation of King Charles III** 

The children have been tasked with decorating part of Ashburton church to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, If you are in the area please pop down from 10am on 06/05/2023 and have a look at all the children's hard work. Woodlanders will be closed on Monday 8th May due to the coronation bank holiday.

### Forest school.

If your child moves up to our Oaks room in September you will have the opportunity to book them into one of our amazing forest school sessions.

During these sessions your child will be able to have a whole morning of playing, climbing, creating, jumping and balancing in the fresh air. They will learn how to use tools safely with our highly trained forest school staff as well as observing and learning about the wide variety of plants and animals that grow and live in the woodland, creating bird feeding stations, bug houses and going on plenty of nature walks. There are 38 sessions of Forest school across the academic year, 14 are spent in our beautiful circle garden and 24 are spent in our site in Druid woods. Druid woods is an area of Mature Beech woodland, about a ten minute minibus trip from woodlanders. As you can imagine these sessions are very popular so if you have a child that is moving up to the Oaks room in September please contact Charley to reserve a space - admin@wooldanderspreschool.co.uk.

The sessions themselves are free of charge however we do ask for a £30 registration fee and £5 toward the cost of the minibus each time your child is in the woods. If you are worried about the cost of forest school but would like your child to attend please get into contact, we want each child to have an equal opportunity to have this wonderful experience regardless of financial barriers.







#### Ofsted visit

As you were aware we had a visit from Ofsted on our first Monday back. We are so proud of not only our whole team for their incredible knowledge and passion for early years education but all of the children, the Ofsted inspector commented on how well behaved, engaged and polite they all were during her visit. You all are amazing! The Report will take a while to come through so we will update you when it is received.

#### Friends of Woodlanders

The Friends of Woodlanders group is now up and running and we would love more people to join us. The group has been set up to help raise funds for resources for the children that Woodlanders would not otherwise be able to afford. The meetings are friendly and informal - always a pack of biscuits and lots of toys to keep the little ones entertained whilst we chat. We have ideas for fun fundraising activities that we really need help to organise and run, including a Summer Fete in June. Whether you are a whizz at designing posters; great at cake baking; happy to run a stall at the Summer fete; have fundraising ideas or just want to meet new friends - the group is open to everyone and we need more help. If you think you might like to have a go and would like further information Lou, Alex or Fiona would be more than happy to talk it through with you. Or, email admin@woodlanderspreschool.co.uk and Charley can pass your details on to us.

#### Important dates:

#### **Term dates**

Our last day of term is Friday 26th May 2023 and we are back on Monday 5th June 2023. Woodlanders will be closed: Monday 8th May 2023- Kings Coronation; Bank Holiday Monday 29th May 2023- Late Bank Holiday .

Dates for your Diary: 13th May 2023 Volunteer Day 19th May 2023 Bags 2 school

#### Additional information.

Our Maple room is available to hire. For more information contact: officemanager@woodlanderspreschool.co.uk
For bookings or session requests please email Charley: admin@woodlanderspreschool.co.uk

For questions about funding or invoices please contact Kate: officemanager@woodlanderspreschool.co.uk

If your child is Ill or cannot come into their session, please pop a message on your tapestry account so that the rooms are aware. If you would like some support with using tapestry we have a handy how to guide. Ask your room leader for more information