



As we approach the half term break, it feels as though it has crept up quietly and then suddenly arrived! It's hard to believe that when we return, we'll be heading straight into the festive season and the run-up to Christmas.

We're delighted to share that 18 of our students will be undertaking face-to-face work experience over the break. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to gain valuable insight into the world beyond school, and we're incredibly proud of the initiative they and their parents have shown in sourcing their own placements. We wish each and every one of them the very best of luck – enjoy the experience and make the most of every moment!

In other exciting news, we'll soon be launching a competition to select new House names. Further details will follow shortly, but we can reveal that those shortlisted will be invited to present their ideas to the SLT and AHT over tea and cake – a wonderful chance to share their creativity and vision for the school community.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and good wishes throughout this term. I am delighted to share that the Hampshire League Tables for SEN Schools (Attainment 8, ages 14–16) have now been published, and we placed 3rd – only 1.5 points behind first place! In fact, had our remarks been included, we would have achieved 2nd place. This is an incredible achievement and a true reflection of the hard work and dedication of our students and staff alike. Well done, everyone!

Wishing all our students, staff, and families a restful and enjoyable half term break.

Miss Smit  
Principal

## Reminders

w/c

3<sup>rd</sup> November

Year 11 Mock Exams

Year 13 exams will  
be taken in their  
classes

We return to school  
on Monday  
3 November

Please remember  
Water Bottles

Enjoy the half term!





**Wild Passports**  
Year 8s learnt to identify Oak and Sycamore trees during Wild Passports. They made rubbings of the leaves and bark.

In Wild Passports this week, Year 8 learned to make a teepee. They loved cooked smores over the fire and had great fun making autumn leaf caterpillars.



Can we ask families to send communications regarding absence or sickness to Studybugs. If this is unavailable to you please use the general school email address, [office@hurstlodeschool.co.uk](mailto:office@hurstlodeschool.co.uk), rather than directing them to individual staff members.

This will ensure that your queries are addressed in a timely manner, even if a specific staff member is temporarily unavailable. By directing your emails to the central office email, we can efficiently redirect them to the appropriate person.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter.



## HARMONY UPDATE

Our harmony theme this term has been exploring ancient civilisations, focusing on the principal of diversity. The harmony curriculum enables students to investigate and experience the world around us, informed by history and geography. Students have studied Greek and Mexican culture, focusing on mask work, the power of the gods, Oedipus, hubris, Greek food, the day of the dead and artist Frida Khalo



Congratulations to all the students and staff involved in the recent ISA Drama Competition where they won Best Senior Production.



Band Jam Club Mrs spence with Daniel M, Daniel N and Thomas F.



## Woodlands



Thank you to parents, children and staff for your generous Harvest donations this week – Woodlands have lots of food items to deliver to the Crowthorne Foodbank, which will benefit local people in need. The House that donated the most items will be announced after half term!

It has been Assessment Week this week and we are really proud of how well the children have managed their assessments, showing courage and determination to give their best efforts. Well done!

At Woodlands, we have already started preparing for our Christmas Performances talking about the script, songs, props, costumes and which roles the children will play. The performance date for families will be during the day on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December at Woodlands – more details to follow!

But first, Halloween! The children have been drumming to spooky Halloween music in music class, and hunting for pumpkins in Forest School, collecting the pumpkins marked with a letter, that were hidden in the woods, and decoding the words they spelled out.



A reminder that the new Class Names will be in use at Woodlands after half term:

- Birch will become Sparrow
- Dragonflies will become Hawk
- Hazel will become Linnet
- Heron will become Merlin
- Maple will become Lark

Happy Half Term everyone! We look forward to seeing you back on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.




# Menu


1

---

## **Monday**

Vegetable Samosas   
Vegetable Spring Rolls  
Jacket potatoes,  
(V) Pasta with a cheese sauce,  
sandwiches and crisps

## **Tuesday**

Chicken Curry   
with Rice and Naan bread  
Vegetarian Sausages

## **Wednesday**

Beef Meatballs in tomato sauce  
Carbonara Sauce with bacon, onions and cheese  
with pasta and brocolli

## **Thursday**

Beef burgers with cheese, bacon or onions  
(V) Veggie Burger

## **Friday**

Brunch from 11am  
Croissants with jam,  
ham and cheese

---

## *Salad Bar*

Lettuce | Cucumber | Tomatoes | Potato Salad | Coleslaw  
Tuna Pasta | Sweetcorn

## *Protein*

Sliced Gammon | Boiled Eggs | Tuna

## *Extras*

Yoghurts | Jellies | Fruit | Cheese & Crackers | Plain Pasta  
Jacket Potatoes

Selection of Sandwich fillings are available