

#SIDNEYSTRINGERMAT
MAT XMAS
NEWSLETTER

MAT NEWSLETTER
EDITION 5







★ CEO MESSAGE 2025

A Happy Christmas To All!

@sidney_mat



Welcome to our MAT Christmas Newsletter!

Dear Students, Parents, Governors and Friends

It gives me great delight to wish you all a Happy Holiday after a very long term. We have achieved so much during the autumn including a positive Ofsted visits, at Sidney Stringer Primary School (we will be able to share the report with you in the New Year), trips, sporting achievements and plenty of enrichment activities, to go alongside the hard work in lessons.

School enrichment is something we are very proud of in all our MAT schools and it continues to flourish with lots of new clubs, after school and during lunchtime. We have had Christmas concerts, dance competitions, bake off challenges, sports awards as well as geography field trips, trips abroad and excursions to the theatre. We value enrichment so much in our MAT because it can have a positive effect on mental health and wellbeing of all pupils.

I would also like to say a massive thank you, and goodbye, to Mrs Denise Burrows who came to our Trust in 2010 and worked at Sidney Stringer Academy until 2016 and then from 2016, until 2025, she has been the Headteacher of Ernesford Grange Academy. There is an article dedicated to her in this newsletter.

I would also like to congratulate Ms Anna Ford, who has been the Associate Headteacher at Sidney Stringer, for the last two years, and will now become the Headteacher from January. Ms Turpin will be concentrating on MAT work as the CEO of the Trust, but will remain based at Sidney Stringer and support the school in just the same way.

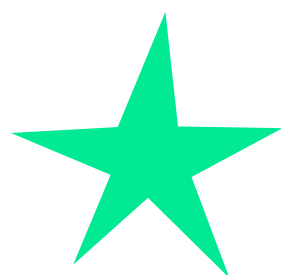
Have a very restful and happy holiday



Claire Turpin

CEO Of Sidney Stringer MAT





STEP INTO CHRISTMAS...

Oh what fun we have had!



Sidney Stringer
Multi Academy Trust



RIVERBANK ACADEMY

*We are a caring, creative, and
motivated school where
safeguarding is our top priority.*

@RiverbankAc

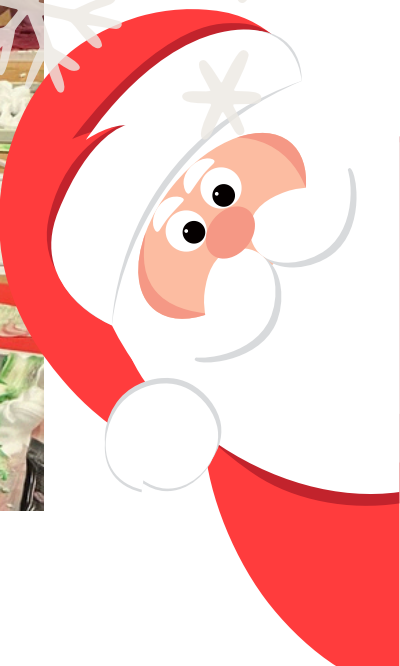


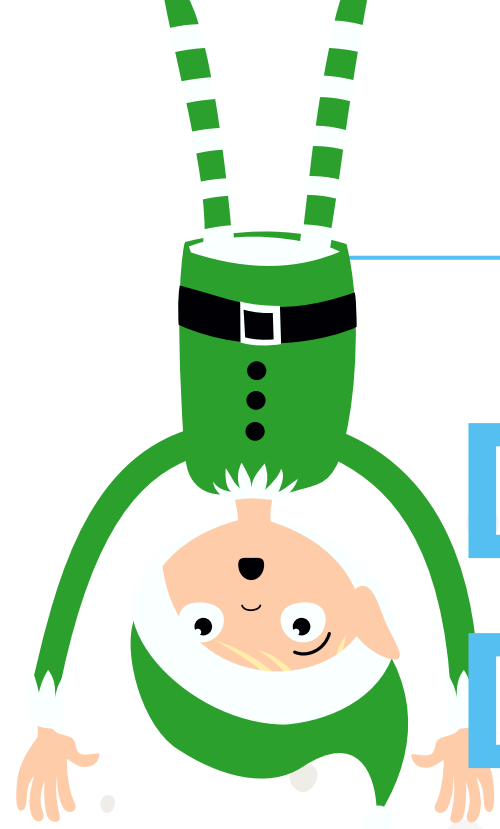


Autumn 2 - A Wonderful Time of Year!

We would like to celebrate a term of wonderful achievement! From the Navigator to the Explorer and Adventurer Pathways, our students have produced some truly remarkable work. We are proud of everything they have accomplished!

We were delighted to host our 2nd Annual Late Night Christmas Party this half-term! It was wonderful to welcome pupils from all Key Stages and Pathways for an evening of festive fun. The night was packed with activities, including festive crafts and a lively Silent Disco, before winding down with a festive film, hot chocolate, cookies, and popcorn. It was heart-warming to see our students engaging and socialising so well together. A huge thank you to our Riverbank staff who stayed late to ensure the event was a memorable success for everyone!





Delighted with Developments

We are delighted with the developments we have made this term regarding play and interaction. It has been rewarding to witness the improvements in our pupils' communication and social interaction skills as they engage more confidently with their peers

To celebrate this and to end the term on a high note, the whole school is buzzing with excitement for our upcoming Makaton sing-along to 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'!



Riverbank Academy

Riverbank in the community

It has been great to see our pupils venture into the community with independence and confidence.

Some highlights included a pupil taking part in charity work for the Samaritans shoe box appeal, and a 16+ trip for a Toby breakfast!




Sidney Stringer
Academy



SIDNEY STRINGER ACADEMY

A Year of Success and Growth

@SIDNEYSTRINGERA



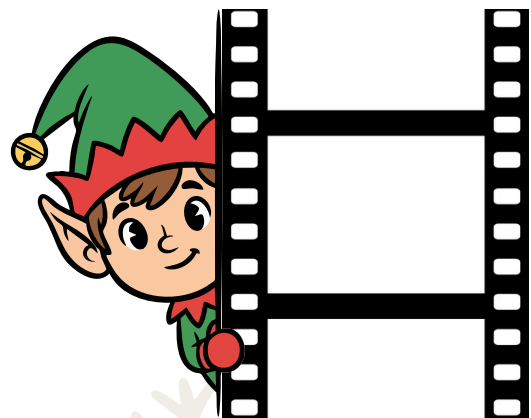
SIDNEY STRINGER ACADEMY


Sidney Stringer
Academy

Filming for Sky News!

An excited group of our Year 7, 8 and 9 students were fortunate enough to be invited to participate in filming for a Sky News documentary to be shown on Sky News and at COP 2026, the United Nations Climate Change conference.

The students shared their thoughts to the 10 year old anchor Moksha Roy who was an inspiration to not only the students involved in filming but to many others in the school as well.



SIDNEY STRINGER ACADEMY

Sidney Stringer
Academy

* Taking Tips from The Top *



This term, 51 ambitious students from Year 11 and 16+ participated in an incredible opportunity to meet with 23 Chief Executive Officers representing major national, international, and local companies. Following this, students were paired with CEOs whose industries matched their interests — from business, banking and law, to energy, technology and the sciences.

In small group sessions, students had the chance to ask direct, personal questions about leadership, success, and the pathways that led each CEO to the top of their field.



SIDNEY STRINGER ACADEMY

Dodgeball Success!

After their success in the first round of the Values Dodgeball Competition, 11 of our Year 7 students went on to compete in the Coventry and Warwickshire School Games Final this afternoon. They arrived eager and optimistic, hoping to replicate their earlier achievements.

Facing teams from across the region, the pressure was on to represent Coventry West with pride. The group played eight intense matches, earning points not only for their athletic performance but also for the values they demonstrated throughout the event. Every student was polite, courteous, and respectful towards other competitors and staff, this was reflected in the impressive number of value points they accumulated throughout the afternoon.

After a tense wait for the final standings, the team were thrilled to learn that they had secured a place on the podium, finishing 3rd place! Missing out on 2nd place by just one point.

Their excitement was clear as they celebrated with songs and chants all the way home!


Sidney Stringer
Academy





RADFORD PRIMARY ACADEMY



@RadfordAcademy

RADFORD PRIMARY ACADEMY



Christmas Card

This year our school council took part in a Christmas Card competition, submitting their designs to Taiwo Owatemi - our local MP. After careful deliberation... Maksim (Y5) won! His Christmas design will be shared through Coventry and Parliament as Mrs Owatemi's official card of the year. By winning the competition, he has been given three tickets to a Panto at the Albany Theatre. Well done Maksim!



KS2 Jingles top the parents

In preparation for our Christmas jingle, Years 3, 4 and 5 have been working hard to learn all of their Christmas songs.

They have creatively thought of actions to go with the lyrics and the show was spectacular. When we performed it to the whole school and then the parents, all of the children were so confident! The parents were so proud of all the children!



Through these in-school experiences, our students gain an enriched understanding of diverse subjects, fostering both excitement and confidence in their learning journey.

RADFORD PRIMARY ACADEMY

Year 2 Shine at Coventry Cathedral Christingle Service!

Our children took part in a very special trip to Coventry Cathedral to perform at the annual Christingle event. The children sang beautifully as they performed their chosen song in front of families, friends, and members of the community. Their hard work and enthusiasm shone through, and we are so proud of the way they represented our school. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the spirit of Christmas, well done Year 2!



A very special visitor!

Our lucky school welcomed a visitor from the North Pole this week. Santa Claus arrived to visit the students and hear their Christmas wishes. The children gathered around to greet him and share their holiday wishes. He handed out presents to every student from his sack. We thank Santa for visiting and bringing joy to our community.



Deep Diving Into Christmas with our Nursery Children!

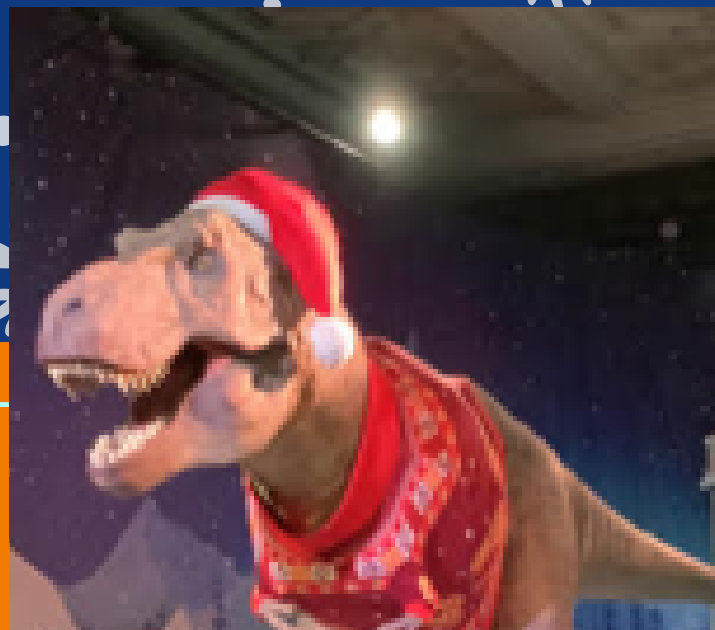
The children in Nursery were fully immersed in the festive spirit this term, beginning with a deep dive into the Christmas Story using a dynamic small world tuff tray setup that included characters such as Baby Jesus in the manger, Mary, Joseph, shepherds, animals, and the Three Wise Men, promoting imaginative play and narrative understanding. To develop their fine motor skills and creativity, the children made beautiful Christmas cards and decorations that were used to transform our classroom and adorn the Christmas tree. Furthermore, we encouraged early literacy and communication skills by assisting the children in writing their special letters to Santa, and reinforced language and memory through daily sessions of singing traditional Christmas songs.



@SidneyStringerA

Year 6 Trip To London

Year 6 had a brilliant trip to The Natural History Museum in London this term. The children learnt a lot about Charles Darwin, Adaptation and Evolution. They were beautifully behaved and represented Radford Primary very well. Well done Year 6 - a super day out!



Sidney Stringer
Primary

SIDNEY STRINGER PRIMARY

Believe | Achieve | Succeed

@SSAPrimary



SIDNEY STRINGER PRIMARY

Cadbury World

The Year 3 children had a wonderful visit to Cadbury World this term, to further their learning about fair trade, the Cadbury brothers and about cooking.

They had a scrumdiddlyumptious time, especially when the moment came to taste the chocolate!



Sidney Stringer
Primary

Sealife Centre

This term, year 4 have visited the Sealife Centre in Birmingham. The children loved seeing the animals in real-life, and had a great time learning lots of new facts. The children have brought this learning back to school to support their work on Classification Keys.



SIDNEY STRINGER PRIMARY

Balance Bikes

Our Year 1s have been zooming around the playground on balance bikes in their recent workshop. The children loved learning this new skill, and all commented that they would like their own balance bike! They had to weave around a chicane, navigate up and down the slope, and free-wheel down hill being sure to stop at the bottom.



Sidney Stringer
Primary

Year 2 Celebrate Christingle Service at the Cathedral!

Our Year 2 children have made their annual trip to the Christingle service at Coventry Cathedral. They performed one of the songs in the service beautifully, remembering all of the words and the actions. The children then made a Christingle each using an orange, some dried fruits and a red ribbon. The Christingle represents love being shared around the world.

• Nativity!

- Our Reception and Year 1 children performed a wonderful Nativity; Whoops-a-Daisy Angel. The children looked fabulous in their costumes and sang beautifully. Children with lines performed them loudly and clearly, which is especially impressive considering there were over 200 adults watching in the big theatre! Thank you to
- the staff and children who put so much effort into their brilliant performance.



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ERNESFORD GRANGE COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Striving to achieve excellence for all of our young people.

@EGCS1973





A Decade of Excellence and heart



As many of you may have seen or heard, Mrs Burrows is leaving Ernesford Grange Community Academy at Christmas to take up an exciting new opportunity as a Secondary School Improvement Lead in a Multi-Academy Trust in the South West, right next to the sea.

Denise has been the driving force behind Ernesford Grange for nearly a decade, starting in 2016 and Sidney Stringer Multi Academy Trust since 2010. Her leadership has been built upon her care, compassion and a tireless drive to improve the life chances of the young people we serve. Working alongside you, the parents, families and our dedicated staff, she has overseen remarkable achievements, securing outcomes and recognition, including two very successful OFSTED Inspections. She leaves behind an exceptionally strong and positive culture, one where staff and students alike believe in life-long learning and where we consistently live by our school and MAT vision: Excellence for All.

Under her guidance, our core mission was established and embedded:

"To work together to inspire a learning culture of high expectations with no excuses, where every member of our school community can be proud to belong to Ernesford Grange Community Academy and all students will achieve the outcomes which will enable them to succeed in modern society"

ERNESFORD GRANGE COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Denise firmly believed that our responsibility extends beyond grades, it is about ensuring our young people leave with strong moral values and the character to become successful members of our community and society.

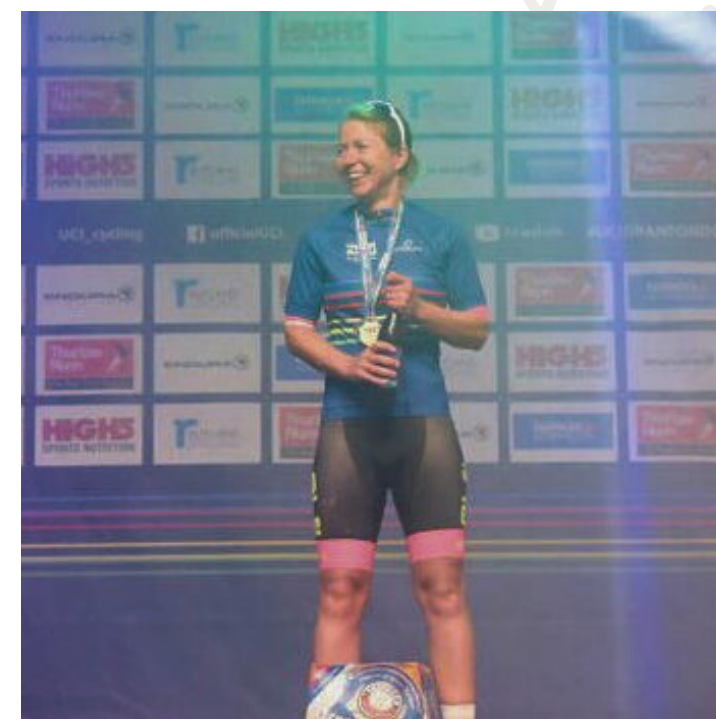
We will miss the spirit, energy and integrity she brought to the school every day, including her wonderful assemblies and briefing, where she always managed to draw parallels between her passion for competitive cycling and the importance of respect, determination and kindness in all things school!

Denise led by example, modelling the very values she sought to instil. We believe the following quote best champions her legacy:

"A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. They do not set out to be a leader, but become one by the equality of their actions and the integrity of their intent".

We want to sincerely thank Denise for her immense contribution to our school and our Multi Academy Trust. We are profoundly proud of what we have achieved together under her leadership and we wish her and her family all the very best in their move to the South West.

Claire Turpin (CEO)



ERNESFORD GRANGE COMMUNITY ACADEMY



MP:

For Parliament week, we had the pleasure of welcoming Mary Creagh, a British politician who has served as Member of Parliament (MP) for Coventry East since 2024. Mary is a member of the Labour Party, and she has served as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Nature since July 2024.

During the visit, Mary spoke to our students about her role as a Member of Parliament and engaged our students in various discussions about voting, what her Role is in Coventry and her role as the Secretary for Nature.. Our 6th form discussed current issues, such as their views on Euthanasia, and our year 11s discussed the Parks in Willihall and what could be done to improve them for the community. We were very pleased with the visit and hope that she comes again soon.



Christmas Concert 2025

Guiding us seamlessly through the night was our talented Year 11 student Lauren, serving as compere. Her clear, confident introductions and warm presence made the programme flow effortlessly and she was exceptional in every way.

The concert closed with a moving finale performance of “For Good” from Wicked, sung as a heartfelt tribute to Mrs Burrows, our Headteacher, who is leaving us. The song’s message made for a beautiful and emotional farewell and the audience response reflected just how cherished she is within our school community.



@EGCS1973

A huge thank-you also goes to Elliott Lingard for sound engineering the show. His behind-the-scenes expertise ensured every performance was heard at its best.

Our music teacher Miss Marsh shared how proud she was of each student who took part and expressed her excitement for what next year's concert will bring.

A heartfelt well done to everyone involved, this year's Christmas Concert truly reflected the spirit and talent of our school community.





WOODFIELD SCHOOL

*We are committed to become a beacon
of excellence in SEMH education.*

@1woodfield1



Making a Guitar!

At the start of September, one of our Year 11 students came to Mr Burke with an unusual request.....he wanted to make an electric guitar out of pallets!

After deciding on the 'Flying V' body style, Ethan then decided to convert one of his old Stratocaster guitars to the new shape. Each step of the disassembly was photographed so that nothing would end up in the wrong place later.

Over the weeks and with a fair amount of Gorilla Glue and wooden dowels, he layered up pieces of pallet wood into a rough 'V' shape which he then cut to shape and smoothed. Mr Burke helped with the routing for the electronics and finally the body was ready for finishing.

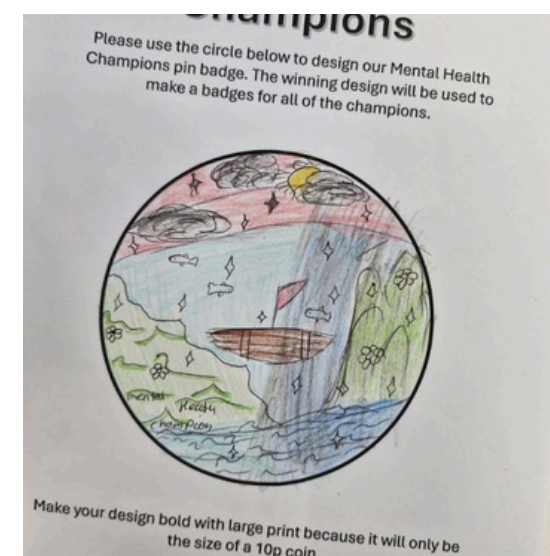
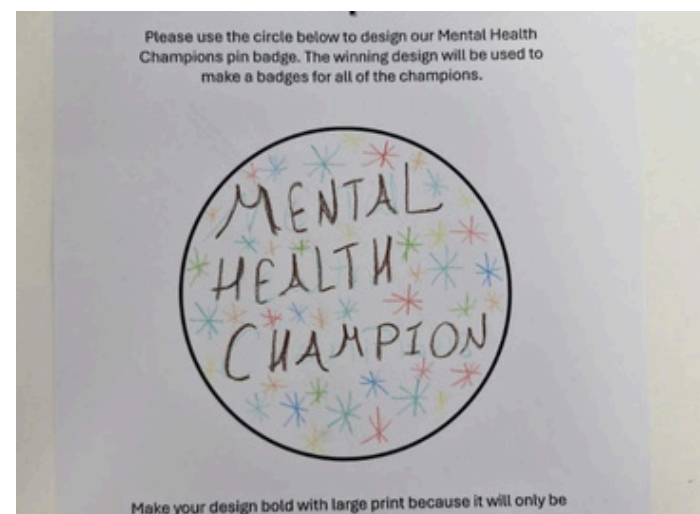


Ethan said "I thought to begin with I would just leave it as rough pallet wood so that you could see where it had come from. We put a dark wood stain on a test piece and it made it look really good. So we stained it and varnished it. I can't believe it was once an old pallet."

Ethan and Mr. Burke followed the photos to put everything into the new body, and attached the neck. Ethan then restrung it with some strings donated by Mr. Brown. When it was tested, it played really well and Ethan brought it in to show off at Parents Evening at the end of November. Well done Ethan!

Mental Health Champions

On 20th November, three Woodfield students attended a Mental Health Champions day at Warwick University. Along with four other secondary schools from Coventry the pupils undertook a day's training around mental health, including how to support family, friends and peers at school if someone needs support with these issues. Also in the pictures below are Woodfield's submissions for a badge for Mental Health Champions.



It was a really busy day with lots of different activities and speakers. Our pupils were really out of their comfort zones with so many different schools in attendance, and really pushed themselves hard to complete the course. One of the students earlier in the term became the first Woodfield student to complete the My Tomorrow Change Makers course. It is a peer mentoring programme designed to support peers at school or in the community. It is funded through the Police's Violence against Women and Girls budget.
Joe Campbell

WOODFIELD SCHOOL



Summer HAF

Though summer feels distant, our truly special HAF camp in August was six days of unforgettable experiences! Our children confidently stepped out of their comfort zones, enjoying everything from golf and Cliff Lakes Aqua Land to the Butterfly Farm, a Stratford boat ride, and a grand finale at Alton Towers.

The activities were great, but the children's courage, positive attitude, and fantastic behaviour truly made the camp memorable. It was inspiring to see their confidence grow daily.

We were delighted to host visitors, including the Family Hub team and Coventry HAF representatives, who were amazed by the children's engagement (especially while cooking Spanish soup) and our seamless organisation. Their positive feedback was a great credit to both staff and children.

This camp highlighted how much our children can achieve when given the opportunity. We should all be incredibly proud.

💬 Parent Feedback Highlights:

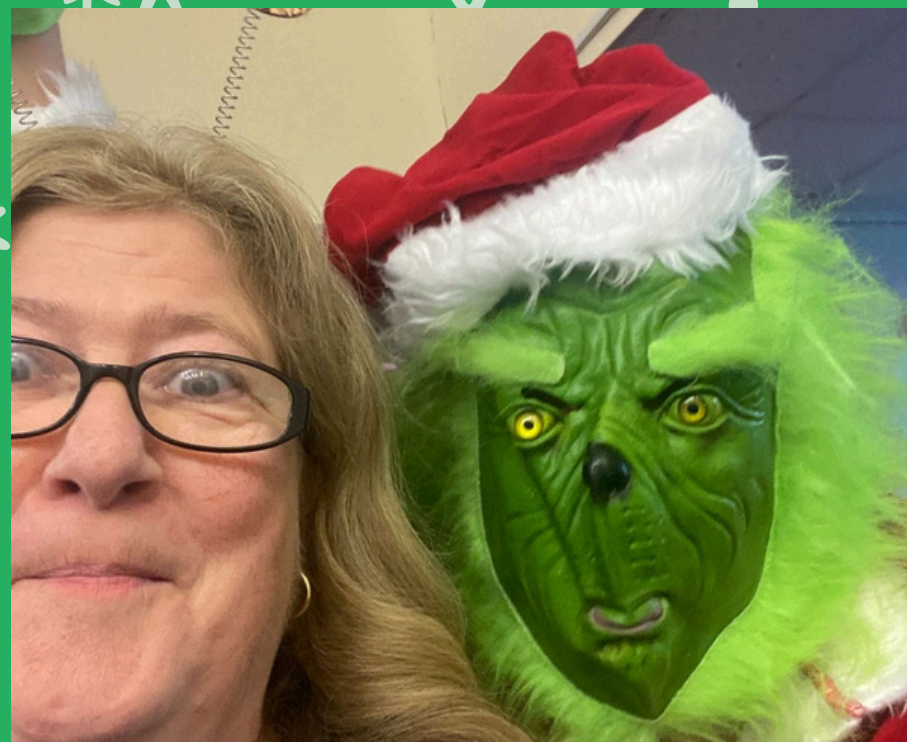
"These HAF events are absolutely fantastic... gave it a 10/10. So much to do, great days out and the supporting staff are the best. School holidays can be difficult... this just fits perfectly."

"HAF is an absolute fab idea... the amount of things my child managed to be a part of in the six short days has made up for the whole 6-week holiday. He's got to see friends, go places and do things!"

"He has enjoyed every minute... and wishes it was longer."

A massive thank you to Anca, Dot, Joe, Tash, Rod, and Lesley for making these experiences possible.





Woodfield does Christmas!

On the 17th of December both Primary and Secondary had their Christmas Fairs.

As usual, we had a great turnout of our young people and their families, all of whom were so excited to see their Woodfield family and join in with the Christmas spirit!

This year there was a Tombola, Secret Gift Wrapping, a Raffle as well as all of the usual festive drinks and other refreshments.

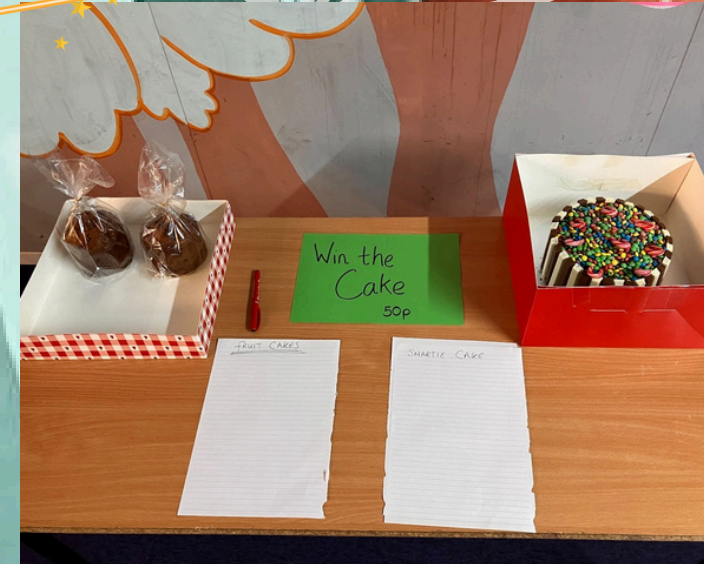
Santa even made an appearance again!

It's events like this that remind us all how special Woodfield and its community really is. A big thank you to Nikki, Jen and all of the other staff who helped prepare this and supported the evening.

Woodfield Pride at its best!

WOODFIELD SCHOOL

Woodfield
School





Christmas jumper day

On the 11th December, Woodfield held its Christmas Jumper Day.

Here are some photos of the staff getting involved in this event, in all their finery!

Christmas Performance!

The children in Stoneleigh road performed 'Christmas around the world' on the 12th December to many parents and carers. Each class represented a different country: Spain, Hawaii, America, India and Africa, and sang and danced to a song from their country. We also had super performances from Maple and Sycamore class who had invented their own Christmas poem and Christmas rap, and a small group of children who performed an acting piece to set the scene for our story.



The effort, respect and ambition shown by pupils at Stoneleigh road was exceptional. All children put so much effort into their performances, and showed huge respect to their peers when watching other classes perform. It was definitely a Christmas highlight for the whole school, with one child at the end of the performance exclaiming 'this is the best Christmas ever'. We are so proud of all the children who had the courage to be involved.





Merry Christmas

From Everyone in Our MAT Family


Sidney Stringer
Multi Academy Trust


Radford
PRIMARY ACADEMY
High flyers


Ernest Grange Community Academy
Excellence For All


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