

Issue 3

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W O O D B O R O U G H C E V A P R I M A R Y S C H O O L

SPECIAL EDITION SPECIAL EDITION SPECIAL EDITION

NEWSLETTER



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"Out of adversity comes opportunity" - Benjamin Franklin

Last week turned out to be the most extraordinary of weeks! The course of events between the discovery of the fire on the evening of Friday 17th September and the children's return to in-school learning on Monday 27th, saw us swap our usual three R's for Responding, Resilience and Running! Accompanied of course by a generous sprinkling of Woodborough Magic!

Our entire school community has been overwhelmed by people's support and humbled by their generosity. Whilst it will take time to respond to people individually, we thought it important to share some collective and initial thank yous in a special edition of our school newsletter...

Our thanks need to begin at the beginning, with huge appreciation for the swift actions of the Kinderman family who ensured there was no-one in the school building, raised the alarm and made initial attempts to fight the fire. Without their rapid and decisive actions the final damage to our school may well have been far more severe.

We are further grateful that keen observations from our school neighbours and immediate passers-by ensured that our Chair of Governors, Dr Tim Atkins, was also quickly on site and more alarm calls ensued.

Sincerest thanks are of course then due to the vast number of firefighters and associated support personnel from the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, who worked at risk to bring the fire under control and later extinguish it. Also to members of the Police force who attended and representatives of the emergency response team from Wiltshire Council who later assisted on site.

From the very outset of the emergency, the amazing community spirit of Woodborough shone brightly. Volunteers donned high-viz jackets and directed traffic, the Social Club opened its doors wide to provide comfort and refreshment, neighbours supported emergency responders, others on-site and one another and members of our Governing Body assembled and shared guidance and advice. News spread quickly. EQUA MAT were quick to respond and reassure, alongside the Diocese of Salisbury and Wiltshire Local Authority. Well wishes, messages and offers of wider support started to pour in and additional sustenance arrived, courtesy of a local supermarket.

Saturday morning brought daylight and heralded a week of great activity. Visitors to our school site have included the following: members of the Fire Brigade, Police Force, insurers, electricians, a locksmith, a building inspector, surveyors, forensic scientists, carpet fitters, plumbers, heating engineers, alarms engineers, critical incident advisors, fire investigators, a fire risk assessor, water surveyors, disaster recovery advisors, telephone engineers, IT support, scaffolding engineers, gardeners and grounds people, temporary accommodation suppliers, news reporters, local councillors, our local MP and willing and welcome volunteers lending fencing, moving furniture and more. That is absolutely not an exhaustive list - rather a representation of the scope of skills and strength of support shared, often at very short notice and for very many hours!



Thank you.

Thanks a lot.

We really appreciate it.

Thank you for everything.

Thanks a million.

We can't thank you
enough.

We are so grateful.

You're all awesome.

Accept our endless
gratitude.

You are the best.

How thoughtful of you.

Thank you for pitching in.

We thank you most
warmly.

It's so very kind of you.

Thanks a bunch.

It's very kind of you.

Thanks a ton.

We'll be forever grateful.

It means so much to us.

You are too kind.

Our gratitude knows no
bounds.

We really value your
support.

We're eternally grateful.

We wanted to thank you
as soon as possible.

We thank you from the
bottom of our hearts.

Thanks.

You are all great.

Many thanks.

We're beyond grateful.

Thank you for being there
for us.

Thank you, thank you,
THANK YOU!

Business as usual...



Marlborough Literature Festival



Residential Visit - PGL Liddington



Residential Visit - PGL Liddington



PTA Phoenix Colour Run



PTA Phoenix Colour Run



Cross Country at Dauntsey's School



Woodborough Magic!

It's hard to know how to begin to thank each and every one of our brilliant staff team and to acknowledge what, and how much, they have done! Collectively, emotionally and with grit and determination - because that's the Woodborough way - everyone rallied to ensure the speediest return to in-school learning for our children and as much of a 'business as usual' approach as possible. Teams meetings brought everyone together remotely throughout Sunday. Monday morning brought actual togetherness and 'things to do lists' that were very long (and still are). Inventories of lost items commenced, new resources were made, replacement resources were ordered; furniture was moved, temporary teaching spaces were established and displays were created. Timetables were revised, rotas planned and lesson plans amended to accommodate intermittent IT. Our SENCO reached out by telephone, our Parent Support Adviser made home visits and there was still so much more... And yet, despite all that was happening, planned events continued - Marlborough Literature Festival was attended, the Y4/5 residential to PGL Liddington was completed and our cross country team travelled to Dauntsey's School, returning with many victories. All of the above was of course accompanied by unanimous resolve, a rolling up of sleeves, relentless willingness to do whatever was needed and fuelled by adrenaline, camaraderie, strong coffee and lots and lots cake!

The source of strength and moral support provided by our immediate school family of children, parents, carers, PTA and Governors ensured togetherness - despite not being together - and we owe you all so many thanks. Words can't describe how bolstered we've been by children's messages and drawings left along the school railings, emails, cards, Tweets and other thoughtful communications; also by the numerous offers of assistance and generous contributions of resources and venues to accommodate us. Thank you for your engagement with our special Teams assembly and photographs received of home learning and adventures had whilst out of school. Even on the back of two disrupted academic years, our truly amazing Woodborough families regrouped, reassembled and rallied and we are so very grateful!

The wider Woodborough family echoed yet more warm-hearted support. EQUA Multi Academy Trust - the CEO, CFO and Trustees - oversaw strategic direction, dealt with formalities and practicalities to ensure we could focus firmly on getting our children back to school. Other MAT schools offered premises, use of resources, friendship or just the nitty gritty of what we needed. The Vale of Pewsey Team of Churches, together with wider Diocese of Salisbury and Board of Education sent prayers, empathy, strength and hands-on assistance; Wiltshire Council and the Local Authority Education Department provided the vital support of teams of people that you don't necessarily know about until you really, really need them.

However, it doesn't end there! We've always known that Woodborough School is a special place and very dear to so many hearts, so the even wider support we've received perhaps shouldn't have surprised us... but goodness, it has! Generations of families have attended our school, people know people, former members of staff stay close and in touch and our lovely school, it seems, is remembered and known far and wide. Support and generosity has abounded in many, many ways, both practical and hands-on: astonishing fundraising, considerable financial donations, emotional empathy, kind gestures and words, hugs and reassurance, resources aplenty, advice and guidance, offers of places to learn, work and visit, equipment and services, time, skills, energy, compassion, love and much more...

'Woodborough Magic' is something special - a phrase affectionately coined some years ago that describes our whole school culture. It describes resilience, tenacity, determination, positivity, commitment, compassion, kindness, togetherness and so much more. So, at the end of what could have been a week of despondency, in true Woodborough style, our school community joined forces in exactly the right way with Saturday's PTA 'Phoenix Colour Run'! With yet more plentiful support and generosity, hands-on-deck, persistence, problem-solving and camaraderie, the brilliant event (THANK YOU Mr Bryant, Mrs Davies and Co.) brought everyone together in a riot of coloured powder, phoenix t-shirts, sunglasses, fun and pure Woodborough Magic!

As this new week started, with power restored and despite many jobs still pending, we've been delighted to welcome back our children and families and get on again with what we know and do best. Temporary classroom spaces will soon be replaced with temporary accommodation, and clubs and activities will resume. In time we'll look forward to rebuilding and reconfiguring classrooms and resource spaces and over time recent events will become remembered as part of the unique history of our school.

Thank you to everyone for supporting us, bearing with us and being united with us. We are very proud and privileged to be part of such a special Woodborough community.