

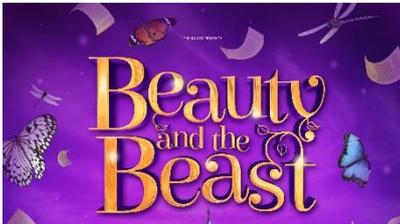


# Great Wood News December 2021

This month's value is Hope

Well done Great Wood. We won a prize draw for the Active Mile and are getting a £250 voucher for sports equipment. 😊 Thank you to those who signed up on-line.

We have managed to get to December without too much disruption. We appreciate the extra efforts being made by children, parents and staff taking lateral flow tests frequently. Let's hope we can get to the end of term in a similar way. Although we can't host the community in school for a PTA Christmas Fair, our performances for parents and the visit to the Dukes Theatre are still expected to go ahead.



Usually, we have a non-uniform day with the payment being something for the chocolate tombola. This year we will have a non uniform day on Tuesday Dec 14th (festive jumpers encouraged but not expected) for a cash donation (£1).

Children are sharing songs from their classrooms with the residents of the Sands, Bare Hall and Whitelow care homes. Our choir can't attend the homes as usual and the residents enjoyed this version last year.

It is a relief we haven't had to return to eating lunch in the classrooms as the turkey has been ordered for Christmas Dinner on the 14th. The mid-day supervisors are invited to eat together after lunchtime is over as thanks for their hard work through the year.

At the Year 2 and Reception performances the PTA have traditionally held a raffle for a local charity. Unique Kidz is being supported this year. At the performances, please know the donation bucket at the entrance is for Unique Kidz and the entry ticket numbers are being used to decide the raffle winner.

Guidance to take lateral flow tests before attendance at group events mean those attending performances will need two things to be let through the door: their ticket and proof of a recent lateral flow test (either the website evidence on your phone or we will accept the test strip with result, trusting that it was recent and yours.)

We finish at the same times as usual on the last day. The PTA will be providing selection boxes to take home for all children in the last week of school and are also paying for ice cream at the theatre. The PTA have also funded a number of activities this term.

You will be amazed and pleased to learn that the sponsored walk raised £5604.97 in sponsorships and if the gift aid application for £893.28 is successful, it will have raised a total of £6498.25! This is almost £1000 more than raised in 2019 so a superb effort from the Great Wood families. Well done to all – and a BIG thank you.

We are ever hopeful and have pencilled in Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup> for our Summer Festival so save the date.

We were delighted to have a volunteer to learn the treasurer responsibilities (Mrs Lyons – Eleanor 1V) and are still seeking volunteers to join the committee so that PTA activities and fundraising for the children's benefit can continue when the current treasurer and chair, (Kerry and Mark) leave with their children. We will hold a virtual PTA meeting on Wednesday January 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and all are welcome to join.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95642692724?pwd=bHJzbFdUczFzOE03aWVOS25VZGFNdz09>

Please feel free to ask for a chat with Kerry, Mark or Mr Ross beforehand if you wish.

We are happy that Great Wood has been able to re-engage with inter-school sports (football, tag rugby, netball, indoor athletics)

It has also been pleasing to fit in so many visitors this term. Please note that our Facebook site where we post events is public and you do not have to be a FB user to take a look. (Click the F logo on our website.)

We are hopeful for the future of the Eden



Project. Professor Barrat, Eden Project Chair of Education who is spending more time in Morecambe than Cornwall at the moment visited the Year 3 children last month. Using a bike journey that took two weeks as an example and a

focus on sustainability, he asked the children whether we need all the stuff we have or whether we can live and have a good time with less stuff. The discussion led to lots of challenging questions for both the children and the professor. He was very complimentary about the children's readiness to question and no doubt we will see him again.



After 28 years as lunchtime supervisor at Great Wood School, Mrs Daley is retiring at the end of the month. We are thankful for her commitment to the children. She has been a constant, knowing children well and giving them space to enjoy themselves safely. We are hopeful that she will miss us and want to help us out in her retirement.

We are looking for a replacement mid day supervisor. If you know of someone who enjoys being with children and would like 1 hours work daily in term time, please put them in touch. It may suit a grandparent or parent – please be aware those with a relative in school do not usually supervise their relative directly.

Please remember that the staff car park entrance is not for pedestrians – especially Year 2 at the end of the day. Also, that the use of the bus stop for parking is at your own risk – it is illegal to park there.

There have been complaints about the parking recently. Our MP wrote to the police and be warned that they may step up patrols. We repeated our request for double yellow lines on the shorter side of Redwood Drive to prevent parking on both sides as it blocks access or prevents the use of the pavement.



Blocking driveways is a bug bear of local residents and is inconsiderate



Please remember not to include nut products in school lunches or items sent into school – we do have a number of children who are allergic – and it doesn't have to be ingested to have impact.

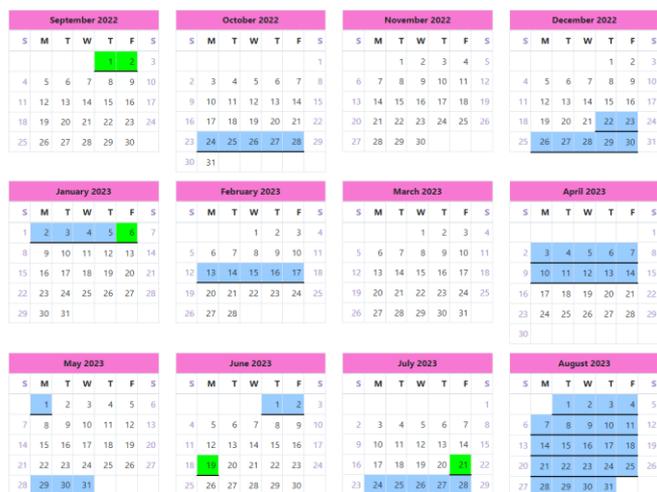
Ethan Shimwell Y4 is cast in Elf the Musical at Lancaster Grand Theatre in January as the leading child role. Ethan is performing at the following shows:

Thursday 20 Jan 7.30pm  
Saturday 22 Jan 7.30pm  
Sunday 23 Jan 2pm

Governors

We currently have 5 parents who are also governors of Great Wood out of a total of 16 governors. We are thankful for their

commitment to the school's success. The 22/23 calendar is approved – also that July 21<sup>st</sup> 2022 is now a school holiday (in lieu of the platinum jubilee bank holiday)



The school calendar and lots of other school related useful information is on our website – use the search facility and explore.

### Diary Dates

Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Reception Christmas Play for Parents 9.15am-10.15am
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Reception Christmas Play for Parents 9.15am – 10.15am
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Y2 Christmas Play for Parents 2.15pm-3.15pm
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Y2 Christmas Play for parents 9.15am -10.15am
Tue 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	PTA Non Uniform Day - £1 Donation Christmas Dinner Day.
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> and Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Whole School Trips to Dukes Theatre
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Last Day of Term Usual finish times
Tue 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Spring Term Begins
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan 7pm	PTA Zoom meeting
Thur 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' Evening

# Community News

## Winter Wheelers

An invitation for everyone to join in with the Winter Wheelers fun. Love to Ride continues to promote cycling across Lancashire no matter what the weather and we are keen to see as many people riding bikes as possible. Riding a bike - It's good for us, it's good for you, it's good for the environment, in fact it's good for everyone! Anyone riding their bike during December will be in with a chance of winning loads of fantastic cycling goodies. Love to Ride are giving away prizes every day from 1<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> December including a brand-new bike on Christmas Day! They are also offering fantastic discounts on amazing brands like Proviz and Loffi. Register for FREE at [lovetoride.net/lancashire](https://lovetoride.net/lancashire) log a ride. That's it. Simple! Simply share [lovetoride.net/lancashire](https://lovetoride.net/lancashire) with staff or post it on any of your social media platforms.

## The Little Children's Theatre Company

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021 The Little Children's Theatre Company will be offering FREE workshops for any children from the Lancaster and Morecambe areas who are interested in Drama and the Performing Arts.

The workshops will be open to children from the age of 5 upwards and will take place at Morecambe Sailing Club. They are independently run by The Little Children's Theatre Company and staffed by appropriate experienced, CBS checked teachers.

The company is owned and run by Saphron Smith, who grew up in the local area before embarking on training in the performing arts at theatre school. She has been in the Education Sector teaching all areas of performing Arts for over 30 years. Saphron is currently Head of Drama at Blackheath Preparatory School in Greenwich as well as being The IAPS Drama Subject Advisor for the UK.

You can book directly on the website.

<https://www.tlctheatreuk.com/>

If you require more information or would like to talk to us directly regarding any queries or enquiries, please don't hesitate to contact Saphron on 07734651615 or via [saphronsmith@icloud.com](mailto:saphronsmith@icloud.com)