

Newsletter - 8th November

[Headteacher Update](#)

Welcome back to school and welcome to our new style newsletter - more about that in a minute. I hope you all had a wonderful October half term break and enjoyed any Halloween festivities and/or bonfire and fireworks displays that you may have attended.

As you can see, the weekly newsletter has had a makeover. We are always striving to ensure that all members of our school community can access all of the information that we share with you, as quickly and as easily as possible. Therefore, you will now receive the weekly newsletter as a Microsoft Sway document which can be accessed and read more easily on mobile devices and smart

phones. The information contained in the weekly newsletter is always important and we are confident that this information will now be more accessible for you.

Coppice Junior School already publish their newsletters as SWAY documents and from now on, both Damson Wood and Coppice will be sharing their newsletter links with each other, again helping you to gain quick and easy access to the weekly information for both schools together in one place.

This is going to be a really busy and exciting half term for all of the children. So much is planned over the coming weeks including Children in Need, Anti-bullying Week, the Christmas Fair and lots of other celebrations too. Please keep an eye on school communications for any important information that we may need to share with you linked to this term's diary events.

Linked to this and being such a busy, busy term which we don't want any of our children to miss out on, please continue to support us maintain high attendance levels and reduce incidences of lateness. You can help and encourage your child attend school regularly and on time by:

- Talking to your child about school
- Taking a positive interest in your child's learning
- Making sure your child understands why school is important
- Showing your child that you are interested in what they have done at school
- Getting everything ready for school the night before
- Arranging appointments before or after school or during the school holidays wherever possible
- Bringing your child to school for the time before or after any appointments that have to happen within the school day wherever possible
- Taking holidays during school holidays and not during term time
- Setting your alarm and an alarm for your child – see who can beat the clock!

Willow Class enjoyed celebrating the beginning of their Potion Commotion topic with a Stunning Starter event in the hall on Wednesday morning. Parents/Carers of Willow children also joined in and a fabulous time was had by all. On behalf of the children, thank you Mrs Stoneman and Mrs Garbett for organising this.

Damson Wood has opened its doors to prospective parents/carers this week during two open mornings. These events were well attended and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members of our Year 2 cohort who acted as tour guides. The pupils who showed our visitors around were true ambassadors for Damson Wood and the families all commented on what a great job they did. Well done and thank you year 2!

And finally, I would like you to join us in welcoming a trainee teacher to Damson Wood to begin her teaching placement next week. Lorraine Somers will be working with us in school every Wednesday and Thursday for 15 weeks and will be working alongside Damson Wood staff and children from all classes during her time with us. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Somers to our school on Wednesday 13th November for her first day.

I hope you and your families have a lovely weekend and thank you for your continued support.

Ms Stevens

Head Teacher

Author of the Month - Julia Donaldson

November's Author of the Month is Julia Donaldson.

Julia Donaldson was born on 16th September 1948 in London. She lived with her large family – Mum, Dad, Granny, Aunt, Uncle, sister Mary and their cat called Geoffrey.

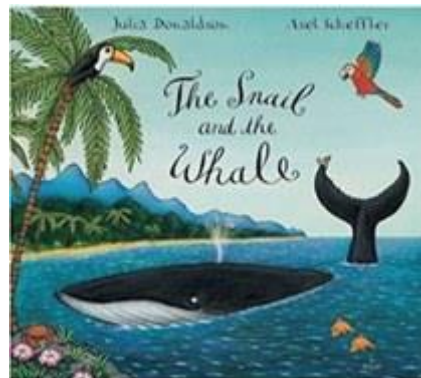
When they were young, Julia and Mary used to think that Geoffrey was a prince in disguise!

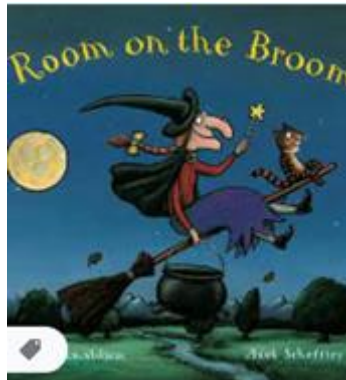
For her fifth birthday, Julia was given a book of poems and began to make up her own.

One of Julia's first jobs was writing songs for children's TV. One called 'A Squash and a Squeeze' became her first book in 1993.

Julia was awarded the 'Children's Laureate' between 2011 and 2013 to celebrate her wonderful writing and was given an CBE by the Queen in 2011!

You will have heard of lots of Julia's books – the most famous ones have been made into short films for Christmas TV. The Gruffalo, Stickman, Room on the Broom, Zog and Highway Rat are just a few.





Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week Monday 11th - Friday 15th November 2024

Next week we are launching Anti-Bullying Week at Damson Wood. On Tuesday 12th November we are inviting the children to come to school wearing odd socks. No monetary donation is required to take part in this. The theme of this year's Anti-Bullying Week is "Choose Respect". This Anti-Bullying Week we will come together in school to explore what bullying means to us and what we can do to stop bullying. Together, we can make a difference and take a stand against bullying. Please see the separate letter sent out this week by Mrs Stoneman for more details about this event.





Composer of the Month

November's Composer of the Month is Alan Menken

Tell me more about the composer...

Alan Irwin Menken (born July 22, 1949) is an American composer, songwriter, conductor, [music director](#) and record producer. Menken is best known for his scores and songs for films produced by [Walt Disney Animation Studios](#). His scores and songs for [The Little Mermaid \(1989\)](#), [Beauty and the Beast \(1991\)](#), [Aladdin \(1992\)](#), and [Pocahontas \(1995\)](#) have each won him two [Academy Awards](#). He also composed the scores and songs for [Little Shop of Horrors \(1986\)](#), [Newsies \(1992\)](#), [The Hunchback of Notre Dame \(1996\)](#), [Hercules \(1997\)](#), [Home on the Range \(2004\)](#), [Enchanted \(2007\)](#) and [Tangled \(2010\)](#), among others. [His accolades](#) include eight [Academy Awards](#), a [Tony Award](#), eleven [Grammy Awards](#), seven [Golden Globe Awards](#) and a [Daytime Emmy Award](#).

Did you know?

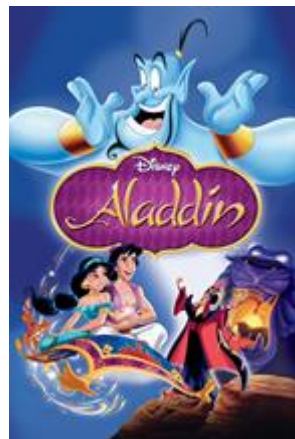
Menken developed an interest in music at an early age, taking piano and violin lessons. He began to compose at an early age. Aged nine, at the New York Federation of Music Clubs Junior Composers Contest, his original composition "Bouree" was rated Superior and Excellent by the judges.

Check out....

<https://www.alanmenken.com/>- Watch Disney clips, alongside his music.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Syzw3znAW7o>- Alan performing his music on the piano.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4DcTslRznWU>- Alan talking about writing 'A Whole New World'



Woodies Childcare and Holiday Club

Woodies Childcare and Holiday Club can be found within the grounds of *Damson Wood Nursery & Infant School*. At *Woodies*, it is a time for fun and enjoyment in a safe, caring and homely environment. We have access to all the school play equipment, hall, library, playground and Forest School area.

We offer full or part-time day care for children aged 2 years and over.

We are open from 7:45am - 6:00pm.

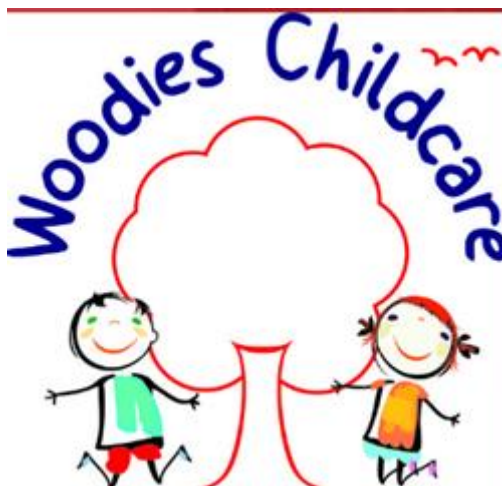
Caterpillars & Butterflies - Full Day Care sessions are available for children from the age of 2 - 3 years. We offer a variety of options for paying parents from just one or two sessions a week to full time, which are competitively priced.

Conkers Before & After School Club (school aged pupils) is open daily in term time from 7:45am and again our afternoon club starts at 3:15pm.

Included in the price:

- a healthy breakfast
- a light dinner (for children staying until 18:00pm)

Welcome to contact us or to arrange a visit by using: 0121 705 8652 ext. 3 or via e-mail: woodies@solgrid.org.uk



On-Line Safety

E-Safety Workshop

We look forward to seeing parents and carers at our Online E-Safety workshop on Monday 18th November 2024 at 9:10am.

Online safety guide 0-5 years

With so many websites and apps targeting pre-schoolers, find out the simple steps you can take to protect your young children.

Click below or visit <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-safety-guide-0-5-year-olds/>

Online safety guide 6 – 10 years

As internet use grows learn about the steps you can make to establish positive behaviour and how you can teach your child to stay safe.

Click below or visit <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-safety-guide-6-10-year-olds/>

Attendance



Congratulations to Ash Class for the highest attendance, 94.7%

Christmas Fair - Friday 29th November

Preparations are well under way for our Christmas Fair which is on Friday 29th November. We are still looking for raffle prizes so if you would like to donate a prize to our raffle, please contact us via s19fair@damson-wood.solihull.sch.uk

We will also need helpers to man the stalls listed below. If you or a grandparent or carer are able to help us, please contact us on the email address above with your preferred stall.

- 2x refreshment (serve hot/ cold drinks)
- 2x chocolate tombola
- 2x bottle tombola
- 2x Father Christmas's helpers outside Santa's Grotto

Of course, your child is also welcome to help you. Thank you in advance for your support with this.



Term Dates - 2024 to 2025

	<u>Autumn Term 2024</u>	INSET DAY
Term Commences	Monday 2 nd September 2024 Children start Wednesday 4 September 2024 <i>(Please see personalised induction timetable for children in Nursery & Reception)</i>	Monday 2 nd September Tuesday 3 rd September
Half Term	Monday 28 th October to Friday 1 st November 2024	
Term Ends	Friday 20 th December 2024	
	<u>Spring Term 2025</u>	INSET DAY
Term Commences	Monday 6 th January 2025	
Half Term	Monday 17 th February - Friday 21 st February 2025	
Term Ends	Friday 11 th April 2025	
	<u>Summer Term 2025</u>	INSET DAY
Term Commences	Monday 28 th April 2025	Friday 23 rd May
Half Term	Monday 26 th May to Friday 30 th May 2025	
Term Ends	Friday 18 July 2025	Friday 4 th July

Diary Dates 2024

Please note that all dates are subject to change

Diary Dates		AUTUMN TERM 2024
Monday 28 th October – Friday 1 st November		HALF TERM
Monday 4 th November		Everyone back to School
Wednesday 6 th November	9:15am	Reception 'Potion Commotion' Workshop for children & parents in Willow
Thursday 7 th November Friday 8 th November	10.00 until 11.00am	Open Morning Open Morning
Friday 15 th November	All Day	Children in Need
Monday 11 th - Friday 15 th November		Anti-Bullying Week – 'Choose Respect'
Monday 18 th November	9:10am	E-Safety Parent's Workshop
Tuesday 19 th November	9:00am	Rags2Riches Clothing Collection
Friday 22 nd November	All Day	Non-uniform for Christmas Fair donations - Chocolate
Friday 29 th November	All Day	Non-uniform for Christmas Fair donations - Bottles
Friday 29 th November	Morning	Mr and Mrs Santa Claus to visit school 9am to 12pm
Friday 29 th November	3pm-5pm	Christmas Fair
Tuesday 10 th December	9.30am	Reception Christmas Celebration – <i>Parents/Carers Welcome</i>
Wednesday 11 th December	9.30am	Nursery Christmas Celebration – <i>Parents/Carers Welcome</i>
Wednesday 11 th December Thursday 12 th December	2.00pm 9.30am	KS1 Christmas Celebrations – Year 1 & Year 2 <i>Parents/Carers Welcome</i>
Wednesday 18 th December	Lunchtime	Christmas Dinner – <i>Children Only</i>
Thursday 19 th December	Afternoon	99 Club for children with 99% attendance and above
Friday 20 th December	All Day	Jolly Jumper Day for Solihull Hospital Charity
Monday 23 rd December – Friday 3 rd January		CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Monday 6 th January		Everyone back to school

Rags to Riches Collection

On Tuesday 19th November, we will be collecting once again for the Rags2Riches4Schools recycling scheme, to help others around the world benefit from our good quality unwanted clothes and shoes. We get money for every kilo of reusable items we collect, which goes towards school projects and we would be most grateful if you could help us with this challenge at home. Bags will be sent home nearer the date and can be dropped off at school **on Tuesday 19th November at 9:00am** and should only include good quality clothes and accessories. Thank you for your support as we fundraise for Damson Wood.



Children in Need - Friday 15th November

Next Friday, 15th November, Damson Wood will be fundraising for BBC Children in Need once again. **Children are invited to wear Children in Need accessories with their school uniform, e.g. a Pudsey t-shirt or ears.** We ask for a suggested donation of £1.00 cash towards this fantastic charity.

Shop at Asda and Support School

Until 30th November 2024, every time a customer shops with Asda using their Rewards app, they can choose to reward our school! Asda will donate £1.00 to our school's Cashpot, plus a further £50 when our first customer shops there. Will you be the 1st customer supporting us? Please spread the word.

