

Weekly Newsletter

25TH SEPTEMBER 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have all had a wonderful week!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped share details of Whipman Woods' first Open Evening of the year. It was a fantastic success, with LOTS of prospective families coming along to find out more about our school. It was wonderful to hear so many positive comments about Whipman Woods within our local community. **Thank you for always championing our school and for the important part you play in the community and reputation we are building together.**

Our children continue to impress us every day, and we are looking forward to sharing more about their progress and achievements with you at our upcoming Parents' Evenings. Next week, we are focusing on the characteristic of 'Confidence'!

Finally, we know that the absence of Lime Trees' breakfast and after-school provision this week has caused difficulties for some of our families, and we are sorry for the disruption. Although Lime Trees operates independently of the school, we recognise how important reliable wraparound care is. I have been in regular contact with them this week to share our concerns and discuss how greater resilience can be built into their staffing arrangements. We will continue to work together to support a swift resolution for our families.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for being such an important part of our Whipman Woods community.

Mrs Nicola Green
Headteacher



WEEKLY ATTENDANCE DATA

Please bring your child into school even if they are feeling a little 'off it' when they wake in a morning. We will always keep our eye on them and contact you should they not improve or be well enough to be in school. The curriculum builds progressively, day on day, and even one day's absence can leave significant gaps in their learning – as well as their friendships.

Willow	Cedar	Beech	Maple	Oak	Whole School
96%	97.7%	95%	99.2%	97.3%	97%

Well done to Maple class! You are this week's attendance winners!

PARENTS' EVENINGS

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our Parents' Evenings on Wednesday **7th** and Thursday **8th October**. These will be a 'Settling-In Review' – a lovely opportunity to chat about how your child has settled into their new class, including their learning, friendships and wellbeing, and to celebrate their start to the new school year.

Appointments can be booked via Arbor under 'Guardian Consultations'.



SPOTLIGHT ON WILLOW CLASS

Willow Class have had a fantastic start to the year! The children have settled beautifully into their new routines and have been taking part in lots of exciting learning experiences.

It has been wonderful to see the children building friendships, growing in confidence and showing such enthusiasm for their learning. In Literacy, Willow Class have been enjoying the wonderful story 'Perfectly Norman'. The children have had great fun acting out different parts of the story and discussing what makes each person special and unique. They have been learning that everyone is different in their own way and celebrating the things that make them who they are.

The Enquiry question for this half term is 'What makes us unique?', which links beautifully to one of the school's values. As part of their Enquiry learning, the children have been finding out about their birthdays and learning more about one another. They particularly enjoyed playing 'Guess the Baby!', using baby photographs to see if they could identify their friends.

The children have also been learning about their families. Families sent in descriptions of who lives in their homes and shared some of the special celebrations and traditions they enjoy together.

It has been lovely to see the children sharing their experiences with one another. Some children even brought in traditional clothing to show the class, providing a wonderful opportunity to learn about and celebrate the different cultures and traditions represented within the Willow Class community.



AUTUMN DISCO 🎃 🍁

We're excited to announce that we will be hosting our Autumn Disco!

After being such a huge success last year, we can't wait to welcome our children for another evening of dancing, music and fun!

This year will be EVEN better with our disco lights now installed in the hall.

Tuesday 13th October
3.30pm-4.30pm (Willow, Beech and Cedar Classes)
4.45-5.45 (Maple and Oak Classes)

Tickets are now available to purchase via the Arbor School Shop.

We'd love for as many children as possible to join us and make this year's disco just as special as the last!

We look forward to seeing everyone there! If you are able to volunteer to help at either disco please let Miss Martin know.



MACMILLAN COFFEE AND CAKE AFTERNOON

A huge thank you to all the parents and families who joined us for our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon today and the amazing cake donations we received. It was a lovely opportunity to come together, enjoy some delicious treats and connect with other parents, all while raising money for such an important cause.



We will reveal the total amount raised next week, as we still have raffle tickets available! **If you would like to support us further, if if you were unable to attend the event but would like to contribute to such a wonderful cause, please visit 'Arbor School Shop' to purchase a raffle ticket for your chance to win our fantastic Tesco food hamper.**



FREE SCHOOL MEALS - COULD YOUR CHILD BE ELIGIBLE?

We want to let you know that the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals have changed. As a result, some families who were not previously eligible may now qualify. Any household in receipt of Universal Credit now qualifies. We encourage all families to check the new criteria and consider applying. Please follow the link or complete the form and return it to admissions.ed@nottscc.gov.uk: [Free school meals and milk | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Registering for Free School Meals not only helps with the cost of school lunches but can also provide additional funding that supports resources, interventions and enrichment opportunities across the school.

Even if your child is in Elm, Willow, Cedar or Beech Class and already receives a free meal through the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) scheme, we would still encourage you to apply if you meet the eligibility criteria. While there would be no change to your child's current meal provision, a successful application enables the school to receive additional Pupil Premium funding. This funding helps us provide extra support, enhanced learning resources, educational visits, wellbeing initiatives and enrichment opportunities that directly benefit eligible children and support the wider school community.



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Congratulations to the stars of our Celebration Assembly! This week's assembly characteristic was **Effective Communication**.

Our definition is:

"We share our ideas, thoughts and feelings clearly, respectfully and with consideration of our audience. We listen carefully to others and try to understand them so that everyone feels heard and understood."

Stars of the Week	Readers of the Week	Kindness Awards
Willow: Sophia Cedar: Beech: Duru Maple: Noah Oak: Reyon	Willow: Arthur Cedar: Beech: Hazel Maple: Oscar Oak: Sophia	This week's Kindness Awards go to: Esme for always looking out for ways she can help others and Abraham for welcoming new friends to Maple class and showing empathy and kindness.

DIARY DATES

Autumn Half Term 1

Thursday 1st October - EYFS Open Evening - 2027 intake 4pm

Tuesday 6th October - Maple Class (Years 3 and 4) Bikeability Training

Wednesday 7th October - **Parents' Evening 1 - 3.30pm-6.30pm (booked via Arbor)**

Thursday 8th October - **Parents' Evening 2 - 3.30pm-6.30pm (booked via Arbor)**

Thursday 8th October - Beech class and Maple Class History Experience Days - Beech: Great Fire of London and Maple: Shang Dynasty

Tuesday 13th October - **Autumn Disco: Reception and KS1 3.30pm-4.30pm, Key Stage 2 - 4.45pm-5.45pm** - Tickets available via Arbor.

Friday 16th October - **Harvest Festival 9.30am**

Friday 16th October - **Last day in school before the Half Term break**

Autumn Half Term 1

Monday 2nd November - **Back to school**

Thursday 5th November - Individual School Photos

Thursday 12th November - Oak Class Trip - Holocaust Centre

Monday 23rd - Friday 27th November - Assessment Week (Year 1-Year 6)

Thursday 3rd December - Christmas Fair

Tuesday 8th December - **EYFS Parent Workshop on Reading 3.15pm-3.45pm**

Wednesday 9th December - Elm and Willow Nativity Production 9.30am

Wednesday 9th December - Cedar and Beech Nativity Production 2pm

Thursday 10th December - Cedar and Beech Nativity Production 9.30am

Thursday 10th December - Elm and Willow Nativity Production 2pm

Friday 11th December - Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Monday 14th December - Elm (Nursery) and Willow (Reception) Christmas Party Day

Tuesday 15th December - Maple (Year 3/4) and Oak (Year 5/6) Christmas Carol Concert

Wednesday 16th December - Cedar (Year 1) and Beech (Year 2) Christmas Party Day

Thursday 17th December - Maple and Oak Christmas Party Day

Friday 18th December - **Last day in school before end of Term break**





AUTUMN DISCO

Tuesday 13th October

Tickets available on Arbor

£4 each



Drinks and snack
included!



Fancy dress optional!

Willow, Cedar
and Beech

3.30pm - 4.30pm

Maple and Oak

4.45pm - 5.45pm



Collection and drop off
to the school hall.