Weekly Newsletter

16TH OCTOBER 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of our first half term, we can't help but feel incredibly proud of all that has been achieved in just a few short weeks. Life in school is always busy, but amongst the hustle and bustle, it is important that we take a moment to reflect on and celebrate the wonderful contributions of our children, so ably supported by our dedicated staff team.

Together, we have enjoyed two very successful EYFS Open Evenings, a Macmillan charity event, exciting curriculum experiences to enrich and deepen our history learning, Bikeability for Maple Class, a Boggledy Book Fair, a whole-school Harvest Festival celebration and an Autumn Disco – to name just a few!

We believe that our children's primary school years should be filled not only with high-quality classroom learning, but also with the rich and varied experiences that bring education 'off the page'. These opportunities introduce children to new skills, interests and experiences, helping to shape not only a treasure trove of wonderful childhood memories, but also the confidence, character and readiness they need for life beyond our school gates. As our school continues to grow, both in size and in the opportunities we offer, one thing will never change: *our unwavering commitment to the quality of education we provide, the strength of the relationships we build and our determination to ensure that every child feels safe, valued, loved and championed.*

Your continued support, encouragement and belief in our school and all that it stands for mean so much to us. We feel incredibly fortunate to have such a wonderful school community, with parents and families who share our values, champion our children and work alongside us to make Whipman Woods the very best it can be.

Thank you for being part of our journey and for helping us to live, learn and thrive together in the Whipman Woods' Way! Wishing you all a wonderful and well-deserved half-term break!

Mrs Nicola Green

Headteacher



WEEKLY ATTENDANCE DATA

Willow	Cedar	Beech	Maple	Oak	Whole School
92.3%	98.7%	96.4%	97.6%	96.7%	96.3%

Well done to Cedar class! You are this week's attendance winners...again!

AUTUMN DISCO

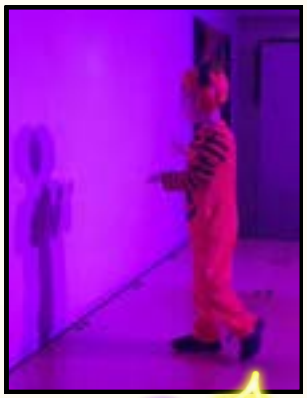
Our school Autumn Disco was a fantastic success, with the children and staff (in equal measure) having a brilliant time on the dance floor! There was lots of dancing, laughter and fun, and our Key Stage 2 children particularly loved choosing their own song requests and singing along to their favourites. It was wonderful to see everyone enjoying themselves and getting into the disco spirit. Thanks to everyone who supported the event, we are delighted to have raised an amazing **£380** towards school funds!



A huge thank you to all the staff, parent helpers and families who helped make the evening such a success.







Autumn Disco Fun!



















SCHOOL NAME TAGS

We're pleased to announce that we have teamed up with **NameTags**, a company that creates personalised name labels and stickers for school items. Their labels are a great way to ensure that children's belongings, from water bottles and lunchboxes to coats, shoes and stationery, are clearly named and can be easily identified and returned to their rightful owners. Please take a look at their website www.MyNametags.com

By using our unique school code **114436** at checkout, parents will receive 10% off their order, and the school will also earn a commission from every purchase made using our code. This commission will go directly into school funds, helping to support our pupils and school community. It's a simple way to keep belongings organised while supporting our school at the same time!



DEFIBRILLATOR - A COMMUNITY EFFORT THAT COULD SAVE LIVES!



We are delighted to share that, thanks to the fantastic fundraising efforts of our children, families and wider school community throughout 2025–2026, we have been able to purchase a defibrillator for Whipman Woods - and our local community!

This purchase is particularly special as it came from a suggestion made by you, our parents, recognising the importance of having potentially life-saving equipment available to protect our children, staff and wider community.

Our defibrillator is now registered with the national defibrillator network, meaning it can also be accessed by our local community during school opening hours, should an emergency arise.

We are incredibly proud that this has been made possible through the generosity and collective efforts of our families. Every fundraising event, donation and contribution has helped make this happen.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved. What a wonderful example of our school community coming together to make a difference! We hope it is something we never need to use, but what a difference it could make if we do!

Mrs Charlotte Lax (our Chair of Governors) and Leanne Saunders, on behalf of the Friends of Whipman Woods, presented the defibrillator to the school this morning.



MACMILLAN COFEE AND CAKE - CHARITY FUNDRAISER

Thank you to Mrs Matthews who single-handedly brought together our Macmillan Coffee and Cake afternoon a few weeks ago. Always keen to support others and show the children how to do this too, Mrs Matthews contacted local supermarkets to support with the wonderful array of cakes that were on offer.

A huge thank you to you and our staff who also donated so generously. Your presence at this event meant the world and we know the families who benefit from the work of this wonderful family will be incredibly grateful.









HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

A huge thank you to all of our parents and carers who joined us for our wonderful Harvest Festival Celebration this morning. It was lovely to come together as a school community to celebrate the importance of gratitude, generosity and kindness. Our children made us incredibly proud with their class performances, and our wonderful school choir who brought the celebration together beautifully!

This year, we were delighted to support **Bassetlaw Food Bank**, which provides essential food and supplies to local individuals and families experiencing difficult times. Thank you to everyone who generously contributed to our collection – your kindness will make a real difference to those in need within our local community.

Harvest has provided a meaningful opportunity for our children to put our school values of kindness, problem-solving and responsibility into action, recognising that even the smallest acts of generosity can have a significant impact when we work together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and generosity. We are incredibly proud of our Whipman Woods community!

SPOTLIGHT ON BEECH CLASS

This week, we have been busy putting our scientific enquiry skills to the test as we investigated the properties of different materials! We explored which materials were waterproof and which were absorbent, testing a range of materials, including tarpaulin and different types of fabric.



Before beginning our investigations, we made careful predictions about which materials we thought would prevent water from passing through and which would soak it up. We then worked together to carry out our tests, observing closely and recording what happened. It was really exciting to compare our findings with our original predictions and discover whether we were right!



Through our investigations, we learnt that materials have different properties and began to understand why some are better suited to particular purposes than others. We enjoyed discussing our discoveries, sharing our ideas and thinking about where we might find these materials in everyday life.

We had a fantastic time working as scientists, asking thoughtful questions, making observations and learning from one another. What a wonderful week of hands-on scientific discovery in Beech Class!









HOUSE CAPTAINS AT WHIPMAN WOODS!

We are delighted that, for the first time, Whipman Woods will be electing House Captains for **Fire**, **Water**, **Earth** and **Air**! Following the introduction of our House Teams last year, this is an exciting next step in developing the children's leadership skills.

Reserved for our oldest pupils in Oak Class, this role offers a fantastic opportunity to develop leadership, communication and public-speaking skills. This week, children have explored the qualities of an effective leader, explored the job advert and begun preparing speeches explaining why they would make a great House Captain.



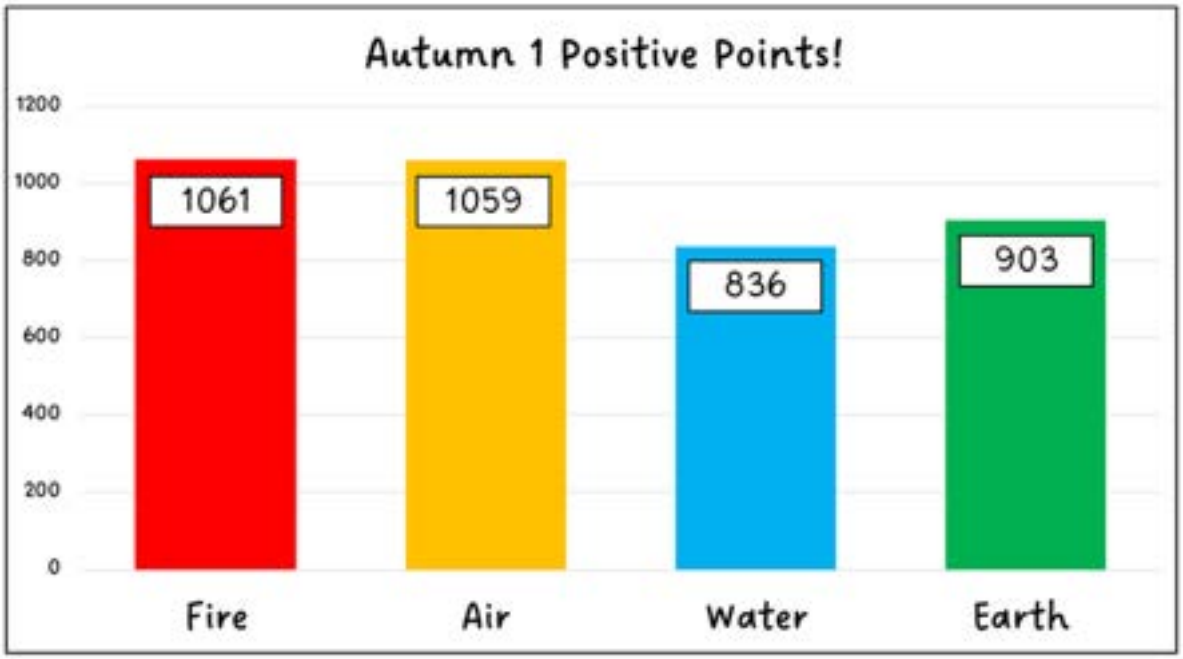
The elections will take place during our assemblies on **Tuesday 3rd November** (**Fire** and **Water**) and **Wednesday 4th November** (**Earth** and **Air**). Candidates will deliver their speeches before the rest of the school votes for their chosen representative!

Children may wish to practise their speeches over half term and can use optional resources such as posters, props or PowerPoint presentations to support their ideas. These are entirely optional – we want every child to feel confident presenting in their own way.

We wish all our candidates the very best of luck and look forward to welcoming our first-ever House Captains at Whipman Woods!

One of the House Captains' jobs will be to work with the House Leaders to count up the positive points each half term.

Here is how they are looking after our first half term!



DOGS ON THE PLAYGROUND



We love our four-legged friends at Whipman Woods, however, to help keep our playground safe, clean and enjoyable for everyone, we kindly ask that dogs are kept off the school playground during drop-off and collection times.

Thank you for your understanding and for helping us to keep Whipman Woods a safe and welcoming place for all our children and families.

DIARY DATES



Monday 2nd November - Back to school (Poppy merchandise on sale £1 suggested donation)
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**

POPPY APPEAL



The first week back at school, our Year 6 children will be coming to the classrooms towards the end of the day to sell Poppies. We have poppies, keyrings, snapbands and fabric bracelets with a suggested donation of £1 each.

Please send your child with their money for any poppies to the classrooms ideally in a named envelope.

PUPIL JOBS

Children at Whipman Woods have the exciting opportunity to apply for one of our school jobs and make a real difference to our school community! The following roles were introduced in this morning's assembly (and the job posters can be found below):



Key Stage 1:

Eco Warrior
Reading Champion
Safety Superhero



Key Stage 2:

Eco Warrior
Reading Champion
Safety Superhero
Lunchtime Leader



These jobs are designed for children to develop their leadership skills, share ideas, make decisions and take responsibility for making Whipman Woods an even more wonderful place than it already is! They will learn the importance of listening to others, respecting different opinions and working together as a Whipman Woods team!

Our school jobs are also a fantastic way for children to put our British Values into practice and live out our school rules: **Be Ready, Be Kind, Be Safe!**

If children would like to apply, they can collect an application form from their teacher and explain why they would be perfect for the role. The deadline for applications is **Wednesday 4th November**!

ECO WARRIORS

Full training will be provided!



ADULT LEADER: MRS KEOGH

Do you care about our planet and want to make a difference?

Whipman Woods Flying High Academy is looking for SIX 'Eco Warriors' (one from each year group - Reception to Year Six) to help protect our environment and make our school a greener place.

AS AN ECO WARRIOR, YOU WILL

- Help our school look after the environment.
- Encourage others to recycle, reuse and reduce waste.
- Look out for litter and help keep our school grounds clean and tidy.
- Attend regular meetings to share ideas for making our school more eco-friendly.
- Look out for ways we can save energy and resources.
- Help care for our outdoor spaces, plants and wildlife.
- Raise awareness of environmental issues and encourage others to make positive choices.
- Lead by example and encourage others to care for our planet.

COMPLETE AN APPLICATION FORM AND HAND IN TO YOUR CLASS TEACHER BY WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER

Lunchtime Leaders



Adult Leader: Mrs Gibb

Do you enjoy helping others and making lunchtime fun? Whipman Woods Flying High Academy is looking for SIX 'Lunchtime Leaders' (three from each KS2 class) to help make lunchtimes happy, friendly and inclusive for everyone.

Full training will be provided!

As a Lunchtime Leader, you will:

- Welcome children into the dinner hall with a friendly smile.
- Help younger children feel comfortable by sitting with them if they are by themselves and know where to sit.
- Help younger children with lunchtime routines (e.g. holding knives and forks correctly and clearing plates).
- Help keep tables and the surrounding area tidy by encouraging children to keep their area clean and tidy.
- Share children's ideas about lunchtime with Mrs Gibb.

Comlete an application form and hand in to your class teacher by Wednesday 4th November.

READING CHAMPIONS



ADULT LEADER: MISS CAIRNS

Do you love all things reading and books? Whipman Woods Flying High Academy is looking for SIX 'Reading Champions' (one from each year group - Y1-Y6) to spread the joy of reading across school.

AS A READING CHAMPION, YOU WILL:

- Encourage others to enjoy reading and share your love of books.
- Talk about books, share your ideas and opinions and recommend books to others.
- Be a positive reading role model around school.
- Care for all books in school and report any damaged books to an adult.
- Help promote and support reading events and activities in school.
- Help create a school community where everyone can discover and enjoy reading.
- Attend regular meetings to talk all things books!

Full training will be provided!

Complete an application form and hand in to your class teacher by Wednesday 4th November.

Safety Superhero!

Adult Leader: Mr Matthews



Do you care about helping to keep everybody safe at school? Whipman Woods Flying High Academy is looking for SIX (Y1-Y6) Safety Superheroes to help everyone make safe choices and look after one another.

As a Safety Hero, you will:

- Conduct a weekly check around school and report to Mr Matthews if you notice something that needs fixing - e.g. wobbly chair legs, chairs that haven't been pushed under properly or messy cloakrooms!
- Look out for and encourage others to follow school safety rules and make safe choices.
- Set a good example by making safe choices yourself.
- Help promote safety messages around school.
- Remind others about safe routines in places such as the playground, corridors and dinner hall.

Remember:

Spot it. Report it. Keep everyone safe!

Comlete an application form and hand in to your class teacher by Wednesday 4th November.

Full training will be provided!