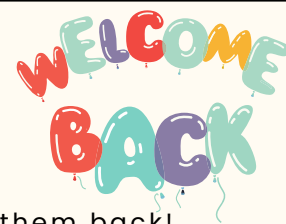


Weekly Newsletter

4TH SEPTEMBER 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you have had a wonderful summer and found some time to enjoy the fabulous weather we were blessed with.

This week has seen our existing children return full of smiles, enthusiasm and stories of their summer adventures – and we've LOVED having them back!

This year marks the start of Whipman Woods' third year! The years are passing by incredibly quickly and, with each one, our school continues to grow and develop that little bit more – always with the intention of giving our children the very best possible learning and childhood experiences. This includes the academic aspects of their education, but just as importantly, the enriching experiences that provide new skills and knowledge, create lasting memories and help our children to develop into well-rounded, confident and healthy young people.

As always, everything we do is rooted in the belief that kindness and character provide the foundations for successful learning. Every member of staff at Whipman Woods is dedicated to forming meaningful relationships, getting to know each child as an individual and understanding their unique starting points.

A special 'thank you' must go to our new parents and families for choosing Whipman Woods. You have prepared your children wonderfully for their start in Nursery and Reception, and we have been absolutely amazed by how quickly they have settled. This is testament to the effective transition opportunities planned by our EYFS team, combined with the support and care you have provided at home. We know our new children are going to thrive here, and we look forward to working in partnership with you over the coming years.

As always, please just ask if you have any questions or queries. We have an open-door approach and you are very welcome to speak to your child's class teacher at drop-off or collection for a quick discussion, or to arrange an appointment if you need a more in-depth conversation. For administrative queries, please speak to Miss Martin (School Administration Assistant) or Mrs Matthews (School Business Manager). Alternatively, please contact us via the school office via email at: office@whipmanwoodsfa.co.uk

We know you will have taken as much pride in your child's first week back as we have. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for being such an important part of our Whipman Woods community.

Kind regards,

Mrs Nicola Green
Headteacher

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 9th September – Maple Class Swimming Starts (Wednesday each week)

Tuesday 15th September – Boggledy Books Bookfair (more information to follow)

Friday 25th September – Macmillan Coffee Morning (all parents invited)

Tuesday 6th October – Year 3&4 Bikeability Session

Thursday 8th October – Beech class and Maple Class History Experience Days – Beech: Great Fire of London and Maple: Shang Dynasty (more information to follow)

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

A calendar of key dates for the full academic year will be sent to you over the next week to support you in planning for these.



ELM CLASS

We have had a lovely start to the school year in Elm Class. The children have done incredibly well settling into their new class and are beginning to learn our daily routines. Mrs Green has been very impressed with how quickly they have settled!

The adults in the classroom have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each and every child, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence growing each day. We can already tell that it is going to be a fantastic school year, and we look forward to all the exciting learning and experiences ahead!



WILLOW CLASS

Willow Class have had a fantastic first week back! The children have been absolute superstars and have settled into their new classroom brilliantly. They have worked incredibly hard to learn their new routines, become familiar with their timetable and get to know their new friends.

Throughout the week, Willow Class have enjoyed exploring their classroom, developing their independence and taking part in lots of exciting learning experiences. They have explored emotions through The Colour Monster, created their own colourful monsters, practised their phonics routines, enjoyed Squiggle Time, sung together and shared their family experiences.

It has been a wonderful first week, and the adults in Willow Class are incredibly proud of how confidently and positively the children have settled into their new classroom!



CEDAR CLASS

We have had a fantastic start to our Year 1 journey, getting to know one another, building new friendships and settling into our classroom routines. The children have worked so hard to learn our expectations and have already shown what a kind, caring and enthusiastic class they are.

We have started creating our very own 'Little People, Big Dreams books', begun exploring place value in Maths and worked together to create our Cedar Class Charter, sharing ideas about what will help make our classroom a happy and successful place to learn.

We have also enjoyed seeing some of the wonderful things purchased with the fundraising money the children worked so hard to raise in Reception. It has been a joy to see their excitement and pride as they begin to make use of these resources.

We are incredibly proud of how positively the children have approached their first week, and we are so excited for all the learning, laughter and adventures still to come!



BEECH CLASS

What a fantastic first week we have had in Beech Class! The children have settled back into school brilliantly and, honestly, you would think they had been in Year 2 for a year already! I am incredibly impressed with how well they have adapted to their new classroom routines.

Throughout the week, we have spent time discussing expectations and introducing our new routines in line with The Whipman Way. We have also had lots of opportunities to talk about recognising and regulating our emotions, building positive relationships, and creating a happy, respectful learning environment.

I am so proud of the way the children have started the year and know you will be too!



MAPLE CLASS

Maple Class have had a fantastic first week in their new classroom and have loved getting started on our new enquiry topic, exploring the question: 'How do past decisions help shape our future?' through the Shang Dynasty.

We launched our learning with an exciting Hook Day, becoming archaeologists investigating artefacts from Shang tombs, Shang scribes writing predictions on oracle bones, and bronze craftsmen creating tools, weapons and ceremonial objects. We also considered the decisions made by a Shang emperor when faced with an approaching enemy.

The children showed great enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the day, and we are looking forward to exploring these ideas in more depth as the term progresses. Well done, Maple Class, for settling in so brilliantly and embracing your new learning with such excitement!

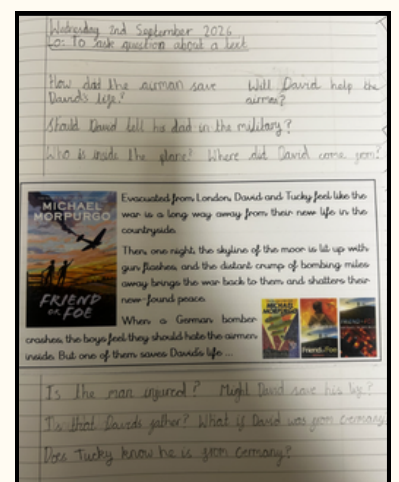


OAK CLASS

Oak Class have had a wonderful first week back at school! The children have settled in brilliantly and have impressed us with their enthusiasm, positive attitude and hard work. It has been fantastic to see so many smiling faces and such a strong start to the year.

This week, the children have been introduced to our first class novel, 'Friend or Foe', by Michael Morpurgo. They are already thoroughly enjoying the story and are eager to find out what happens next. The book will provide an exciting introduction to our upcoming enquiry learning on World War II, which we will begin next week. In the afternoons, we have been focusing on PSHE. The children have been exploring different emotions and discussing strategies they can use to help regulate their feelings when needed. They have also considered a range of real-life situations and talked thoughtfully about how they might respond to them.

We are incredibly proud of how well Oak Class have started the term and are looking forward to another exciting week of learning ahead!



WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome our newest members of the Whipman Woods' staff team. You may have already met them, but they are:



Miss Beth Cairns
Deputy Headteacher
and Year 5/6 class
teacher (alongside
Mrs Gibb)



Mrs Chloe Rhodes
Teaching Assistant
who will provide
targeted support
across school



Mrs Rebecca Bend
Higher Level
Teaching Assistant
who will provide PPA
and Leadership cover
across the Early Years
and Lower Key Stage 2



We already know that these staff share the same high ambition for our children as we do and they have put great time and effort into getting to know them this week.

ALLERGY AND ANAPHYLAXIS GUIDANCE & INFORMATION GATHERING

Although allergy safety has always been taken extremely seriously at Whipman Woods, the new requirements reinforce the importance of schools having accurate and up-to-date information about all pupils, including any known allergies, previous allergic reactions and prescribed medication.

As we have children in school with severe allergies who carry adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs), **we would also like to remind families that Whipman Woods is a nut-free school.** Please carefully check the ingredients and packaging of any food sent into school and do not send products containing nuts. This includes food brought in for packed lunches, snacks, celebrations or other school activities.

Thank you to the many parents and carers who have already completed our allergy information form. Even if your child has no known allergies, it is important that we receive a response for every child so that our records are complete and we can be confident that the information we hold is accurate.

For the small number of families who have not yet completed the online form, we have now sent home a paper copy. Please complete and return this by **Monday 7th September 2026.**

SWIMMING LESSONS - MAPLE CLASS

Weekly swimming lessons for Maple Class will begin on **Wednesday 9th September.** Please ensure that you have read, completed and returned all necessary paperwork, which Mrs Brierley has sent home in paper form.

If your child wishes to wear goggles during their swimming lessons, please also complete and return the goggle permission form. Our school swimming provider does not permit children to wear goggles without the appropriate parental consent being in place.



CAR PARK AND SAFE PARKING REMINDER

As we begin the new school year, can we remind parents and carers that the school car park is not be used for dropping off or collecting children. A small number of parking passes have been allocated to families where there is an identified medical or physical need requiring access to the car park.

We would also like to remind everyone that vehicles must not park on the yellow zig-zag markings or yellow lines around school at drop-off and collection times. These restrictions are in place to keep the area around school safe and accessible for everyone. Due care and attention must also be given to ensure that driveways of nearby houses and road junctions are kept clear. Our neighbouring houses are incredibly dedicated to keeping watch over our school and grounds and we owe it to them to be respectful of their space.

While school staff are not responsible for enforcing parking restrictions on public roads, we do have a responsibility to safeguard our children. Where we see parking or driving that creates a potential danger to children and families arriving at or leaving school, we will challenge this appropriately.

We appreciate that drop-off and collection times can be busy, but our children’s safety must always come first. Parking a little further away from school and walking part of the way really helps. Thank you for your understanding, consideration for our neighbours and, most importantly, for helping us to keep every child safe.



HOMEWORK

If your child is in Reception (Willow Class) or above, homework will begin to be set from next week. A letter will be sent out explaining what your child’s homework will consist of, when it will be sent home and returned, and how Class Dojo points will be awarded for its completion. Nursery children will be given tasks to work on at home via a weekly class Dojo post.

PE DAYS AND EARRINGS/JEWELLERY

PE lessons will also begin from next week. Class teachers will have shared your child’s PE days with you so that they can come to school wearing their PE kit on the correct days. Please note that earrings must not be worn during PE lessons. **Covering earrings with tape does not remove the risk of injury and therefore will not be permitted as an alternative to removing them.**

If your child has recently had their ears pierced and their earrings cannot yet be removed, unfortunately they will not be able to take part in PE lessons until the earrings can safely be taken out. **If your child is unable to remove their own earrings, please ensure these are removed at home on the morning of their PE lesson.**

Thank you for helping us to keep all children safe during physical activity.

Well done to Willow class! You are this week’s attendance winners!

Willow	Cedar	Beech	Maple	Oak	Whole School
99%	95.7%	96.4%	97.2%	92.5%	96.1%



WET PLAY GAMES AND ACTIVITIES - DONATIONS

We would love your help to create a bank of board games and card games for every classroom to enjoy during wet break and lunchtimes.

Rather than turning to screens when the Great British weather keeps us indoors, we want our children to have fun while keeping their brains active and developing important skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving, turn-taking and resilience – many of the same skills they develop when playing together outdoors.

If you are having a clear-out at home, we would be incredibly grateful for donations of good-quality, pre-loved board games or card games that your family no longer uses.

We just ask that games are:

- complete, with no missing pieces or cards
- clean and in good condition
- suitable for the age of the children in the class they are donated to
- easy enough for children to enjoy together with minimal adult support.

Donations can be handed directly to your child's class teacher. Thank you for helping us make even the rainiest of playtimes fun, social and screen-free!



SCOOTERS, BIKES AND PLAY EQUIPMENT

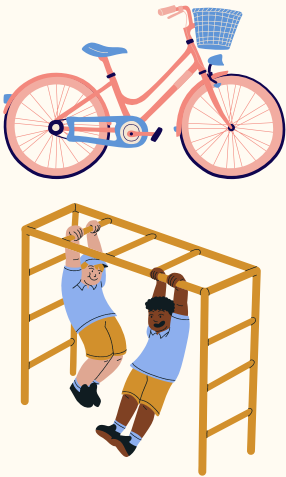
Since returning to school, the children have been BRILLIANT at remembering to dismount from their bikes and scooters when they enter the school site. Thank you for reinforcing this with your child and for supporting us in keeping everyone safe during busy drop-off and collection times.

As we welcome new families to Whipman Woods, we would like to remind everyone that children are very welcome to cycle or scoot to school, and bikes and scooters can be left securely in the bike sheds during the school day.

Please note, however, that electric bikes and electric scooters must not be brought onto the school site, even where they are marketed as being suitable for primary aged children.

We also ask that children do not use the climbing frame or other play equipment before school. During the school day, children use this equipment as part of supervised play, with staff present to manage its safe use and respond appropriately should an accident occur. Before school, this level of supervision is not in place, and staff are focused on welcoming children and ensuring they enter school safely.

We therefore ask that children remain with their accompanying adult and do not use the play equipment before the start of the school day. Thank you for helping us to keep everyone safe and for reinforcing this expectation with your children.



BIRTHDAY TREATS

Following recent allergy guidance, and as part of our commitment to keeping celebrations safe, inclusive and healthy, we kindly ask that birthday treats, sweets or other food items are no longer brought into school to share.

We know this has always been a lovely way to celebrate, but food brought from outside school can present an allergy risk and may mean that some children are unable to join in.

Please don't worry – birthdays will still be celebrated! We will always make sure children feel special on their birthday through songs, class celebrations and a little extra fuss on their special day. Thank you for your understanding and support.

