

# Weekly Newsletter

5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025



## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,  
Wow – the end of the first week back already! It may have been a just short one, but it has been an extremely positive and successful start. It has been wonderful to see our school building once again full of children - just the way we like it.

Firstly, I would like to thank you, our parents, carers, and families, for your support in helping this term get off to such a strong start. I know there have been a few changes, particularly around parking, and I truly appreciate your understanding.

This was never going to be an easy message to share, as the car park had become part of many families' daily routine. However, your cooperation and the words of encouragement you have shared in relation to this have been very appreciated. The safety of our children will always be at the heart of every decision we make, and the way you have adapted so readily shows how deeply you value this too.

### OFF TO A STRONG START!

In all my years in education, I don't think I have ever seen such a calm and settled return to school. This is a real credit to you, for preparing and equipping your children so well, and to our wonderful staff (in all their roles), who have worked incredibly hard to ensure pupils feel welcomed and supported. From excellent administration, inviting classrooms and warm relationships, to clear communication with you as parents, their commitment has been outstanding.

### WELCOME TO TEAM WHIPMAN!

You may have noticed a few new faces around school, as our staff team has grown by four! At Whipman Woods, we pride ourselves on appointing the very best staff for our children, and we are delighted to introduce: Miss Fleming, our new Year 5/6 teacher; Mrs Gray, Nursery Teaching Assistant; Mrs Martin, Year 1 Support; and Miss Rodgers, Lunchtime Play Leader. We already feel very fortunate to have them on board and are confident they will make a hugely positive difference as we continue our journey toward excellence. The children have welcomed them warmly, which has made their start even more special.

WELCOME

  
Miss Fleming  
(Oak Class Teacher  
And Mathematics Lead)

  
Mrs Gray  
(Teaching Assistant)

  
Mrs Martin  
(Year 1 Support)

  
Miss Rodgers  
(Play Leader)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

I have attached a calendar of planned events to help you plan and balance your work and home commitments alongside school activities and hope you find it a useful reference throughout the year. Please note that this is an initial overview, and further dates will be added as opportunities arise and plans are confirmed.

As a school at the heart of the community, we want Whipman Woods to feel like a place where everyone belongs – not only for our children, but also for you as their families and for the wider community. Your presence at school events is always greatly valued, as is the generous support you offer in so many other ways, whether through volunteering with reading, helping to develop our outdoor spaces, or sharing skills that enrich our children's experiences. From time to time, we may also send out 'all hands on deck' requests for bigger projects – and we know we can count on our community spirit to rise to the challenge!

---

## REMINDERS

Thank you for your support in reminding your children about the following – they are doing a brilliant job so far!

**Bikes and Scooters:** Children to dismount from bikes or scooters as they enter the school site – it is getting busier and we want to avoid any accidents or injuries caused by these.

**School Play Equipment:** Use of the school play equipment including EYFS bikes, climbing frame and trim trail is not allowed before and after school due to safety and supervision

**Nut-Free School:** Some of our children have severe allergies that could result in life-threatening reactions if they come into contact with nuts. To keep everyone safe, please ensure that your child's lunchbox (or the snacks they bring) does not include nuts or products containing nuts, as even trace amounts can cause cross-contamination. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe environment for all our children.



## ASSEMBLIES

On Wednesday, we enjoyed a special 'welcome back' assembly, and from next week our full assembly programme will be back in action. One of the highlights is our weekly Celebration Assembly, where each class teacher selects a 'Star of the Week' to recognise children for their effort, kindness, and positive contributions. If your child is chosen, you will be informed by Wednesday so that you, or a family member, can join us to celebrate together.

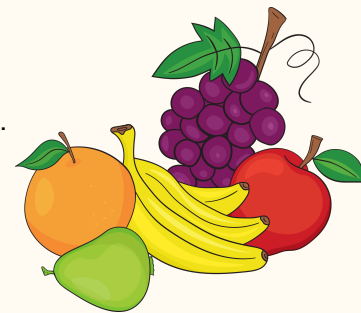
Celebration Assemblies, for Reception to Year 6 children, take place every Friday morning at 9:00 a.m., and they are always a wonderful way to end the week. To protect the safety and privacy of all our pupils, we kindly ask that photos are not taken during the assembly. However, there will be an opportunity afterwards to capture this important moment with your child.

Our Nursery children will not attend assemblies during the Autumn and Spring terms, but those moving into Reception will begin to take part in the Summer term to support their transition to Reception.



## BREAKTIME SNACKS

We encourage children (particularly those in Key stage 2 who do not have fruit provided by school) to bring a sensible, healthy snack for breaktime to help keep their energy levels up and support their learning. Suitable options include fresh fruit, vegetable sticks, rice cakes, breadsticks, or a small piece of cheese. Snacks such as crisps, chocolate, sweets, cakes, or pastries are not appropriate for school and should be kept for home.



Please avoid sending your child with snacks that need cutlery because these are not practical to eat at breaktime. Thank you for supporting us in promoting healthy eating habits.

For Key Stage 2, daily snacks are available to purchase from school – these can be ordered and paid for on Arbor and include items such as toast, pizza muffins etc.

**If possible, please encourage your child to place their snack in their book bag rather than in their lunchbox. This will be especially helpful as we move forward, since we are in the process of purchasing lunchbox trolleys. Once these are in use, lunchboxes will no longer be stored in classrooms and therefore will not be accessible at breaktime.**



# ClassDojo

## BEHAVIOUR SYSTEM

Over the summer, we have made some updates to the school's behaviour system to further strengthen and improve it. The new approach is still in its early stages, and both staff and children are currently trialling it. While the overall system will feel familiar, there are a couple of key differences you may notice:

- Behaviour points will now be awarded through Class Dojo instead of Arbor. This allows children to clearly see and celebrate their successes, as well as recognise the impact of any less positive choices.
- Negative points will be communicated with you as promptly as possible - ideally the same day. This will usually be through a face-to-face conversation with the class teacher at the door, but if that is not possible, you will be contacted by phone, or by email. This is so that you are able to engage in a conversation around the incident, ask any questions and better support your child in understanding how to avoid such a situation in the future.

After a trial period has taken place, and any tweaks made in light of findings, we will share the whole approach with you. Please just ask if this raises any questions.



## STAFFING NEWS

### Baby on board!

It is with excitement that we share the wonderful news of an imminent Whipman Woods' arrival: Mrs Lovett, our Reception teacher, is expecting a baby! Over the summer her little bundle of joy has been growing well – something you may already have noticed! We are absolutely thrilled for Mrs Lovett and her husband, and we know you will join us in wishing them every happiness as they prepare to welcome Baby Lovett in mid-December.



We would also like to reassure you that, in the meantime, Mrs Lovett will continue to do an excellent job of settling our Reception children into their learning routines and school life. This will ensure that, when a teacher is appointed to cover her maternity leave, the children will already feel confident, independent, and ready to build a positive relationship with the new member of staff who will care for them in her absence. We will share more news in relation to this later in the term

### Mrs Matthews (School Business Lead) – Change to Working Days

Mrs Matthews will no longer work on Fridays, but Miss Martin will continue to ensure that the school runs just as smoothly in her absence.

---

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

### Every Day Counts

Being in school every day makes a huge difference to your children's learning and wellbeing. National data shows that pupils with attendance above 95% are far more likely to achieve well in English and Maths, and regular routines also support friendships, confidence and mental health.

Whipman Woods' whole school attendance was 96.6% last year – can we improve it even further?!

### Absence Reporting

If your child is unable to attend, please phone or email the school before the morning register is taken (8.45am). This is vital for safeguarding: if we don't hear from you, we are required to call all contacts and, if necessary, make a home visit to check your child is safe. A quick call avoids unnecessary worry and helps us support your child's return to school.

Wishing you all a restful weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Monday!

Kind regards

Nicola Green  
Headteacher

