

Weekly Newsletter

3RD OCTOBER 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

Macmillan Success! (The Grand Total -as promised!)

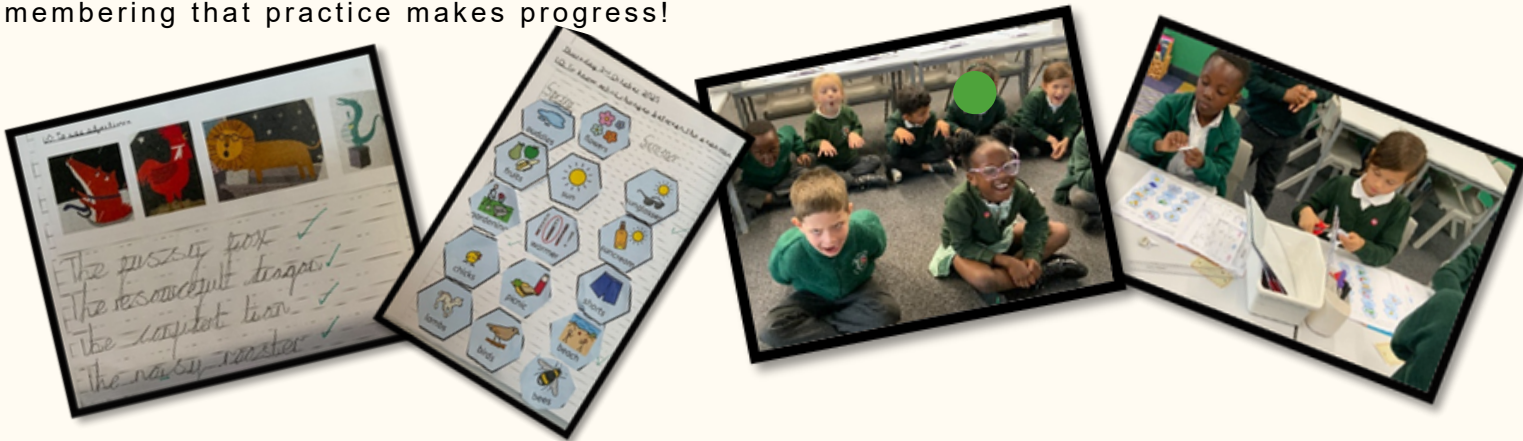
Macmillan Coffee Afternoon and 'Cake at Break' raised a fantastic final total of £285.67 – including card donations via QR code – thanks to our wonderful school community!”



Spotlight on Beech Class – by Mrs Parkinson and Mrs Gibb

In Beech Class this week, the children have been busy exploring their learning in exciting ways. In Science, they compared the seasons of Spring and Summer, noticing changes in flowers, plants, and weather, and thinking carefully about how and why we stay safe in the sun. Meanwhile, in R.E., the children reflected on why Jesus is important to Christians, considering stories of kindness and care for others, which led us to think about the values we learn in school and how we show them in the way we look after ourselves and the world around us.

In English, our work with the story 'Emma Jane's Aeroplane' by Katie Haworth came to life through drama activities such as hot seating and frieze frames, which encouraged teamwork, listening, and empathy. The children then used their understanding to create wonderfully descriptive writing, experimenting with adventurous adjectives and alliteration to invent phrases such as "majestic lion" and "fussy fox." It has been a lively week of creativity, curiosity, and confidence-building, and we are so proud of the thoughtful and imaginative ways that all the children in Beech Class are working hard to be their best - always remembering that practice makes progress!



Parents Evenings

You should now have received an Arbor notification inviting you to book your Parents' Evening appointment. Please do make an appointment with your child's class teacher, as this is a valuable opportunity to hear how your child has settled, how they are engaging with their learning, and to ask any questions you may have. We know that strong partnerships between home and school are vital in supporting the very best outcomes for children - academically, socially, and emotionally. We really look forward to seeing you there.



Pupil Roles in School

In assembly today, Mrs Green formally introduced the children that make up our pupil roles in school. Now, we have an even wider range of pupil roles in school than we did last year, as our school has grown in size! We are still awaiting the badges to ensure that every member of each team can be clearly identified but as soon as these arrive, they will be presented and worn with pride.

School Council	Kindness Champions	Play Leaders (Key Stage 2 only)	Eco Champions	Digital Leaders (Year 4 only)	Reading Ambassadors (Key Stage 2 only)
Willow: Beckett Cedar: Harry Beech: Levi Maple: Reyon and Rose Oak: Selma and Charlie	Willow: Jensen and Sophia Cedar: Saiya and Poppy Beech: Maya Maple: Reuben and Mylah Oak: Harry and Hena	Maple: Janet Kamila Oak: William and Lewis	Willow: Thomas and Louie Cedar: Oliver and Seraphina Beech: Ayan Maple: Abraham and Lwandile Oak: Tommy and Hunter	Shekinah Bukunmi	Maple: Elif and Daniela Oak: Asil and Lexa

School Councillors

"We represent our classmates by sharing ideas and opinions to help make the school an even better place. We meet regularly to discuss school improvements, organise fundraising events, and act as the voice of our peers."

Play Leaders

"We help younger children to enjoy fun and active playtimes. We organise games, encourage fair play, and make sure everyone is included so playtimes are happy and active for all. We work closely with Mrs Rodgers and support with looking after equipment."

Kindness Champions

"We promote friendship and respect around the school. We look out for anyone who may feel left out, encourage positive behaviour, and help to make sure our school is a safe and happy place for everyone."

Eco Champions

"We help our school care for the environment. We remind others about recycling, reducing waste, and saving energy, and we come up with ideas to make our school more environmentally friendly."

Reading Ambassadors

"We share our love of books and encourage others to read for pleasure. We recommend stories, help with reading events, and set a positive example as enthusiastic readers. At lunchtimes, we can sometimes be found rearranging shelves, changing displays and checking that our wonderful library looks welcoming to entice our budding readers in!"

Digital Leaders

"We support the safe use of technology in school. We help classmates with computer skills, promote safe use of the internet, and sometimes assist teachers in using digital tools in lessons. At the end of the day, we make sure that the digital equipment is safely stored."

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 7th October - National Child Measurement Programme (Reception and Year 6)

Monday 13th October - Flu Immunisations

Tuesday 14th October - Friends of Whipman Woods' Halloween Disco (not Elm Class)

Tuesday 14th October - Elm Class Halloween Day

Wednesday 15th October - Parents' Evening

Thursday 16th October - Parents; Evening

Thursday 16th October - Harvest Festival (more details to follow)

Friday 17th October - 'Break a Rule' Fundraising Day (more details to follow)



Stars of the Week

As always, our staff have been on the lookout for children who are living out our weekly school value. This week, under the umbrella of our characteristic **EXCEPTIONAL**, we have been celebrated children who are demonstrating what it means to be **confident**. In last week's assembly, Mrs Green explored what 'confidence' looks and feels like as well as sharing the following definition:

Confidence: Believing in yourself and trying your best even when something is challenging

Congratulations to our '**confident**' stars

Next week, we will continue to encourage our children to be 'EXCEPTIONAL' but with a focus on the value of 'PRIDE'.

It will further reinforce your child's understanding of these values if you talk about them at home and show the importance and reality of adults demonstrating these values too. To support your conversations, our definition of 'PRIDE' is:

Pride: Feeling happy and confident about our hard work and achievements, and celebrating these in ourselves and others



stars of the week:

Willow: Louie

Cedar: Deontay

Beech: Levi

Maple: Shaydon

Oak: Harry



Readers of the Week

Willow: Zach

Cedar: Evie

Beech: Jeremy

Maple: Chris

Oak: Hunter

Reading Heroes

Huge congratulations to our Readers of the Week! They have shown fantastic effort and enthusiasm, and we are very proud of them.

Did you know that children who read regularly often discover new words, exciting facts, and wondrous stories that ensure their success in school and beyond? Reading really does open the door to adventures and new learning! What story will you dive into this week?

Baby News!

We are thrilled to share the wonderful news that Mrs. Gibb (Class Teacher of Beech Class and our SENCo) is expecting her second child! Whilst we know that our staff, children, and families will miss her greatly during her maternity leave, we could not be happier for her and her family.

We are sure you will join us in sending your warmest wishes to Mrs. Gibb and her husband, Mr. Gibb, as they prepare to welcome their newest little bundle of joy, who is due to arrive late January.

During Mrs. Gibb's maternity leave, we will ensure that Beech Class and our children with special educational needs continue to be well cared for and supported. We will share further details about cover arrangements closer to the time.



Whipman Woods Flying High Academy Staff Awards 2025/2026

A huge thank you to everyone who took the time to vote for our staff 'stars' in the recent Flying High Partnership Staff Awards. With your support, alongside the votes from our staff team, we are delighted to share the winners of this year's awards:



Special Recognition Award: Miss Tanya Martin
Empowering Children Award: Mrs Emily Urry
Community Impact Award: Mrs Caroline Matthews
Volunteer Recognition Award: Mrs Holly Lovett
Partnership Collaboration Award: Mrs Jennifer Gibb
Children's Choice Award: Mrs Holly Lovett



As you can imagine, many of our wonderful staff were strong contenders, but of course there had to be a final winner in each category, and we know they will be absolutely delighted to receive this recognition. At the same time, it is important to say that every single member of staff at Whipman Woods is truly deserving of an award. In a small, newly established school like ours, it magnifies that fact that the success we achieve for our children, each and every day, comes from the dedication, teamwork, and hard work of every member of our team. I could not be prouder of the passion, care, and commitment shown by each and every one of our staff (in all roles and capacities) – together, they make Whipman Woods the exceptional school it is.

The names of the winning staff have now been put forward to the Flying High Trust for the final stages of the nominations.

School Uniform and PE Kit Reminder

Please help us ensure that school uniform and PE kits are worn in line with our policy. We pride ourselves on keeping our uniform both practical and affordable. For example, we allow black trainers to be worn for both school and PE, so there's no need for separate shoes – but they must be black.

Similarly, PE kit should follow our colour guidelines:

- **Jumper** – black
- **Leggings or jogging bottoms** – black
- **T-shirt** – plain white

On days that are not PE days, full school uniform should be worn.

We would be grateful if you could reinforce this with your child and help us maintain the high - yet comfortable - standards we have worked hard to create.

If you are missing any items of uniform, please pop into the school office. We have a selection of good-quality second-hand items available for a small contribution to school funds.



Attendance

Well done to all our classes this week for working hard and showing great commitment to being in school. A special congratulations to **Maple** Class for achieving the best attendance – what a fantastic effort, keep it up!

Willow	Cedar	Beech	Maple	Oak	Whole School
98.52%	98.46%	96.67%	100%	96.52%	98.96%



Working Together: Talking to Us About Your Child

At Whipman Woods, we are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers to support every child's wellbeing, learning, and happiness. We know that sometimes you may have questions or concerns, and we want to reassure you that we are always here to listen and help.

Our clear process for dealing with questions or concerns is designed to ensure that matters are resolved quickly and effectively:

1. Speak to your child's class teacher first. As the adults who know your child best in school, class teachers are in the strongest position to answer questions and address concerns from a closely informed perspective.
2. If further discussion is needed, either because the issue requires a collaborative response or it does not appear to be resolved, the next step is to contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
 - **EYFS:** Mrs Lovett
 - **Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2:** Mrs Parkinson or Mrs Gibb
 - **SEND concerns:** Mrs Gibb (SENCo)
3. If the matter still does not feel resolved, a meeting with Mrs Green will take place.

We want to stress that we operate an open-door policy. Class teachers can be contacted in person (in the morning if a quick query or, preferably, after school), by email via the school office: office@whipmanwoodsfa.co.uk, or by telephone 01909 491950. We appreciate that not every parent is available at drop-off or pick-up times, and we will always work with families to ensure equitable access to school staff.

Together, we can make sure every child at Whipman Woods feels supported, safe, and happy as they grow and learn.



Friends of Whipman Woods – PE Cupboard Makeover!

Thanks to your fantastic support at our very first Friends of Whipman Woods event (the summer fair, back in July) – we are delighted to share the successful transformation of our PE cupboard!



When the school was first built, no shelving was included for PE equipment. This meant we had no proper way to organise or store items, making it almost impossible to keep tidy or even see what we had available. A ‘before and after’ photo would certainly show the difference, but we’ll spare you the embarrassment of seeing just how chaotic things were! Now, thanks to your generous donations, we’ve been able to purchase heavy-duty shelving that allows us to store all equipment safely and neatly. Not only does this make everything easier to access, but it also directly benefits the children by improving the quality of our PE provision.

A huge thank you goes to all our parents and families for supporting the summer fair, to the Friends of Whipman Woods for organising such a brilliant event in record time, and to McLean for assembling the new shelves in the blink of an eye!

We look forward to being able to make more improvements that will benefit our children as a result of the fantastic work of our Friends of Whipman Woods - they are currently preparing for our first spooky Halloween Disco!

Please let Miss Martin in the school office know if you feel you could offer your time or expertise to being part of our ‘Friends of Whipman Woods’.

PE Cupboard Storage



Charlotte Lax, parent and Friend of Whipman Woods recognised the need for storage boxes to complete the PE cupboard upgrade and secured support from a local company. High-quality storage boxes were promptly delivered to school and, as shown in the photographs, fit the new shelving perfectly.

We would like to extend our thanks to Charlotte and the Alfreton-based company **George Utz** for their generous contribution, which will directly benefit the organisation of our equipment and the children’s PE provision. We are so lucky to have you!

Whipman Woods Flyover – even more community spirit!



Whipman Woods Flyover – even more community spirit!

As part of the school's ongoing maintenance programme, the solar panels on our roof and the drains require regular inspection. Traditionally, this would involve the costly hire of a cherry-picker and driver. However, in true Whipman Woods' style - always looking for creative solutions - a drone was used instead.

Not only did the drone carry out the inspections brilliantly, but the photographer also went a step further and created a stunning flyover video of our school. The photographer was Edward, Mr and Mrs McLean's son, and we are so grateful to him for giving up his time to film and edit such a wonderful piece. The result is a breathtaking keepsake that beautifully showcases our school community.

We've shared the video on our Facebook page – please do take a moment to watch it. It's something we can all be very proud of!

Edward offers a wide range of professional photography services. If you, or someone you know, would like to explore his work or get in touch, you can find his portfolio and contact details on his website:

<https://edwardjamesphoto.co.uk/>



Halloween Bunting Craft Homework

All children will be coming home today with a Halloween bunting template. This is for your child to decorate and craft in any way they choose – they can use colours, patterns, or add any materials they like!

Once completed, all the designs will be collected and joined together to create one big Whipman Woods Halloween Bunting, which will be used to decorate the hall for our Halloween disco.

If your family does not celebrate Halloween, you are very welcome to take part with an autumn-themed design instead.

We look forward to seeing all the wonderful creations – thank you for helping us make the celebration extra special!





HALLOWEEN DISCO

TUESDAY 14TH OCTOBER



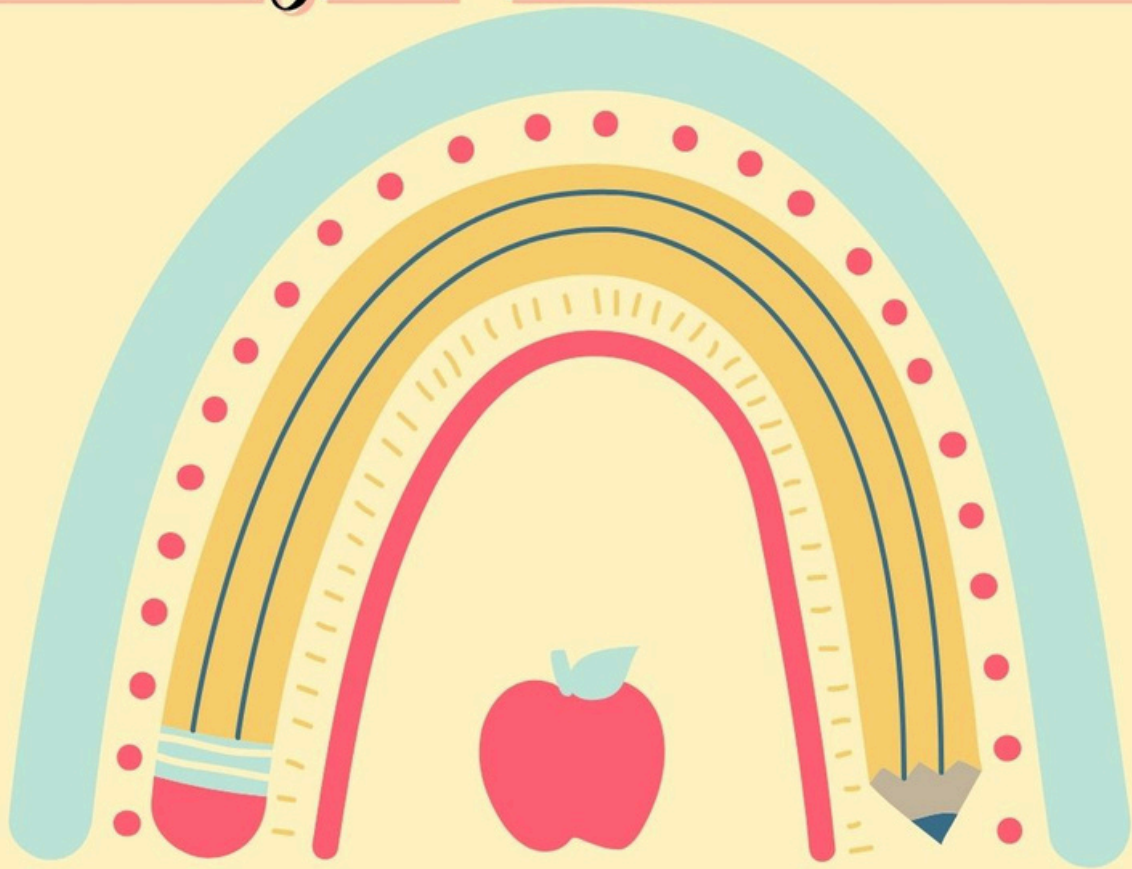
RECEPTION/YEARS 1 & 2: 3.30PM-4.30PM

YEARS 3,4,5 & 6: 4.45PM-5.45PM

£4 A TICKET
INCLUDES SQUASH AND SNACKS

Ticket only event: Collect your tickets
from the school office

Nursery & Reception Books and Biscuits Thursday 13th November 2025



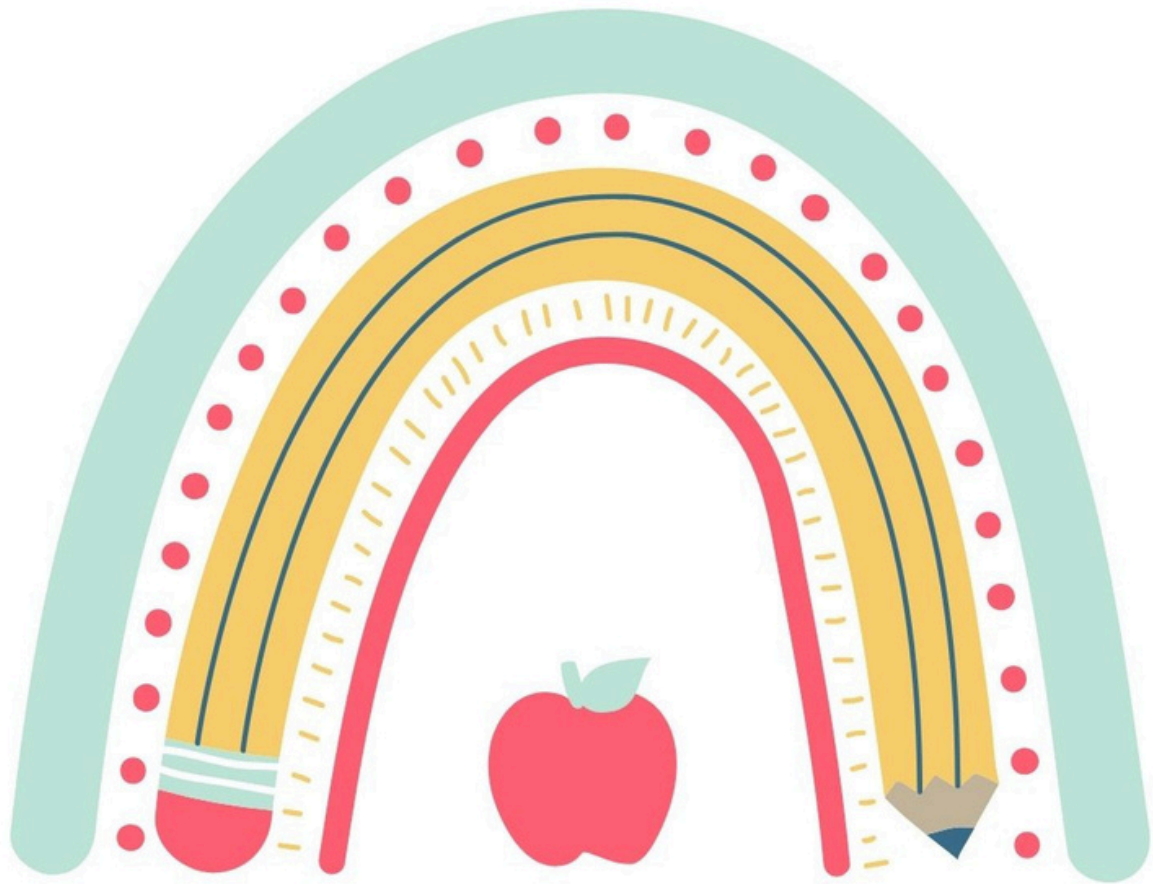
JOIN US ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON AT 2:40PM FOR
'BOOKS AND BISCUITS' (FOR ELM AND WILLOW
CLASSES).

SHARE A STORY WITH YOUR CHILD AND ENJOY A
CUP OF TEA!



Books and Biscuits

Monday 17th November 2025



JOIN US ON MONDAY AFTERNOON AT 2.30PM FOR
'BOOKS AND BISCUITS' (FOR YEAR 1 - 6).
SHARE A STORY WITH YOUR CHILD AND ENJOY A
CUP OF TEA!

