

Weekly Newsletter

10TH OCTOBER 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe that we are only one week away from completing the first half term! Our children have worked incredibly hard over these early weeks, and their efforts can be seen and felt in all areas of school life.

As part of the Flying High Trust, we benefit from a wealth of cross-partnership collaboration, and this week we have welcomed many visitors. Each one has commented on our fantastic children and the unique identity we have created within the walls of our beautiful school. As we show visitors around, we burst with pride when our children stop to chat - sharing details of their day, celebrating what they're proud of, and showing genuine care by asking how our visitors are and whether they've had a good day.

To celebrate the efforts of all our children, we have planned an exciting end to our first half term – with Spooky Discos, Harvest celebrations and our first ever 'Break the Rules' Day!

Halloween Discos (Friends of Whipman Woods)

Remember to buy your child's ticket from the school office BEFORE TUESDAY!



Discos are taking place on Tuesday at the following times on Tuesday 14th October:

- **Reception and Key Stage 1 - 3.30 - 4.30:** Children to bring costumes to school – teachers will provide time and support for children to get changed
- **Key Stage 2 - 4.45 - 5.45:** Children to get changed at home after dismissal at the normal time from their classrooms.

Thank you to the Friends of Whipman Woods for making this possible – we can't wait to host our very first discos!

At the end of the disco – the children will be dismissed from the school hall. As the nights are now drawing in, we ask that all children are collected from school by an adult.

Parents' Evenings (Wednesday and Thursday 15th/16th October)

Thank you for your fast response to the Parents' Evening invitations via Arbor. If you haven't yet booked an appointment with your child's class teacher, please do so as soon as possible.

At this point in the year, the appointment will be an opportunity to:

- See how your child has settled into their new class and their learning
- Ask any questions you may have
- Review your child's attendance and discuss any concerns
- Look through your child's books and work so far



Harvest Celebrations – Thursday at 2:30 pm

A reminder that Oak Class will be leading our Harvest Festival Celebration **this Thursday at 2:30pm**. This special event is a time for our school community to come together to reflect on gratitude, kindness, and the importance of helping others.

As part of our celebration, we are collecting donations of tinned or dried foods - such as pasta, rice, soup, beans, cereals, and tinned fruit or vegetables - to support Bassetlaw Foodbank. Foodbanks play a vital role in helping individuals and families who are experiencing difficult times, and our collective contributions can make a real difference.

Please send donations to school with your child or drop them off at the school office before or on Thursday morning. Thank you for your generosity and support in helping our children understand the value of giving and community spirit.

Spotlight on Maple Class - by Miss McKinlay

This week in Maple Class, we have been hard at work exploring our enquiry question: “How has time changed the way we live?” As part of our history learning, we evaluated a range of sources about Skara Brae, thinking carefully about who made each source, what we could learn from it, when it was created, and how reliable it might be. The children showed excellent critical thinking skills as they pieced together evidence from the past.

On Wednesday, we took part in an interactive swimming safety workshop. The children had an amazing time and learned lots of valuable information about how to stay safe around water.

In science, we’ve been discovering what soils are made of and carried out an exciting investigation to test how permeable or impermeable different types of soil are. The children worked brilliantly in their groups, recording their observations carefully and drawing conclusions from their results.

It’s been a busy and brilliant week in Maple Class, filled with curiosity, teamwork, and fantastic learning!



Break the Rules' - EYFS Fundraising Day

On Friday – the final day of term – children can choose from a playful list of 'rules' to break for a good cause. Each rule costs £1 to break and all monies raised will go directly towards further improving our Early Years Foundation Stage Environment.

This outdoor space is a vital part of early learning, encouraging physical development, imagination and a love of nature. The funds raised will help us to provide exciting new resources such as small world equipment, sensory areas and imaginative play spaces to make out outdoor learning time even more inspiring and enabling.

We know you will be honest and pay for each rule – the more rules you break, the more money the EYFS will make!!

Children can choose any of the fun options below. All are safe but feel delightfully rebellious!



1. Wear your own clothes
2. Wear pyjamas and bring a cosy blanket
3. Have a crazy hairstyle or strange coloured hair
4. Add make-up or face paint
5. Paint your nails or wear fun nail stickers
6. Try temporary tattoos (washable or sticker)
7. Wear some jewellery
8. Sparkle and shine with glitter on clothes, hair, or accessories
9. Wear a hat in class
10. Wear sunglasses in class – even if it's cloudy
11. Bring a cuddly toy to school
12. Bring a fun snack that isn't as healthy as usual (still no nuts!)
13. Step out in fancy footwear like slippers, flip-flops, or wellies
14. Bring a toy or game to school (no electronics)

Attendance and Term Time Holiday requests

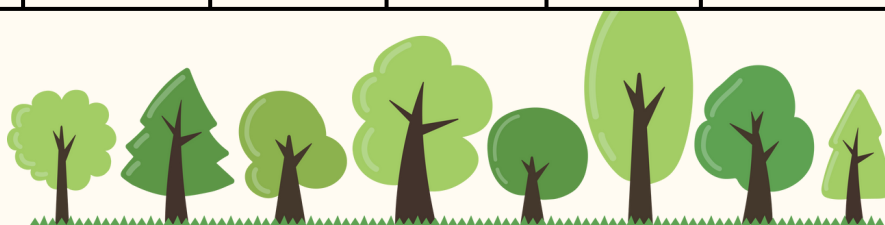
Please be reminded that family holidays during term time will **not** be authorised, except in exceptional circumstances. This is in line with Nottinghamshire County Council and national attendance regulations.

Headteachers are unable to approve leave for holidays as a matter of course. Any absence taken without authorisation will be recorded as unauthorised, and Penalty Notices (fines) may be issued by the Local Authority. These fines currently stand at £160 per parent, per child (reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days).

Taking children out of school for holidays disrupts their learning, affects progress, and impacts overall attendance. Every school day counts - children who miss lessons will struggle to catch up, and regular attendance is vital for both academic and social development.

We ask all families to plan holidays during school breaks and to support us in ensuring that children benefit fully from their education. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Willow	Cedar	Beech	Maple	Oak	Whole School
98.76%	96.15%	98.7%	96.52%	97.39%	98.04%



Dates for your Diary

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

Friday 17th October - 'Break a Rule' Fundraising Day

Friday 17th October - End of Autumn Half Term

No Toys in School

We kindly ask that children do not bring toys or small objects into school. Our school days are very busy, with sessions moving quickly to cover the curriculum's content, leaving little time – except at breaktimes and lunchtimes when equipment for physical play is already provided. Bringing toys to school can cause distraction, risk of loss, and in some cases pose choking hazards, particularly for our younger pupils. We have noticed some children bringing and keeping small toys in their pockets during the day.

Please ensure that all toys are left at home, except on designated occasions such as 'Break a Rule Day'. This helps children stay focused on their learning and keeps everyone safe. Thank you for your support with this.

Stars of the Week

This week's Stars of the Week were chosen by their teachers for demonstrating our value of 'Pride'. Our definition of 'Pride' is as follows:

'Feeling happy and confident about our hard work and achievements and celebrating these in ourselves and others.'

Well done to all our 'stars' – it was wonderful to hear what their teachers had to say about you in this week's assembly because not only do you show pride in yourself, you also show pride in your friends' achievements too. This is FANTASTIC!

Next week, our adults in school are looking for 'stars' who are demonstrating the value of 'Curiosity' which is defined as:

'Wanting to learn and discover new things by asking questions and exploring the world around us.'

stars of the week:

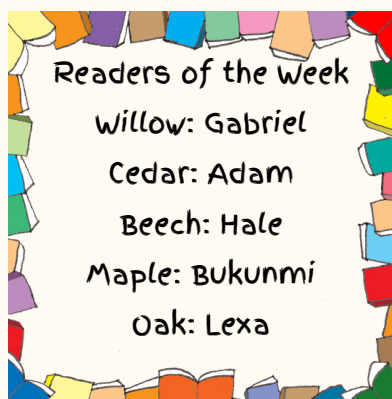
Willow: Ada

Cedar: Olivia

Beech: Imogen

Maple: Kamila

Oak: Ashley



Reading Heroes

Congratulations to this week's Reading Champions! We are so proud of you and your efforts. During this morning's assembly, it was fantastic to hear about one of our Reading Champions who went out of his way to find another book for a child who loves learning about animals – a true Reading Hero



Pupil Ministers and Deputy Pupil Ministers

Recently, we launched and advertised the positions of Pupil Ministers – a highly respected leadership role within our school for our eldest pupils in Years 5 and 6 to aspire to.

Following the launch in assembly, Miss Fleming taught the children how to write a formal letter of application during their English lessons, ensuring they were well-prepared to apply. The quality of applications we received was truly exceptional – so much so that we decided to introduce a new position of Deputy Pupil Minister to further recognise and make the most of the outstanding role models we have in school.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to every child who applied. Even for those who were not selected on this occasion, the process has provided valuable skills and experience that will serve them well in future applications – both in secondary school and beyond.

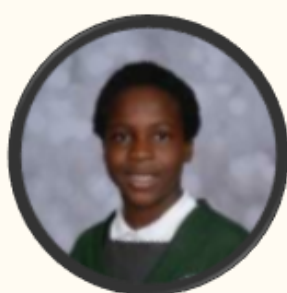
Congratulations to Whipman Woods Pupil Ministers: Lewis and Damilola
And their Deputy Pupil Ministers: Harry and Lexa

Pupil Ministers

We are trusted pupil leaders who have proved ourselves as ambassadors of Whipman Woods and who embody the school values in everything we do. We act as positive role models for others, demonstrating respect, kindness, responsibility, and enthusiasm in all areas of school life. Our role includes supporting staff and children, helping to organise and lead school events, and representing the pupil voice by sharing ideas and feedback. Through our actions, attitude, and leadership, we help create a welcoming, inclusive, and respectful school community where everyone can reach their full potential.

Deputy Pupil Ministers

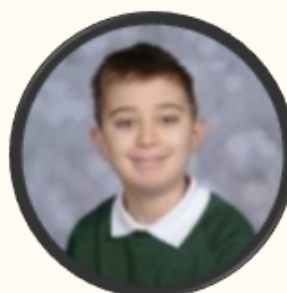
We are dedicated and reliable pupil leaders who support the Pupil Ministers in representing Whipman Woods and upholding the school's values in all we do. We act as positive role models, showing respect, kindness, responsibility, and enthusiasm in all areas of school life. Our role includes assisting in the organisation of school events, supporting both staff and children and helping to share and promote the voice of our pupils. Through teamwork, commitment, and leadership, we contribute to building a positive, inclusive, and caring school community where everyone is encouraged to do, and be, their best!



Damilola



Lewis



Harry



Lexa





HALLOWEEN DISCO

TUESDAY 14TH OCTOBER



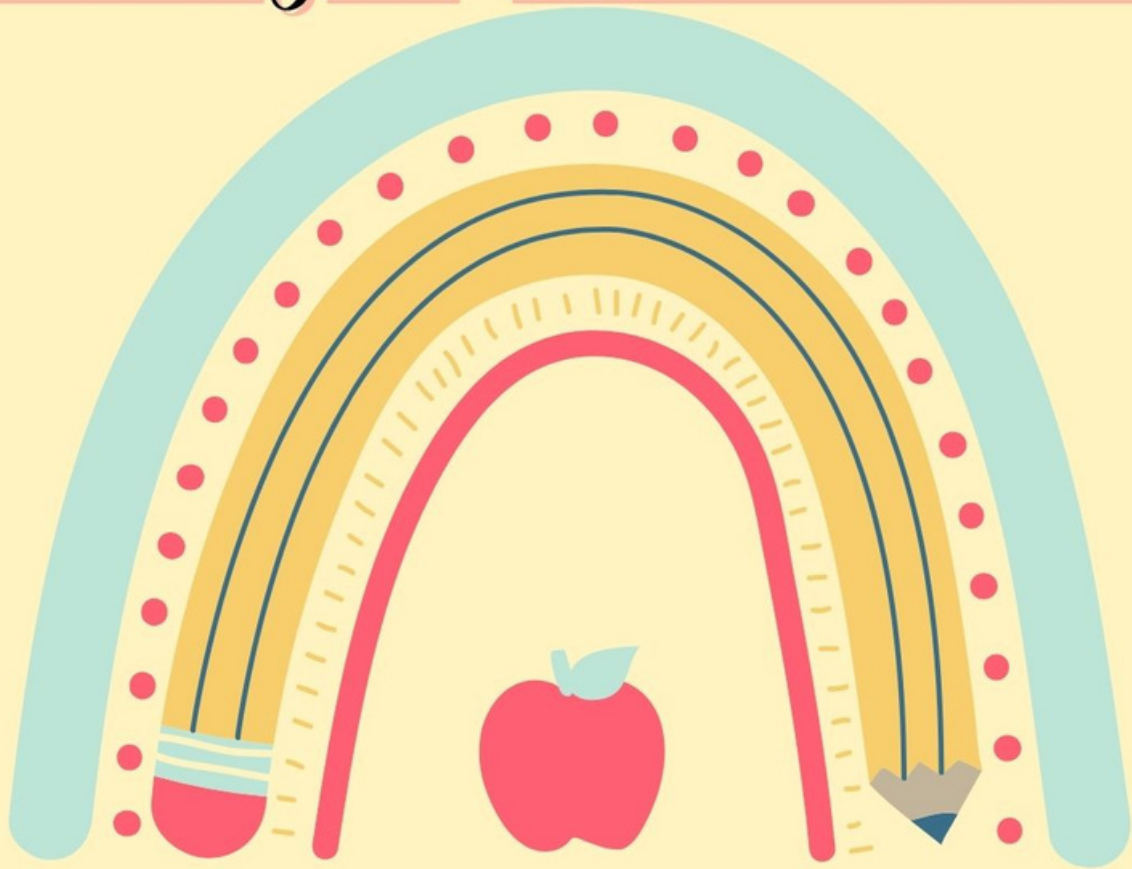
RECEPTION/YEARS 1 & 2: 3.30PM-4.30PM

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



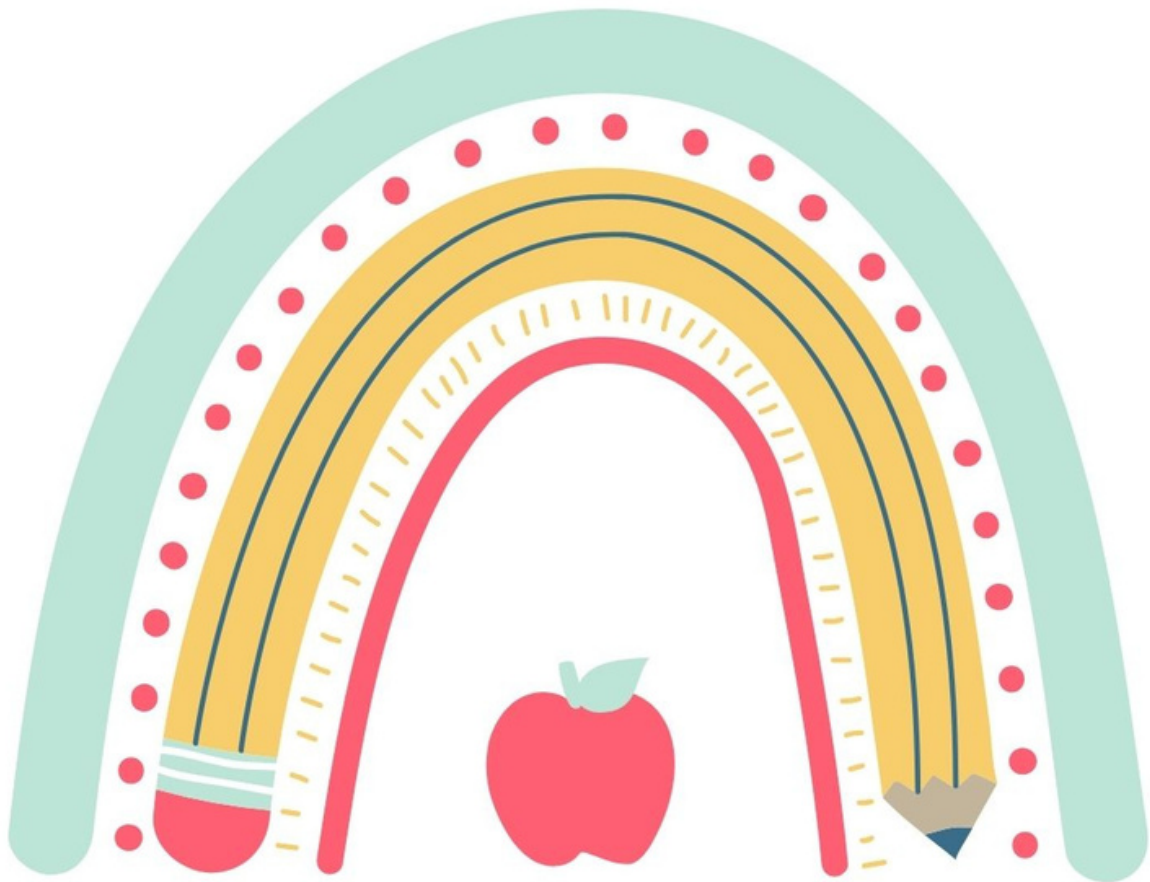
JOIN US ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON AT 2:40PM FOR
'BOOKS AND BISCUITS' (FOR ELM AND WILLOW
CLASSES).

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!

