

Weekly Newsletter

14TH NOVEMBER 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have managed to stay warm and dry over the past few days! Since joining Whipman Woods at Easter, I have been very lucky to experience some lovely weather – mainly glorious sunshine – to the point where I wondered whether it ever actually rains in Gateford; I now know that it does!

Next week, if the weather forecast is to be believed, it is set to get much colder, with perhaps even some snow. Should snow arrive, we will do everything we can to ensure that the school stays open, and Mr McLean, our site manager, has already been making plans should the white stuff grace us with its presence. If there are any changes to access routes into the school site and building, we will, of course, let you know in advance.

This week in school, we have taken our responsibility of 'remembering' very seriously. The staff and I have been so touched by the dignified and respectful way in which the children have joined in with our remembrance activities, including art and craft sessions, assembly, and learning about the significance of Armistice Day in 1918. Any parents and family members who attended our Celebration Assembly this morning will no doubt have been moved by the beauty and emotion in the children's singing.

Nursery had a fabulous time during the 'Little Swings' golf workshop on Monday morning. The company delivering the session were very impressed by the children's behaviour, attitude, and ability to follow instructions so well. Little Swings is a newly established local company offering sessions for pre-school children. Please see further details later in the newsletter if this is something you might be interested in for your child.

The EYFS children enjoyed their first Books and Biscuits session this week. I am sorry I was unable to attend on this occasion, but Mrs Parkinson and Mrs Lovett assured me that the children really valued the opportunity to share their love of books with you in school. We know you do this all the time at home, but the children love nothing more than having the chance to spend a little time with you in school.

Please don't ever be concerned if you aren't able to participate in school events such as Books and Biscuits or other events. You are welcome to send another family member in your place or simply let us know – this enables us to support your child in understanding and ensures they are engaged meaningfully in other ways. We know you have work and other commitments, and it won't always be possible – there is absolutely no expectation on our part.

On Wednesday, we were VERY lucky to receive a visit from Pudsey Bear on our Children in Need Day! The children couldn't believe their eyes when he walked into their classrooms and started doing funky dance moves, giving high fives, and making them laugh with his silly antics. He was greeted with delight, screams, laughter, and genuine disbelief. The children all know to look out for him on TV tonight as the BBC airs the annual Children in Need fundraiser.



All classes posed for a photograph with Pudsey, and he was undoubtedly the highlight of a very exciting, spotty, and yellow day! Thank you for all your contributions to our Children in Need fundraiser – just another example of how, together, we can make a huge difference. Thank you to Asda for their very generous contribution of biscuits to our Books and Biscuits event on the back of this – we are incredibly grateful.

And finally, for your continued support and effort in helping us to maintain excellent attendance and punctuality in school. We feel very lucky to know that our parents and families place the same value on education and hold the same high aspirations for our children as we do.



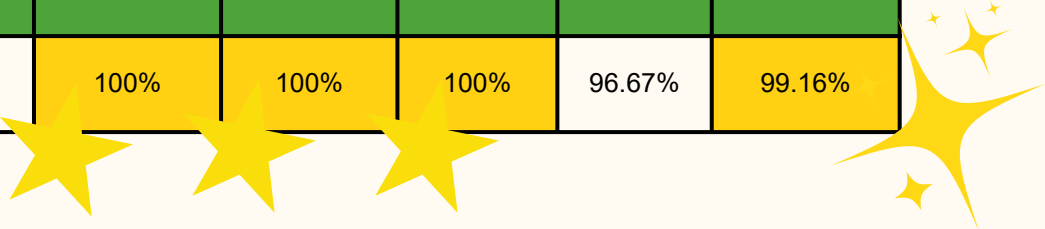
Nicola Green
Headteacher

Attendance

Congratulations on this week’s amazing attendance, in particular Cedar, Beech and Maple who have all achieved 100%.

It is wonderful to see our children arriving each day ready to learn, participate, and make the most of every opportunity. High attendance plays a huge role in helping children achieve their best, and we are incredibly proud of the commitment shown by you, our families, in supporting this. A huge well done to all our children for their brilliant effort — let’s keep this positive momentum going!

Willow	Cedar	Beech	Maple	Oak	Whole School
99.3%	100%	100%	100%	96.67%	99.16%



Children in Need

On Wednesday 12th November, we held a wonderful celebration for Children in Need, made even more memorable by a very special visitor - Pudsey Bear!

We marked the occasion midweek to welcome Pudsey, and it was certainly worth the wait. A huge thank-you to ASDA Sandy Lane for organising this fantastic surprise. The children’s faces lit up the moment Pudsey arrived, and their excitement grew as he performed a special dance, complete with an impressive moonwalk.

We would also like to thank everyone for their generous donations for our non-uniform day -Whipman Woods raised an amazing £105, which has been donated directly to Children in Need.



Children in Need 2025



Books and Biscuits

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our first Books and Biscuits event of the year! What a fantastic session it was - full of excitement, laughter and, of course, plenty of stories and sweet treats.

Both Elm and Willow Classes were absolutely alive with enthusiasm from start to finish. The children couldn't wait to share some of their favourite books with you as you discovered new stories and facts together. It was wonderful to see how deeply engaged they all were with eyes wide and imaginations soaring as you read and shared your love of books.

Events like these truly remind us of the magic that happens when children and families come together to celebrate reading. Your presence made the afternoon extra special and we are so grateful for your time, energy and encouragement.

Thank you once again for helping us make reading such a wonderful, shared experience.

A special thank you to  Sandy Lane for donating the biscuits tea and coffee for our Book and Biscuits event. This was a huge help to our school - and perfect timing!



Little Swings Visits Elm Class

On Monday, Elm Class had a visit from Little Swings - A preschool Golf Adventure. The session was a mixture of music and physical education. They all had an amazing time and loved the jungle theme. Thank you so much Little Swings!

If you are interested in finding more out about Little Swings, all the information can be found on their Facebook page.



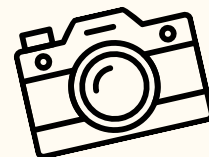
Photograph Permissions

We have kindly asked that all families to complete the new photograph permission form to help us manage image consent more clearly and responsibly. With the growing number of media outlets and platforms we use to share school news and celebrate our children's achievements, it is important that we have clear, up-to-date consent for each category of photograph use — including internal displays, newsletters, the school website, and external media or social platforms.

Providing your preferences for each category ensures that we fully respect every family's wishes, as our current Arbor system does not clearly record this level of detail. Please note that consent can be withdrawn at any time, and the school will stop using any images of your child from the date of withdrawal onwards.

Thank you for helping us keep our records accurate and for supporting the safe and appropriate use of pupil photographs.

Please complete here: <https://forms.office.com/e/FVmQLVGqHe>



Stars of the Week

Today, parents and family members gathered in the hall to celebrate our wonderful children who have been chosen by their class teachers for demonstrating their ability to act **RESPONSIBLY!**

Our definition of RESPONSIBILITY is as follows:

"Doing the right thing at all times, even when no one is watching, taking care of yourself and your belongings, and helping others to do the same."

Congratulations to our winners, Jenson, Poppy, Maya, Janet and William.



Reader of the Week

Let's celebrate our amazing readers who have shown dedication to the reading cause in a range of ways.

Their positive example to others means that a tangible love of reading within Whipman Woods is contagious and inspires others too!

Congratulations to our winners, Carolina, Theo, River, Sophia and Selma.



Bronze Award Winners

We are thrilled to celebrate our first two children to reach an amazing milestone of 50 Dojo points!

Congratulations to Levi and EwaOluwa from Beech Class, who proudly received their **BRONZE** award today. Well done to both of you!

More children have since achieved 50 Dojo points and will be receiving their certificates very soon - watch this space for more celebrations.

The names of our award winners are proudly added to Mrs Green's 'Celebrations Display'!



Parent Support Request

We are seeking parents or family members who are willing to be contacted to support upcoming school visits. While we may not be able to involve everyone each time, depending on the number of volunteers, having a list of interested helpers will allow us to make contact as visits arise.

A form will be sent out shortly for you to register your interest. We appreciate your support and look forward to working with you.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 17th November - Y1-Y6 Books/Biscuits Event 2.30pm

Tuesday 18th November - Tempest Individual Photograph Mop Up Session

Wednesday 19th November - Maple School Visit Sheffield Manor Lodge

Monday 24th November - Family Star Gazing Evening 6pm-7.30pm (Tickets available from school office)

Tuesday 2nd December - Cedar and Beech Visit - South Yorkshire Air Museum

Monday 8th December - Christmas Craft Day (during school day)

Wednesday 10th December - EYFS Nativity Performance 9.30am

Wednesday 10th December - KS1 Nativity Performance 2.15pm

Thursday 11th December - KS1 Nativity Performance 9.30am

Thursday 11th December - EYFS Nativity Performance 2.30pm

Thursday 11th December - Oak School Trip Jorvik Centre

Monday 15th December - Christmas Fair 2.30pm-4.30pm

Tuesday 16th December - KS2 Carol Concert 2pm-3pm

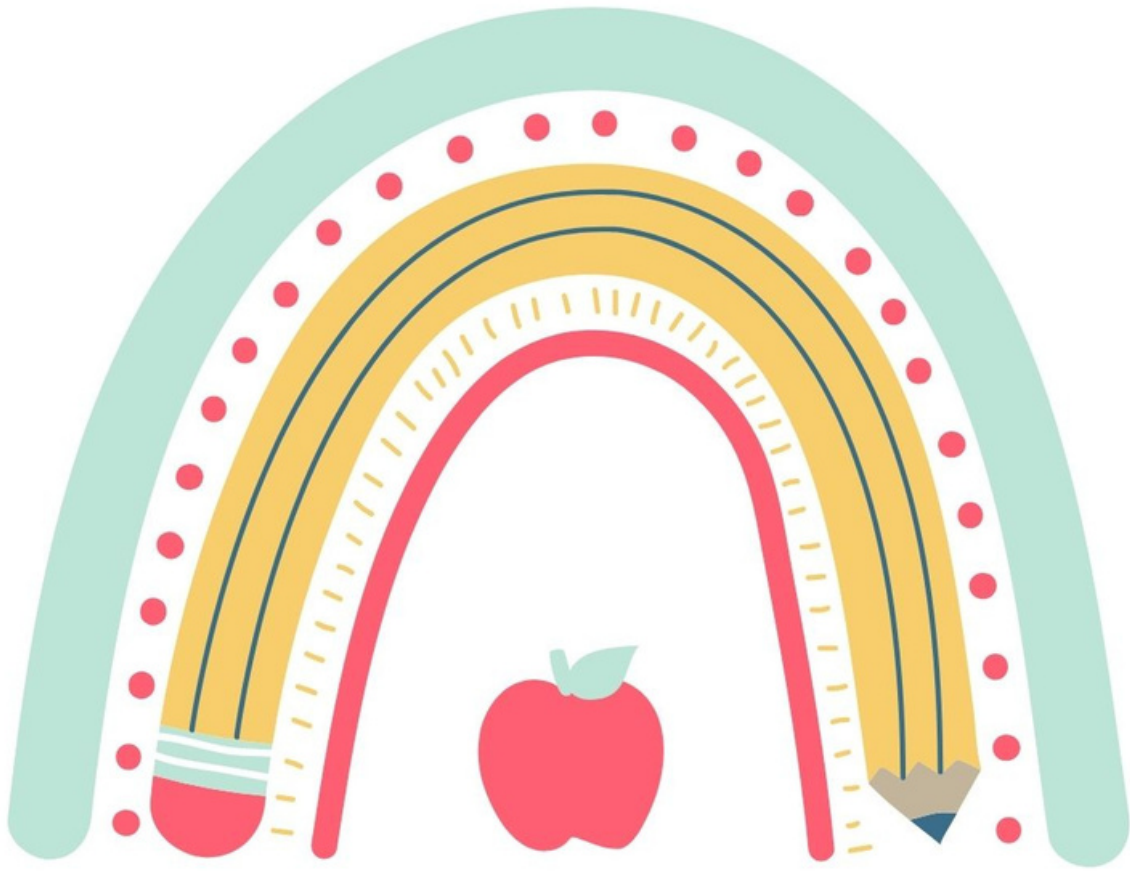
Thursday 18th December - Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 19th December - Last day of Autumn Term in school



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!





WHIPMAN WOODS FHA
PROUDLY PRESENTS IN COLLABORATION
WITH BASSETLAW ASTRONOMICAL
SOCIETY

A FAMILY EVENING OF STAR GAZING

Telescopes Talks Star Maps

Monday 24th November 2025

6.00pm – 7.30pm

**£3 PER
FAMILY
TICKET**

Tickets on sale from the
school office

Hot Chocolate & Cake on
sale - all proceeds to
School Fund

Whipman Woods FHA, Gatekeeper Way, Worksop S81 7FT

