

Weekly Newsletter

28TH NOVEMBER 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this week's newsletter finds you well. It has been a calm and focused few days in school as children from Year 1 to Year 6 have completed their first assessments of the academic year. These assessments support the judgements our teachers make about your child's progress, highlighting both areas of strength and those requiring further development. Their main purpose is to inform future teaching and planning, ensuring we can help every child achieve their full potential. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

After our quieter assessment mornings, the school hall has been filled with the wonderful sound of singing as rehearsals for our EYFS and Key Stage 1 nativity productions get fully underway!

We were also delighted to receive our Christmas tree this week, kindly donated by North Notts BID - and delivered by Santa Claus himself! We look forward to putting the tree up on Monday 1st December, and would still be very grateful for any 'unique' baubles you would like to donate. These special decorations will take pride of place each year, helping our tree sparkle while creating a lovely legacy for our children and families- thank you for the lovely ones we have received so far!



This week we also welcomed Mrs Goddard into Whipman Woods' Reception Class following Mrs Lovett's departure as she began her maternity leave. Mrs Goddard has thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the children and staff. It is hard to believe she has only been with us for a few short days, as the children are already very settled and happy in her care. A special thank you goes to Mrs Parkins, Mrs Fletcher and Mrs Pop, who have been the 'constants' for the children during this transition.

In a new school with a small team, staffing changes can feel particularly significant - for the children, the staff and our families. I want to reassure you that the utmost care and consideration have gone into ensuring that all upcoming transitions are as smooth and disruption-free as possible. As always, the children remain our highest priority. As shared in a letter earlier this week, Miss Urry will be leaving us after Christmas to begin her next chapter. Shortly after, Mrs Gibb (part-time Year 2 teacher and SENDCo) will begin her maternity leave in mid-January. We are working hard to ensure that these changes are managed seamlessly for the children.

I hope you have a restful weekend and we look forward to the approach of the festive season as we begin our journey into December – always a busy and happy time in school, but also a tiring one for our children.

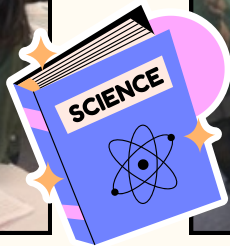
Mrs Nicola Green
Head Teacher



Maple Class

This week in Science, Maple Class explored how sound travels! We created our own string telephones to investigate whether sound moves better through solids (the string) or gases (the air). The children experimented with both taut and loose strings to see how tension affected the volume of the sound.

It was fascinating to discover that sound travelled more effectively through the solid string than through the air, and that a tighter string made the sound clearer and louder. The class really enjoyed this hands-on investigation and had lots of fun testing their ideas!



Stargazing Community Event

We would like to extend a huge 'thank you' to the Bassetlaw Astronomical Society for providing an out-of-this-world experience for so many of our children and families on Monday. It was wonderful to embark on an intergalactic adventure - spotting distant galaxies such as Andromeda and enjoying a spectacular view of Saturn, complete with its rings and moons, through the telescope.

As well as being a highly insightful and well-attended evening, the event had a fantastic community atmosphere, with plenty of hot chocolate and cake to enjoy. Best of all, together we raised the amazing sum of **£108.26**.

Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make the night so special!

£108.26

Christmas Jumper Donations

It's that time of year when we dust off our baubles, untangle our tinsel, and slip into our Christmas jumpers... unless, of course, they no longer fit! With so many little people in our school, we know there are plenty of beautiful, barely worn jumpers out there just begging for a new home in time for Christmas.

With this in mind, we will be holding a pre-loved Christmas jumper sale at our Christmas Fair — the perfect chance to grab a festive bargain and raise a few precious pennies for our school.

So, while you're decking the halls this weekend, if you discover any Christmas jumpers (in both child and adult sizes) that could make someone else's season a little brighter, please drop them off at the school office.



EYFS and Key Stage 1 Nativity Performances– Tickets

Thank you for completing our Microsoft Forms questionnaire and letting us know how many tickets you require for each performance. We are delighted to share that, as long as everyone sticks to the numbers requested, we will be able to accommodate all ticket requests.

Please do not bring additional guests on the day without checking first, as this could compromise the safety and comfort of our children and families.

Although tickets are free, we are hoping to raise funds for a new set of staging units for our school hall, helping to increase the 'Wow' factor of future assemblies, productions, and nativities. Profits from the Christmas Fair will also go towards this exciting purchase.

Throughout the festive season, we will keep you updated with a running total of our progress. Hot drinks and light refreshments will be available at each performance. We can't wait to celebrate this special time of year with you!

Uniform Reminders

We would like to make a gentle plea that children do not come to school in expensive coats or designer sportswear on PE days. We pride ourselves on providing comfortable, flexible and affordable uniform options, and we want to emphasise that these are our children's 'work clothes'. The purpose of a uniform is not only to create a sense of belonging, but also to ensure children are wearing practical items that can stand the test of a busy school day and everything it brings.

Throughout their time at Whipman Woods, children will inevitably find themselves elbow-deep in paint, glue, glitter and all sorts of wonderful (and messy!) materials. While we always do our very best to protect their clothing and prevent accidents, these things do occasionally happen. We choose the most child-friendly resources - including washable paints - but we cannot guarantee that every fabric will remain completely unscathed in the case of a spillage. With this in mind, we kindly ask that expensive or special items are kept safely at home to avoid any upset if they get splashed or stained. Thank you for your understanding and support with this matter.

Welcome to Mrs Keogh and Miss Edwards!



We are delighted to announce the appointment of two new members of staff who will be joining us as part of the school's strategic growth. As Whipman Woods continues to expand, it is important that we plan carefully for the future. With this in mind, we warmly welcome **Mrs Keogh**, who will be teaching Reception and leading the Early Years Foundation Stage, and **Miss Edwards**, who will be teaching in our Nursery and leading PSHE/Personal Development and early reading across the school.

Both Mrs Keogh and Miss Edwards have already demonstrated exceptional enthusiasm, energy and commitment to further developing our Early Years provision, while fostering a nurturing, welcoming and appropriately challenging learning environment for our children. Together, they bring a wealth of knowledge, experience and passion that will support the very best outcomes for our pupils.

We are incredibly excited about the future as they begin this new chapter with us, and we know you will join us in giving them the warmest welcome. They will be in and around school prior to the Christmas break and are keen to meet our children and families at the end of the school day when they are with us.



Friends Of Whipman Woods' Christmas Fair

You may already have seen our flyer advertising our Whipman Woods' Christmas Fair on **Monday 15th December**. We are looking for stallholders and food vendors to provide some of the fun, and stalls are charged at £10 each. We are also looking for contributions of raffle/tombola prizes. If you are out and about and want to mention us to any local businesses who may be able to support with vouchers or prizes, we would really appreciate your support with this.

We look forward to you, your family, and the wider community joining us for this festive event. Stallholders should arrive at 2.30pm for set-up, the doors will open for browsing at 3pm, and the children will be dismissed at the usual time of 3.15pm, when staff will open the children's stalls and games, which will be set up in The Grove.

We would really appreciate your support at this event – all funds raised will go towards the purchase of a set of staging blocks for our school hall, which will further enhance the quality of nativity plays, family assemblies, and school productions moving forward.



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

Problem Solve

Our definition of **PROBLEM SOLVING** is as follows:

"Taking a challenge or working something out, even when it feels tricky. This means thinking carefully, trying different ideas, and not giving up until you find a solution"

Congratulations to our winners, Raegan, Ava, Jeremy, Isabella and Theo.



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, Lewis, Shaydon, Ishan, Mya and Rory.



Bronze Award Winners

Congratulations to all who received their certificates today.

These children earned their Bronze Award by collecting 50 positive behaviour points. Well done to everyone for their hard work and fantastic behaviour!



Attendance

We encourage all pupils to aim for their best attendance each week. However if your child is absent, please remember, you must inform the school office by phone or email as soon as possible.

Willow	Cedar	Beech	Maple	Oak	Whole School
99.63%	90%	100%	100%	97.6%	97.07%

Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 2nd December** - Cedar and Beech Visit - South Yorkshire Air Museum
- Monday 8th December** - Christmas Craft Day (during school day. For information only)
- Monday 8th December** - SEND Coffee and Chat Meeting 1.45pm - 3.10pm
- 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
- Wednesday 17th December** - Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day (menu sent out)
- Friday 19th December** - Last day of Autumn Term in school





Christmas Jumper Donations Wanted

We are collecting any preloved Christmas jumpers to add to our preloved clothes rail ahead of our Christmas Fair so that we can rehome them in time for Christmas Jumper Day.

Children and adult sizes are both welcome!

Please drop any donations into the school office at your earliest convenience.





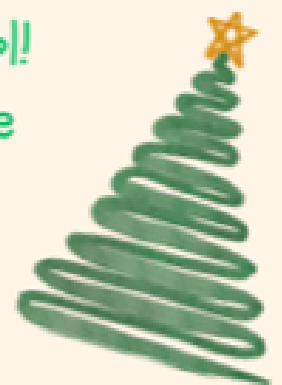
Can you help us to create a **UNIQUE**,
EXCEPTIONAL and **SUSTAINABLE** Christmas tree
here at Whipman Woods?

With your help, we hope to collect a lasting set of baubles for our Whipman Woods Christmas tree - each one representing one of our children. It will be a bauble they can look out for year after year as a reminder that they have contributed to something **AMAZING** - just as they do every day at school!



Choose a bauble, bright and true,
One that shows what's you, just you!
Hang it on our Christmas tree,
A sparkling part of our school family.

Bring your bauble in to school,
By December 1st, would be really cool!
Then year on year, you'll proudly see
Your special place upon the tree



UNIQUE

because it is chosen to represent you in some way

EXCEPTIONAL

because it will make our tree look beautiful

SUSTAINABLE

because it will hang on our tree year after year



Whipman Woods' Christmas Fair!



Book stall



Games

Children's stalls



**Monday 15th December 2025
at 3:00pm!**



Brass Band



Raffle



**Face
painting**



Hot chocolate



and more!

Cash only!



Coffee & Chat Group

Project for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools [PINS]

FOR

- Any parent/carer of a child with any additional needs – no diagnosis needed.



SESSION 2 – Communication

- Find what makes communication work well, what doesn't, and how it could be improved in practical ways
- Explore inclusive ways for parent/ carers to give feedback
- Discuss how parent/carers and schools can build two-way communication together.

WHEN:

- Mon 8th Dec, 1:45- 3:15pm

WHERE:

- Whipman Woods Flying High Academy

For further information please
contact: enquiries@nottpcf.org



Integrated
Care System
Nottingham & Nottinghamshire

These sessions are being run by Nottinghamshire Parent Carer Forum - an independent charity run by and for parent carers.

NO NEED TO HAVE ATTENDED EARLIER SESSIONS – ALL WELCOME!

