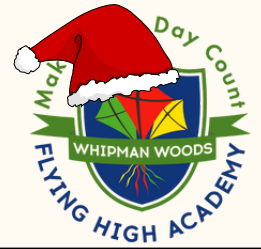


# Weekly Newsletter

19TH DECEMBER 2025



## A Christmas Thank You

Dear Parents,  
At the end of this term we pause to say,  
A heartfelt thank you, in every way.  
For non-uniform days and raffle prizes too,  
For cosy Christmas jumpers in every hue.

For Microsoft Forms filled in just right,  
For fabulous party clothes - sparkling and bright,  
Each generous kindness, offered with care,  
You've helped us make magic and memories to share.

With your support, our stars have shone bright  
In plays and nativities shining with light,  
And Christmas carols, sung strong and clear,  
Marking endings and beginnings we'll cherish each year.

Christmas dinners and party days - a heartwarming sight,  
With laughter and moments filled with delight.  
These memories made will stay close to our hearts,  
A season where learning and love played their parts.

As the school gates close for a short while to rest,  
It's your turn to enjoy what matters the best.  
As Christmas begins - slow down and take time,  
To make memories together, cherished and sublime.

From all of Team Whipman, we send you good cheer,  
And look forward to 2026 - another new year .  
We wish you a Christmas both peaceful and bright,  
Filled with love, warm moments, and family delight.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at Whipman Woods



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a great privilege to spend my first Christmas at Whipman Woods Flying High Academy - only the school's second Christmas since opening. Amid the twinkle of the lights, the sparkle of the tinsel and the frantic energy of this time of year, we have shared so many special moments. The children's singing and acting, their delight and laughter; the pride and love shining on the faces of parents and family members as you enjoyed our nativity performances and carol concerts; all of this alongside the unwavering determination of our wonderful staff team to create the very best experiences for each child.

These moments are the greatest gifts of all and lie at the heart of this special season - a time filled with love, joy and togetherness. Whipman Woods, without doubt, has the heart of a warm and welcoming family, and that is thanks to the wonderful people within it: our children, our staff and our wider community.

Thank you for everything you have done to support us. From the generous donations of raffle/tombola prizes and the purchase of raffle tickets, to your wholehearted contributions towards our fundraising efforts, and your attendance at our events - your support has been invaluable. It is our promise that every penny raised is reinvested directly into our children, helping us to provide high-quality resources that enhance learning experiences and improve outcomes for all. Your support ensures that our children's time at Whipman Woods is exciting, fulfilling and full of lasting memories.

As we come to the end of the term, I would like to wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. Thank you for being such an important part of our Whipman Woods community. Here's to an exciting year ahead in 2026!



Thank You

### SINGING FOR SANTA

Just when the children and staff thought the Christmas fun was finished, the sound of jingling bells filled the hall - and guess who appeared? During assembly, as the children sang their favourite Christmas songs - little did we know that a special visitor had stopped by to listen! The children's faces said it all as Santa popped into our final assembly of the year. There were plenty of smiles, wide eyes and festive excitement as he even helped hand out our 100% attendance certificates for this half term.

We found out that Santa's favourite song is 'When Santa Got Stuck Up the Chimney'! After breaktime, Santa was back on the move, visiting every classroom to spread some Christmas cheer. Each child received a special gift as a thank-you for their hard work and excellent behaviour throughout the Autumn Term - clearly, our children are all on the 'nice list'! What a fun and festive way to end the term - HO! HO! HO!



# Santa's Visit



# Christmas At Whipman Woods



## TREE PLANTING BY NURSERY

Last week, Elm Class were very lucky to have a visit from Mr Gray (Mrs Gray's husband) to help them plant some of the trees that were provided after a bid was made to the Woodland Trust (Well done Mrs Parkinson!). The children had a go at digging holes and planting the trees, making a lasting mark on the evolving landscape of our school grounds. As our youngest children grow and move through the school, so will the trees they have planted! What a brilliant way to leave a lasting impression!



### GOODBYE MISS URRY

Today, in assembly, we said special 'goodbye' to Miss Urry after she had been presented with gifts and flowers from 'Team Whipman'. We know she has meant such a lot to our Elm Class children and families and we wish her all the very best as she begins her next chapter.

Thank you Miss Urry for all that you have given to the children during your time at Whipman Woods.

## ATTENDANCE

Well done to Cedar Class! You are this week's attendance winners!

Willow	Cedar	Beech	Maple	Oak	Whole School
94.48%	99.29%	94.67%	99.17%	95.6%	97.22%



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January - First day of Spring Term
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January - Phonics Meeting Y1 Parents (2.45pm)
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January - Year 3 Bikeability
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February - EYFS Books and Biscuits (time to be confirmed)
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February - Y1 - Y6 Books and Biscuits (time to be confirmed)
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February - Valentines Disco
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Last day of half term
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - Inset Day (No children in school)
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March - World Book Day (Dress up as Traditional Tales)
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March - Cedar and Beech School Trip (more details to follow)
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March - Parents Evening (more details to follow)
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March - Parents Evening (more details to follow)
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - End of Term



## Festive Tips for a

# SCREEN-FREE CHRISTMAS

This Christmas, why not unplug and rediscover the simple joys of spending time together? Here are some festive, screen-free ideas to help families laugh, create, and connect in the old-fashioned way.

### 1 GET CREATIVE AND CRAFTY

Bring out the glue, glitter, and imagination to make your home sparkle with handmade cheer.

- **Make decorations:** Try paper snowflakes, salt-dough ornaments, or pinecone garlands for the tree.
- **Christmas card workshop:** Design and decorate cards for friends, family, or neighbours.
- **DIY gifts:** Craft photo frames, bath salts, or 'kindness coupons' offering hugs, chores, or treats.

### 2 BAKE, BUILD, AND TASTE TOGETHER

The kitchen is the heart of Christmas, and it smells divine when everyone's baking.

- **Festive baking:** Bake and decorate cookies, mince pies, or cupcakes together.
- **Gingerbread challenge:** Build a gingerbread house and let the kids take charge of decorating!
- **Sweet treat swap:** Wrap up homemade goodies to gift to friends or neighbours.

### 3 SLOW DOWN AND BE PRESENT

The greatest gift you can give is your attention.

- **Digital Detox Day:** Choose one day to switch off all screens and enjoy each other fully.
- **Gratitude Gathering:** Share what you are thankful for from the past year.
- **Memory Moments:** Take photos with a disposable camera or sketch favourite holiday scenes.

### 4 ENJOY COSY, INDOOR FUN

Cold outside? No problem, turn your home into a festive retreat.

- **Family game night:** Play board or card games, from Uno to festive trivia.
- **Hot chocolate bar:** Set up a 'cocoa station' with marshmallows, cream, and candy canes.
- **Puzzle power:** Work together on a big jigsaw puzzle — slow, calm, and wonderfully mindful.

### 5 HOLD A FAMILY TALENT SHOW

Let everyone shine with a little Christmas sparkle and imagination.

- **Perform together:** Sing, dance, tell jokes, or stage a short Christmas play.
- **Make costumes:** Use household items to design festive outfits or props.
- **Award the stars:** Give fun prizes like 'Best Performance' or 'Most Festive Outfit.'

### 6 READ, WRITE, AND IMAGINE

Nurture creativity and quiet time with stories that come to life.

- **Story hour:** Read holiday tales aloud by the tree or under a blanket fort.
- **Write a story or comic:** Create Christmas adventures starring your family or pets.
- **Book swap:** Exchange favourite books and read each other's choices.

### 7 EXPLORE THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Wrap up warm, breathe the crisp winter air, and find magic in nature.

- **Winter nature walks:** Spot birds, berries, and frosty patterns while collecting natural treasures.
- **Christmas light hunt:** Take an evening stroll to admire twinkling lights in your community.
- **Scavenger hunt:** Hide small surprises around the garden or park.

### 8 GIVE BACK AND SPREAD KINDNESS

Christmas feels even warmer when shared with others.

- **Kindness countdown:** Do one good deed a day, from helping at home to writing thank-you notes.
- **Donate together:** Collect food, toys, or clothes for a local charity.
- **Neighbourly cheer:** Deliver homemade treats or cards to someone spending Christmas alone.

## Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday

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