

# Weekly Newsletter

9TH JANUARY 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year from all of us at Whipman Woods Flying High Academy! We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful break with your children and families over the festive period and feel refreshed, revived, and ready for 2026.

It has been a pleasure to welcome our children and families back into school this week. Despite the cold weather, the children have returned full of smiles, enthusiasm, and a real eagerness to learn, which has been lovely to see.

We would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to our new Nursery children, who have made a fantastic start to their school journey. They have transitioned into school life beautifully – it already feels as though they have always been part of our Whipman Woods family. We have also welcomed several new children into other classes across the school, and they too have settled in brilliantly.

This week's wintry weather has felt very seasonal - the children were very excited to enjoy the snow during breaktime and lunchtime on Monday and they had a wonderful time making the most of it.

Last term was a very successful one, despite being a period of significant staff changes. Attendance and behaviour remained excellent, and we are incredibly proud of the resilience, flexibility, and understanding shown by both our children and families during this time. This week, we were delighted to welcome Miss Edwards to Elm Class and Mrs Keogh to Willow Class. Both have already worked tirelessly, spending many hours in school during the Christmas break to ensure the children have had the best possible start to the spring term. They are undoubtedly a valuable addition to our school team.

We also said a 'goodbye for now' to Mrs Gibb (SENDCo and Year 2 teacher alongside Mrs Parkinson), who began her maternity leave a little earlier than anticipated. In the meantime, Beech Class will be taught by a supply teacher on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and we will keep you fully informed about the longer-term arrangement.

The Spring Term promises to be another exciting and engaging one, with Geography as our main curriculum driver, building on the History learning from last term. We are really looking forward to showcasing the children's learning with you and inviting you into school to share in our Whipman Woods' experiences as the term progresses.

Finally, thank you for your continued support and for supporting us so generously with our fundraising events last term. Your involvement and encouragement make a real difference, and we are so grateful to have such a supportive and valued school community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nicola Green'.

Mrs Nicola Green  
**Head Teacher**



## ATTENDANCE

We are incredibly proud of the children at Whipman Woods for the fantastic commitment they showed to coming to school throughout the Autumn Term. Attendance across all groups of children has been very impressive, and this has been clear in the careful checks we carry out to make sure everyone is being supported to attend well. This strong start reflects the positive partnership between home and school, and it makes a real difference to children's confidence, learning, and enjoyment of school life. Thank you for helping us build such positive routines together - we are excited to continue this momentum into the spring term.

As we begin the spring term, we want to gently remind families just how important it is for children to attend school every day. Regular attendance helps children feel settled and confident, allowing them to gain a sense of belonging, build successful friendships and make strong progress in their learning. Each school day is carefully planned, and even short absences can make it harder for children to keep up and feel able and ready to learn in class. We understand that there will be times when children are unwell, and their wellbeing always comes first but being in school every day gives them the best chance to thrive. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child develop positive habits that will benefit them now and in the future.



**Last half term's attendance was 97.2%!**



**THANK YOU**

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

Willow	Cedar	Beech	Maple	Oak	Whole School
96.19%	86.21%	97.33%	93.6%	92%	92.6%

Please remember that if your child is unwell, the school must be notified each day of their absence. A quick phone call to the school office helps us keep accurate attendance records and ensures we know our students are safe and accounted for. Even if your child is expected to be absent for a couple of days, we still require a daily call while they are unwell.



## Spotlight on Reception by Mrs Keogh

We have had a fantastic start to the spring term in Reception and have been so impressed with how confidently the children have settled into new routines. They begin each morning with purposeful tasks, including voting for a story to enjoy at the end of the day and sharing how they are feeling using our feelings jars. This helps children develop independence, make choices, and feel supported emotionally from the moment they arrive.

Our morning routine brings the class together on the carpet with a welcome song, rhyme of the week, days of the week song, and a discussion about the weather. Families will soon have the chance to see this routine in action. The rest of the morning is filled with phonics, dough disco, discovery time, maths, and shared reading, before the children enjoy their afternoon learning through literacy, topic lessons, and further opportunities to explore and read.

This week there has been a strong focus on being ready to learn. Children have worked hard to follow clear expectations such as sitting smartly on the carpet, listening carefully, moving calmly between activities, and using classroom resources sensibly and safely. They have risen to this challenge brilliantly and are clearly enjoying the structure of the day.

In Geography, children explored a world map, located England, and talked about what makes it special, including learning about London and the White Cliffs of Dover. In Literacy, the class enjoyed *The Gingerbread Man*, retelling and acting out the story with great enthusiasm. Phonics focused on the sounds s and b, while in Maths the children explored the concept of zero and practised counting to five.

Our learning environment has also been refreshed, with exciting opportunities for construction, creativity, role play, reading, and exploring the world around us. It has been a wonderful week in Willow Class, and we are very much looking forward to continuing this learning journey together.



## STAR OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to our Stars of the week. This week our celebration assembly value was **kindness**.

Our definition of kindness is:

*"Being fair, supporting each other, and treating others how we would like to be treated. We are polite, admit when we are wrong and work hard to make everyone feel valued."*



## READER OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to our Readers of the Week for doing amazing reading during lessons and at home. Keep up the good work!



## WHIPMAN BABY NEWS!

Our second Whipman Woods' baby was born on Wednesday at 12.55pm. Her name is Rosaly Gibb and she is absolutely beautiful!

Mrs Gibb went from being at work the previous day, to becoming a Mummy (for the second time) the very next day. We wish Mrs Gibb and her family all the luck in the world as they become a family of 4! Although we will really miss her, we are incredibly happy for her and know you will be too.



## WELCOME TO MRS SENIOR (SENDCo)

Many of you may have already met Mrs Senior who already proving to be a wonderful addition to Team Whipman. Whilst Mrs Gibb is off on 'Mummy duty', Mrs Senior has taken on the role of SENDCo to ensure that the provision for SEND and inclusion remains as strong as it always has. She is in school every Monday and Friday and is eager to be as visible as possible as she gets to know our parents and carers. She has already made her mark by working with many of our children. If you would like to arrange to meet with her, please just email the school office and she will get in touch at the earliest convenience.



## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Thursday 14th January** - Phonics Meeting Y1 Parents (2.45pm)

**Friday 23rd January** - Year 3 Bikeability

**Tuesday 3rd February** - EYFS Books and Biscuits (time to be confirmed)

**Tuesday 10th February** - Y1 - Y6 Books and Biscuits (time to be confirmed)

**Thursday 12th February** - Valentines Disco

**Friday 13th February** - Last day of half term

**Monday 23rd February** - Inset Day (No children in school)

**Thursday 5th March** - World Book Day (Dress up as Traditional Tales)

**Tuesday 10th March** - Cedar and Beech School Trip (more details to follow)

**Tuesday 17th March** - Parents Evening (more details to follow)

**Wednesday 18th March** - Parents Evening (more details to follow)

**Friday 27th March** - End of Term

