

# Weekly Newsletter

23RD JANUARY 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of another wonderful week at Whipman Woods and can hardly believe we are already halfway through the first half term of 2026. Time really does fly when we're having fun!

This week, our children have been exploring the protected characteristics in an age-appropriate and thoughtful way. Through these discussions, they have recognised that while we are all different, those differences should be respected and celebrated. This important learning helps to nurture empathy, kindness and understanding, supporting our children to feel confident in being themselves while valuing others. It also reflects our school's commitment to developing unique, exceptional young people who contribute positively to a respectful and sustainable community.

The children also took part in a special assembly about Hanukkah, where they learned about its meaning, story and key traditions, including lighting the menorah and celebrating with family. They explored how Hanukkah shares themes of light, hope, and community with other religious festivals, while recognising what makes it special and unique. This was a valuable opportunity to deepen their curiosity and foster respect for different beliefs and cultures. Today, many of our Year 3 and 4 children participated in Bikeability training. They practised essential cycling skills and learned how to stay safe on the roads, building confidence, independence, and a real sense of achievement. Well done to all of our budding cyclists for your fantastic effort!

It is always a privilege to spend time with our children. Over the past couple of weeks, I have been teaching Year 6 SATs booster sessions and have been incredibly impressed by the focus, determination, and commitment the children are showing. I have also enjoyed teaching in Cedar Class recently and seeing first-hand how much the children's writing has improved through their hard work and resilience.

Looking ahead, we are busy planning an exciting Valentine's Disco for Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children, which will take place on Thursday 12th January as a celebration of their efforts. Tickets are already available to purchase via Arbor.

Finally, we are very much looking forward to welcoming our local MP, Jo White, on Monday as part of her visit to local schools. Maple Class are very much looking forward to sharing their recent persuasive letters with her – they are very keen to hear some updates about when the planned playground area behind our school will be built!

As always, thank you for your endless support in all aspects of school life.

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

Mrs Nicola Green  
**Head Teacher**



## Pedal Power in Years 3 and 4: Bikeability Fun!

Today, many of our Year 3 and 4 pupils took part in Bikeability training, and what an exciting and confidence-boosting experience it was! The playground was full of smiles, concentration, and a real sense of achievement as the children developed essential cycling skills in a safe and supportive environment.

The focus of the sessions was on learning to control a bike safely. The children practised starting and stopping smoothly, riding in a straight line, using their brakes effectively, and looking behind them while keeping control. They also learned about basic bike safety, including checking their bikes before riding and understanding why helmets and high-visibility clothing are so important. These core skills will help our children to feel secure on their bikes and lay the foundations for future road-based cycling.

This experience was a chance for our children to build their confidence and overcome any nerves. The feelings of determination and pride were tangible as children mastered new skills. It was wonderful to see our children encouraging one another and celebrating each other's successes.

Well done to all our Year 3 and 4 cyclists for their fantastic effort and positive attitude. We're incredibly proud of you - keep pedalling!



## Beech Class Teacher News!

Following Mrs Gibb's earlier-than-expected start to her maternity leave, we are pleased to confirm that Miss Layton will continue teaching Beech Class alongside Mrs Parkinson until Mrs Gibb returns.

Miss Layton has already made a wonderfully calm and positive start, building strong relationships with the children and providing a smooth and secure transition. The children have settled extremely well and are enjoying the consistency and care she brings to the classroom. Thank you to families for the warm welcome you have given her.



## Bag2School Collection

We will be having a Bag2School collection on the 27<sup>th</sup> February. Bag2School is a free, eco-friendly fundraising scheme that helps schools to raise money by recycling textiles. This is a fantastic opportunity for school to raise some money in an eco-friendly way. The more bags we manage to collect, the more money school will raise! This is a perfect chance for you to recycle any clothes that you do not want or wear anymore!

They accept all the following items:

- Clothes
- Paired shoes
- Handbags
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Socks
- Belts



Donations can be brought to the school office in bin liners or any bag. There will also be bags available from school from February 2nd should you need any extras.

Please can we ask that all donations are received by 26th February. Thankyou for your support!

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## KS2 Melody Makers - Message from Mrs Keogh

In last week's assembly Mrs Keogh shared with the children her interest in song writing and music. It was wonderful to speak to children following this and she quickly discovered we have many children who share the same interest.

The Melody Makers is a club for song writing opportunities, giving children a supportive environment to develop original music from the ground up. Children are encouraged to share ideas, collaborate on lyrics and melodies.

Beyond song writing, the club expands into performance, production, and music appreciation. Children can rehearse together, experiment with arranging and recording. The club also hosts listening sessions, open mics to help children build confidence and connect with a wider music community.

Overall, the club fosters creativity, collaboration, and artistic growth—empowering members to turn musical ideas into finished songs.

This club is for KS2 children. The club is already full and we have started a waiting list for anyone else that shows an interest. Please let the office know if you would like your child adding to the waiting list.



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

Willow	Cedar	Beech	Maple	Oak	Whole School
97.59%	98.21%	100%	98.21%	95.35%	96.91%



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.

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February** - Children's Mental Health Week (whole school assembly - for information only)

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

**Thursday 12th February** - Valentine's 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 (letter sent on Arbor)

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

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

**Friday 27th March** - Last Day In School (Easter Holiday)





# Valentine's Disco

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February



Willow, Cedar & Beech: 3:15pm -4:15pm  
Maple & Oak: 4.30pm - 5.30pm



£4.50  
Payable on Arbor



Includes: Snacks, squash, disco games  
and face painting