

Weekly Newsletter

30TH JANUARY 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Despite the very dull weather today, we have had a fantastic week in school! As a staff team, we have seen so many wonderful things; children showing kindness and consideration for each other, children going out of their way to make things easier for others, children using the knowledge and skills they have taught with greater levels of independence and creativity, a growing love of reading and children in Year 6 Oak Class enthusiastically attempting their practice SATS – just to name a few!

On Monday, we were lucky to have a visit from our local MP - Jo White. She made a 'flying visit' as she was on her way to catch the train down to London to arrive at parliament for 2.30pm – where she would then have an 8-hour day, finishing at 10.30pm!

During a Visit from the Flying High Partnership this week, we were especially praised for the excellent attendance and behaviour of our children – high standards and expectations in these areas create the all important foundations for happy, settled, children who enjoy being at school and are ready and eager to learn. Thank you for your continued support with this. I always tell anyone that comes to visit our school that the best thing about Whipman Woods is our children! But they are only as successful as they are because of your support and our fantastic staff team.

Thank you to the staff that are supporting our after school enrichment activities, slowly but surely, as our staff team grows, our extracurricular offer is increasing. We pride ourselves on developing our children holistically so that they have the opportunity to excel in a wide range of areas and experience success in line with their individual skills and talents - unique and exceptional!

Mrs Nicola Green
Head Teacher

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

Willow	Cedar	Beech	Maple	Oak	Whole School
94.48%	99.29%	100%	98.4%	100%	98.21%

Wow - another fantastic week! We are incredibly proud of all our children for the dedication and commitment they continue to show towards their learning. Regular attendance ensures they are in the best possible position to reach their full potential, build strong and lasting friendships, and make a positive impact within our school and the wider community.



MP VISIT TO WHIPMAN WOODS

On Monday, we were very lucky to welcome Jo White, who visited Whipman Woods as part of her role as the MP for Bassetlaw. During her time with us, she took a tour of the school, spent time talking with both children and staff, and delivered an engaging and informative assembly. In her assembly, Jo White explained what it means to be a Member of Parliament and how she represents the people of Bassetlaw in Parliament. The children were fascinated to learn about the day-to-day realities of her job - including the fact that whenever she wants to share her ideas, opinions, or ask a question in Parliament, she has to stand up and wait to be noticed. This process, known as "bobbing", certainly made an impression, especially when she explained how tiring it can be after a long day!

She also helped the children to deepen their understanding of British Values, focusing particularly on 'Democracy' and the 'Rule of Law'. Jo White made clear links between the laws made in Parliament and the importance of rules in our own school, helping children to see how Whipman Woods' expectations prepare them for life beyond the classroom.

One of the most exciting parts of the visit was hearing Jo White talk about how children can have a voice in their local community. She explained how we can find out more about plans for the new play park behind our school and even shared the name of a member of Bassetlaw Council who the children could write to with their ideas. This provided a real and meaningful purpose for learning, and Maple Class will soon be sending their carefully crafted persuasive letters to both the council and Barratt Homes, sharing their ideas about the equipment they would like to see in the park. Jo's visit was a fantastic opportunity for the children to see their learning come to life and to understand how their voices can make a difference locally and nationally.



BAG2SCHOOL COLLECTION

We will be having a Bag2School collection on the 27th 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 and 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!



EYFS OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT SUPPORT

Our EYFS team and really keen to improve the quality of provision that is available in our outdoor space (as some of you may have seen on their recent Class Dojo posts). We are hoping to develop the area to look a little more inviting and to zone areas so that play can be more purposeful and engaging – here are some images (created with the help of AI!) that bring our vision to life for you.



Below is a list of items we are searching for to help achieve the vision. If anyone can help source or donate anything listed, please let the office know. Thank you in advance for your generosity towards a wonderful cause!

From Our Community to Our Classroom!	
<p>🔨 Wood & Construction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Wooden pallets <input type="checkbox"/> Wooden crates / fruit boxes <input type="checkbox"/> Wooden cable reels <input type="checkbox"/> Timber offcuts / planks <input type="checkbox"/> Tree stumps / log slices <input type="checkbox"/> Timber sleepers / beams <input type="checkbox"/> Short wooden ladders <p>🔧 Loose Parts & Large Play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle tyres <input type="checkbox"/> Milk crates (strong plastic) <input type="checkbox"/> Large wooden blocks <input type="checkbox"/> Cardboard tubes (e.g. carpet tubes) <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic cones <input type="checkbox"/> Planks for balancing <p>🎨 Mark-Making & Creativity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Chalk / outdoor chalk <input type="checkbox"/> Chalkboards / blackboard panels <input type="checkbox"/> Clipboards <input type="checkbox"/> Old tiles or slate pieces <input type="checkbox"/> Paintbrushes (large) <input type="checkbox"/> Buckets, tubs, containers <p>🏠 Den Building & Role Play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Tarpaulins / camouflage netting <input type="checkbox"/> Old blankets / fabric / curtains <input type="checkbox"/> Rope, string, bungee cords <input type="checkbox"/> Suitcases, baskets <input type="checkbox"/> Hats, scarves, handbags <p>🍲 Mud Kitchen & Exploration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Old pots, pans, trays <input type="checkbox"/> Metal bowls, spoons, utensils <input type="checkbox"/> Measuring jugs <input type="checkbox"/> Old kitchen units / low tables <input type="checkbox"/> Watering cans 	<p>💧 Water, Sand & Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Funnels, sieves, colanders <input type="checkbox"/> Clear plastic containers <input type="checkbox"/> Guttering / drainpipes <input type="checkbox"/> Hosepipes <input type="checkbox"/> Sand (play grade) <input type="checkbox"/> Ice cube trays / moulds <input type="checkbox"/> Magnifying glasses <input type="checkbox"/> Old kitchen scales <p>🌿 Natural & Sensory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pebbles / stones (large) <input type="checkbox"/> Pinecones, conkers, acorns <input type="checkbox"/> Sticks, logs, branches <input type="checkbox"/> Bark chippings / wood mulch <input type="checkbox"/> Soil / compost (bagged) <input type="checkbox"/> Plant pots, troughs <input type="checkbox"/> Herbs or hardy plants <p>🧸 Small World & Imaginative Play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Toy animals <input type="checkbox"/> Small vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> Dolls / people figures <p>🎵 Sound & Music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Saucepan lids / metal pans <input type="checkbox"/> Bells / wind chimes <input type="checkbox"/> Wooden spoons / beaters <p>📦 Storage & Practical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Baskets / crates <input type="checkbox"/> Buckets with handles <input type="checkbox"/> Low shelving units <input type="checkbox"/> Toolboxes <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Aprons



HEALTHY SNACK AND LUNCHBOXES - SUPPORTING LEARNING

We would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of healthy snacks and lunchboxes, and the positive impact these have on children's concentration, energy levels, and learning.

For breaktime, children should bring a healthy snack such as fruit, vegetable sticks, or a cereal bar. **We ask that crisps, chocolate, and sweets are not brought for breaktime, as these can affect children's focus in lessons.**

For lunchboxes, a small sweet treat is absolutely fine; however, we kindly ask that large bags of crisps, full sized chocolate bars and sweets are avoided, as these do not support children's learning or wellbeing.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us ensure children are ready to learn and feel their best throughout the school day.



STAR OF THE WEEK

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

Our definition of confidence is:
"Believing in yourself and trying your best even when something is challenging".



STARS OF THE WEEK

Willow: Sofia

Cedar: Leo

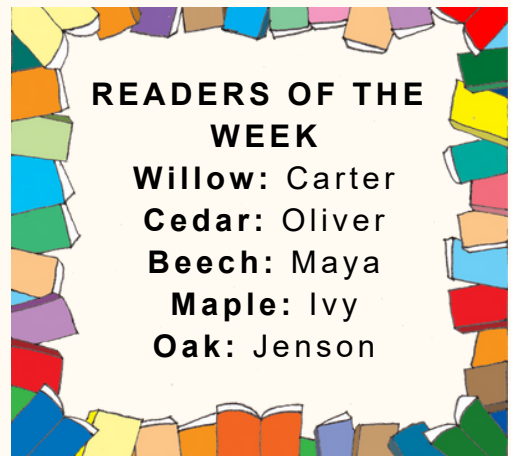
Beech: River

Maple: Sophia

Oak: Ayla

READER OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to our 'Readers of the Week' - it is always so wonderful to hear our teachers talk about the reasons these children have been chosen - and it's not always for just being a good reader - sometimes it's for showing improvement and sometimes it's for helping others to fall in love with books! Keep up the good work!



READERS OF THE WEEK

Willow: Carter

Cedar: Oliver

Beech: Maya

Maple: Ivy

Oak: Jenson



OUTWOOD ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

We have been asked to share the information below:

Outwood Academy Portland and Outwood Academy Valley undertook a consultation on their admissions arrangements for the academic year 2027-2028.

A copy of the outcome letter can be found on our website.

<https://www.portland.outwood.com/posts/13684>

PARKING AROUND SCHOOL - KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

Recently, we have had concerns raised about vehicles parking on yellow zig-zag lines and single lines outside the school. This is putting children's safety at risk and restricting access for local residents. **We also need to insist that the staff and visitor car park is not being used for drop-offs/collection. A few spaces are reserved for children with access requirements but a pass has been provided. This is for the safety of our children.**

Yellow zig-zag lines mean no stopping or parking during the times shown, even briefly for drop-off or collection. Stopping here reduces visibility and creates unsafe conditions for children and families.

Single white lines indicate parking is restricted at certain times, usually during the school day, as shown on nearby signs. Parking during these times is not permitted and can cause safety and access issues.

We ask all parents and carers to park considerately, keeping driveways, pavements, and access points clear. Your cooperation helps keep our children safe, supports our local community, and sets a positive example for everyone.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 3rd February - EYFS Books and Biscuits 2.40pm

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

Tuesday 10th February - Y1 - Y6 Books and Biscuits 2.30pm

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)



Nursery & Reception
Books and Biscuits
Tuesday 3rd February 2026



JOIN US ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON AT 2:40PM FOR
'BOOKS AND BISCUITS' (FOR ELM AND WILLOW
CLASSES).

SHARE A STORY WITH YOUR CHILD AND ENJOY A
BISCUITS!



Books and Biscuits

Tuesday 10th February 2026



JOIN US ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON AT 2:30PM FOR
'BOOKS AND BISCUITS' (FOR YEAR 1 - 6).
SHARE A STORY WITH YOUR CHILD AND ENJOY A
BISCUIT!





Valentine's Disco

Thursday 12th 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