

Weekly Newsletter

27TH FEBRUARY 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you had a wonderful half term. It has been such a pleasure to welcome the children back into school this week and to see their excitement as they have caught up with their friends, settled back into learning routines and shared stories from their half term break.

Although this is a very short term, it is an important one. We are looking forward to building on the learning that has already taken place, applying our skills and knowledge in new ways and continuing to deepen our understanding across the curriculum.

It is always a privilege to welcome our children back. They return with so much to say, full of enthusiasm and pride in their school experiences, and it is this sense of joy and belonging that makes our community so special.

We have lots to look forward to in the coming weeks, including class educational visits, World Book Day, themed assemblies, British Science Week activities and sporting opportunities, to name just a few.

This week's focus value has been 'Curiosity'. One of the many strengths of our children is that they ask thoughtful questions and show a real desire to understand more. Their natural curiosity motivates them to explore, learn and challenge themselves further, which is wonderful to see.

Next week's value is '**Responsibility**'. We define this as: '**Doing the right thing at all times, even when no one is watching; taking care of yourself and your belongings and helping others to do the same.**' In school, we recognise and praise children when we notice them demonstrating our values, whether in their learning or in their interactions with others. We would love you to continue celebrating these values at home too.

There is so much to be proud of at Whipman Woods this week, including contributions to the clothing bank, which have helped to raise valuable funds for the school; a fantastic second-place finish at the Flying High Partnership Debate Club Final; wonderful entries into the SACRE RE competition (the closing date has now been extended to Tuesday, so please bring all completed entries into school by then); and well-attended, informative reading information sessions led by our EYFS team.

As always, thank you for your continued support - together, we achieve amazing things!

Kind regards,

Mrs Nicola Green
Head Teacher



Well done to Maple, Cedar and Oak Classes! You are this week's attendance winners....WOW!! An AMAZING week's attendance!

| Willow | Cedar | Beech | Maple | Oak | Whole School |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|--------------|
| 99.14% | 100% | 95% | 100% | 100% | 99.19% |



DEBATE CLUB

Whipman Woods' Debate Club superstars had the pleasure of attending the Debate Club Final at Flying High HQ yesterday. The children debated two thought-provoking questions against other schools in the partnership. **The first question was, 'Should we have more age restrictions or should they stay as they are?'** and the second was, **'Is it braver to solve a problem on your own or ask for help?'**

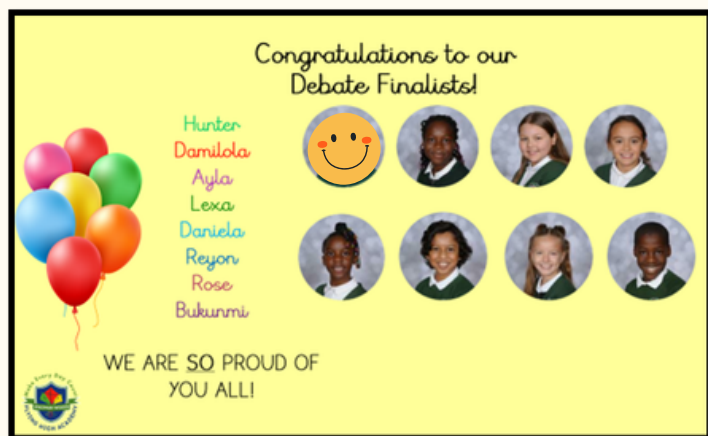
They represented our school brilliantly, presenting their arguments with confidence, clarity and excellent teamwork. They demonstrated strong speaking and listening skills, using ambitious vocabulary, clear reasoning and well-structured points to support their ideas. The children listened carefully to the opposing teams, responded thoughtfully to counter-arguments and showed great resilience under pressure.

It was particularly impressive to see how respectfully they challenged different viewpoints while remaining composed and articulate throughout.

Mr Wheatley (FHP CEO) complimented the team on their impressive use of vocabulary and the maturity of their responses. He was especially impressed that not all members of our team were Year 6 pupils, making their performance even more commendable.

The children should feel incredibly proud of themselves for achieving second place. They were fantastic ambassadors for Whipman Woods and truly demonstrated the power of confident communication and thoughtful debate.

A huge 'thank you' to Miss Fleming for her support, coaching and expertise in leading our team to success!



STAR OF THE WEEK

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

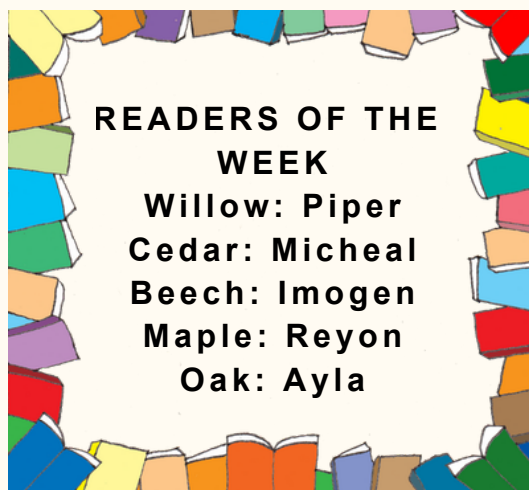
Our definition of pride is:

"Wanting to learn and discover new things by asking questions and exploring the world around us".



READER OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to our 'Readers of the Week' for their amazing attitude to reading, both during lessons and at home. Keep up the good work - thank you for flying our reading flag!



WORLD BOOK DAY 5th MARCH - COME AND JOIN THE READING FUN!

We are delighted to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5th March!

This special event is a wonderful opportunity to inspire a love of reading and to share the joy that books bring. This year's theme is **Traditional Tales**, and children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book characters from classic stories and fairy tales.



From brave knights and magical princesses to cunning wolves, we can't wait to see the creativity on display! We look forward to a day of imagination and, of course, lots of reading!

Children will also bring home next week a 'World Book Day' voucher from National Book Token. This can be used at most supermarkets and other bookshops to pick up a free book or get £1 off any book purchase.



FRIENDS OF WHIPMAN WOODS AGM







Established in mid-2025, Friends of Whipman Woods (FoWW) has already delivered some fantastic fundraising and community events. The group is now taking the next step to become formally established - and we'd love you to be part of it! If you're interested in shaping future activities, supporting the school, and helping build a thriving community group, please complete the Expression of interest form, **this closes 10th March**.

Our annual general meeting (AGM) will be held on 12th March, 15:00–15:45, where we'll share more about our aims, plans, and how you can get involved - this meeting is open to all to attend.

We will be soon establishing roles to make our AGM and FoWW as successful as possible. More details regarding these will be discussed at the AGM. Therefore, if you believe any of the below roles are suitable for you, please come to the meeting and express your interest.

Please contact Charlotte Lax with any questions or for more information:

clax@whipmanwoodsfa.co.uk

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|--|--|---|
| <h3>Chair/Co-Chair</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A good leader who brings the committee together- Should be confident, calm, friendly and approachable, but assertive and firm when needed- Supervises and delegates tasks to ensure they are completed- Manages the committee to ensure they work collaboratively and cohesively- Liaises with school leadership and governor teams- Ensures all members follow the constitution and policies- Good communication and organisational skills- Represents the whole committee on occasions open mornings, welcome events and more  | <h3>Treasurer/Co-Treasurer</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A good head for numbers- Good mathematical and logistical skills- Keeps accounts in a clear and concise manner- Follows any financial or expenses policies- Provides accurate, up-to-date reports- Manages the PTA bank account with other signatories- Completes the Charity Annual Return with the Chair  | <h3>Secretary/Co-Secretary</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Good organisational and communication skills- Manages the day-to-day communications of the association- Manages the association's correspondence- Produces minutes for each meeting- A good listener and record keeper  |
| <h3>Fundraising Lead</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Excellent attention to detail- Excellent communication skills- Lead on fundraising plans for the Friends Group- Work closely with the Treasurer and Events lead- Coordinate and plan fundraising for the year- Considers links within the community for things such as sponsorship and donations  | <h3>Events Lead</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Excellent organisation and communication skills- Leads on planning of events- Coordinates event requirements such as plans, timelines and volunteers- Supports the Friends group in having an organised events plan for the year  | <h3>Volunteer</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Does not wish to be a formal committee member- Would like to volunteer and support for the Friends of Whipman Woods group either through fundraising, events or other volunteering capacity- These roles will be part of the wider Friends of Whipman Woods group but not part of the formal committee  |



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BASSETLAW SCHOOL GAMES

We were delighted to welcome Kate Voice from Bassetlaw School Games back to Whipman Woods FHA on Wednesday. She spent the afternoon working closely with our play leaders to plan and trial a range of exciting activities that will feature in Whipman Woods' very first Sports Festival, taking place on **Wednesday 22nd April 2026**.

This fantastic event will involve pupils from Years 1 to 6 and promises to be a wonderful celebration of teamwork, participation and sporting spirit across our school. It is a truly

exciting opportunity for our whole community, and we are incredibly grateful to Miss Voice for so generously sharing her time and expertise to help bring it to life.

We look forward to sharing more of the exciting opportunities that are developing through our growing partnership with School Games. Thank you, Miss Voice!



The faces of children who have just carried
250kg of clothes to a van!!!

BAG2SCHOOL COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who kindly donated clothes to support our Bag2School scheme. Bag2School helps to reuse and recycle donated clothing, reducing landfill waste and supporting communities both in the UK and overseas.

Oak Class did a fantastic job of helping to load our many bags of contributions into the van today, showing great teamwork. We are delighted to share that your contributions have raised **£75**, which will go directly towards our school funds to support future activities and resources for the children.

We are incredibly grateful for your generosity and to Miss Fleming for her organisation of this fundraiser!

Thank you again for your continued support!

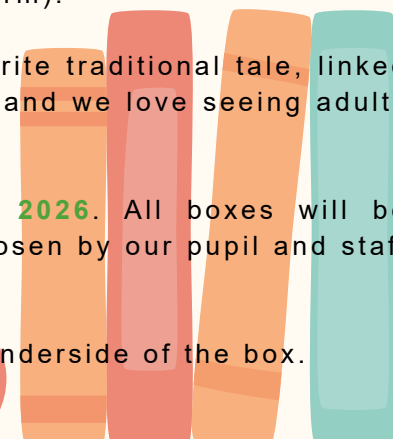
WORLD BOOK DAY REMINDER – BOOK IN A BOX COMPETITION

To celebrate World Book Day, we will once again be holding our popular 'Book in a Box' competition (this has been previously shared via a letter before half term).

Children are invited to create a Book in a Box inspired by their favourite traditional tale, linked to our World Book Day dressing-up theme. Creativity is encouraged - and we love seeing adults getting involved too!

Entries should be brought into school on Monday 2nd March 2026. All boxes will be displayed during the week, and one winner from each class will be chosen by our pupil and staff judging panel, with a prize for each winner.

Please ensure your child's name and class are clearly written on the underside of the box. We can't wait to see your wonderful creations!



LIVE PHONICS LESSON - FOR CEDAR CLASS CHILDREN AND PARENTS - Tuesday 17th March 8.45 - 9.30am

We are delighted to invite parents and carers to a Live Phonics Session in school, where you will have the opportunity to join your child during their daily phonics learning.




The purpose of this session is to help you understand how phonics forms the foundation of early reading and why it is such a vital part of your child's learning journey. You will see first-hand how we teach phonics in school and how this approach supports children in becoming confident, fluent readers.

Miss Lodge, alongside your child, will guide you through each stage of a typical phonics lesson so that you can follow the same structure, language and principles when practising at home. This shared understanding makes a significant difference to children's progress.

Daily practice is incredibly important. Just a few minutes each day revisiting sounds, blending and reading words helps to build fluency, confidence and long-term success.

We look forward to welcoming you into school and working together to give your child the very best start in reading.

ATTENDANCE GUIDANCE



| 96% – 100% Excellent Attendance | 90% – 95% Needs Improvement | Below 90% Persistent Absence (PA) |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">You are in school almost every day.You are making the most of your learning.You are building strong friendships and routines.This is the national expectation in England. <p> You are in school almost every day.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">You are missing more school than you think.90% attendance = 1 day off every 2 weeks.This equals nearly 4 weeks of learning missed in a year.Support may be offered to help improve attendance. <p> 90% attendance = 1 day off every 2 weeks.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">This is the official threshold used in England.You are missing a significant amount of learning.85% attendance = nearly 1 day off every week.School and family will work together to improve this. <p> 85% attendance = nearly 1 day off every week.</p> |

Please remember to check your child's attendance regularly on Arbor. The app provides a clear visual guide showing whether your child's attendance is **excellent (96–100%)**, **needs improvement (90–95%)**, or falls into **persistent absence (below 90%)**.

As the guide highlights, **90% attendance equals one day off every two weeks - almost four weeks of learning missed across a year.**

Attendance below 90% is classed nationally as persistent absence.

Good attendance is vital for academic progress, friendships and positive routines.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday 2nd March** - 1.45pm-3.15pm SEND Parent Carer Forum (see attached flyer)
- Thursday 5th March** - World Book Day (Dress up as Traditional Tales)
- Tuesday 10th March** - Cedar and Beech School Trip (letter sent on Arbor)
- Tuesday 10th March** - Science Week Assembly (Maple Class only)
- Tuesday 10th March** - Science Week Material Fusion Workshop (Oak Class only)
- Tuesday 10th March** - Expression of interest to join 'Friends of Whipman Woods' closes
- Thursday 12th March** - AGM Friends of Whipman Woods - open to all 15:00-15:45
- Tuesday 17th March** - Parents' Evening
- Tuesday 17th March** - 8.45-9.30 Year 1 'Live Phonics Lesson' 8.45-9.30 - Parent Invitation!
- Wednesday 18th March** - Parents' Evening
- Wednesday 25th March** - National Dentist Survey (Year 1 and Reception only)
- Friday 27th March** - Last Day In School (Easter Holiday)





V O L [] N T E E []

What's missing?

U R

We'd love you to be part of Friends of Whipman Woods! If you're interested in shaping future activities, supporting the school, and helping build a thriving community group, please complete the [Expression of interest form](#).

Please contact Charlotte Lax with any questions or for more information CLax@whipmanwoodsfa.co.uk



[Parentkind](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

WE ARE CELEBRATING

Traditional Tales themed...

WORLD BOOK DAY®

Thursday 5th March
2026

*Changing lives through a love of
books and shared reading*

#WORLDBOOKDAY



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 3 – Continuing Support and Working Together

- Receive clear information and signposting to support services
- Explore ways to stay connected and keep supporting one another
- Discuss how a group could work with school staff on key issues and build lasting collaboration

WHEN:

- Mon 2nd March, 1:45- 3:15pm

WHERE:

- Whipman Woods Flying High Academy

For further information please
contact: enquiries@nottpcf.org



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!

