

Weekly Newsletter

27TH MARCH 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are - at the end of the Spring Term! Happy Easter!

We wish you all the fresh air, a little sunshine and some cloud-free skies that this time of year can bring; I think we are all ready for that!

As I reach the end of my first year of headship at Whipman Woods, I feel very grateful. Time really does fly when you're having fun, and this year has been full of so many precious moments. As I look back, I feel so proud of what we have achieved together. First and foremost, I want to thank our children. They make us smile every single day and remind us constantly why this job is such a privilege. Their positive energy, honesty and enthusiasm have made my first year incredibly rewarding.

I am equally proud of our staff team who, despite changes along the way, have remained completely committed to giving the very best to our children. And to you, our families, thank you. Your support at events, your involvement in fundraising, your attendance at parents' evenings and the way you communicate with us all help to create the strong community we are so lucky to be part of.

At Whipman Woods, time and care is put into ensuring that our children feel happy, safe and like they truly belong. We know that the best learning happens when children feel this way, and our staff, in all their roles, work incredibly hard to build those relationships every day. As well as making huge strides in their learning, the children have also enjoyed so many memorable events together: school discos, themed days, performances, assemblies and fundraising events; the special times that bring the fun to learning and create lasting memories.

Kindness continues to sit at the heart of everything we do at Whipman Woods. It can be seen in the small, everyday interactions as much as in the bigger moments, and it is something we are really proud of as a school.

As we move forward, my promise remains the same: that every child leaves us knowing they are cared for, that they have been encouraged to do their very best, and that they can go on to make a positive difference in their own lives and in the lives of others.

Thank you again for being such an important part of my first year.

With warmest wishes for a happy and restful Easter break,

Aileen

Headteacher



GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK MISS MCKINLAY

Today, we said farewell and 'Good Luck' to Miss McKinlay, even though it seems only a short time since we heard that she was moving onto her next chapter. Miss McKinlay has been part of the school since it first opened and was therefore woven into the fabric of our wonderful school. Although we will miss her, we know she will be incredibly cherished in her new role and we really do wish her all the very best.

Thank you Miss McKinlay for your kindness, patience and dedication to all our children (and staff) during your time at Whipman Woods Flying high Academy.



GOOD
BYE!

GOOD
LUCK

Miss McKinlay, we want to say,
Thank you for each and every day.
For all your care, for all you've done,
For all the learning and the fun.

You've shared your kindness, time, and cheer,
Made our classroom happy here.
You've helped us learn, you've helped us grow,
We'll miss you more than you will know.

But a new adventure starts for you,
With different things and dreams to do.
A different school, a different role,
Exciting plans to reach your goal.

But as you go and start anew,
There's just one thing we ask of you -
Keep Whipman Woods within your heart,
A special place that won't depart.

We wish you luck in all you do,
With happy days ahead for you.



EGG DECORATING COMPETITION

Thank you to all the children who entered our egg decorating competition – and to those who visited our last-minute egg-xhibition! So many of you took part that it would have been very shellfish of us not to share the cracking creativity on display.

We saw an amazing variety of designs, including SpongeBob, Minions, Gladiators, Toy Story, Cadbury's Creme Eggs, circus families, insects, caterpillars, Spiderman, dinosaurs, fairytale characters, The Greatest Showman, Easter themes, ice creams, construction sites... the list was endless!

It was one of the hardest competitions we've ever judged at Whipman Woods, as every creation was so unique. Every egg-cellent entry was a winner in our eyes – what a treat you hatched for us! But the entries that just poached the special prizes were:

Arthur S - Elm Class - Three Billy Goats Gruff
Marlo - Willow Class - Toy Story Toy Box
Saiya - Cedar Class - Creme Egg



EGG-CELLENT EGG HUNT FUN

This morning, before all the children were awake, the Easter bunny visited Whipman Woods and placed large coloured Easter eggs (made by the school council!) all around the school site!

The children worked hard to answer their class's coloured question that linked to their learning from this academic year, questions such as: *Why did the Romans leave Britain?* *What do most solids become when heated?* *What is a vegetation belt?* *What caused the miner's strike of 1984?* *Who was Amelia Earhart?* Each class took turns with their class teacher, or Mr Bunting, to find the clues hidden around the school ground using a map, before noting their answers on their sheet!

We didn't let the rain spoil the fun - and each and every child received a Malteser Bunny, courtesy of 'Friends of Whipman Woods', for their efforts. Everyone had a wonderful time - and their enthusiasm and problem-solving skills were excellent!



WILLOW FOOD TASTING FUN!

On Thursday, Willow class enjoyed an exciting and immersive day learning all about China. It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to explore a different country and learn about its traditions, culture, and way of life.

We began the day by learning about China's rich history and unique culture. The children were fascinated to discover traditions such as Chinese New Year, the importance of dragons in celebrations, and the meaning behind different symbols and colours. We also looked at where China is on the world map and discussed how it compares to where we live.

One of the highlights of the day was exploring transport in China. We learned about the wide variety of ways people travel; from bicycles and buses to high-speed trains. The class was especially impressed by how fast some of the trains can travel and how busy cities can be.

Later in the day, we had the chance to taste prawn crackers, which was a big hit with many of the children! Some were trying them for the first time, and it was lovely to see everyone being brave and willing to try something new. We talked about different foods eaten in China and how they might be similar or different to our own meals.

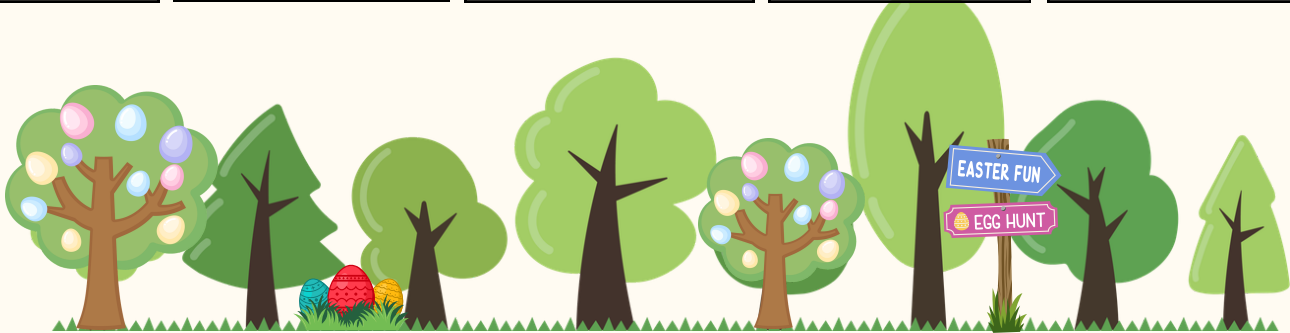
Throughout the day, the children showed great enthusiasm, curiosity, and respect as they learned about another culture. It was a fun and memorable experience that helped us all gain a better understanding of the world around us.

We would like to do a special shout out to 'Aroma' at Celtic Point. Mrs Keogh called in at the weekend and mentioned that we were doing a lesson around China and wanted to do some food tasting. They wasted no time in providing us with prawn crackers, chop sticks, a calendar and a fortune cookie for each child!



ELM CLASS'S CAPTIVATING CREATURES EXPERIENCE!

Today, Elm Class has had some visitors - of all different shapes and sizes! We had the opportunity to engage with different minibeasts and animals, during a visit by 'Captivating Creatures'. From African Land Snails to Corn Snakes, we were very brave whilst handling an array of them - and overcame some fears in the process!. Well done Elm Class, you did Whipman Woods proud!





On Thursday 2nd April, Miss Edwards is GETTING MARRIED! We wished her a very 'Happy Wedding Day' in our assembly this afternoon and even turned her into a bride to see what she might look like! We are incredibly happy for Miss Edwards and her future husband and look forward to welcoming her back to school, after Easter, as 'Mrs Leivars'!

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

Willow	Cedar	Beech	Maple	Oak	Whole School
95.33%	97.86%	99.33%	96.8%	95.38%	96.69%

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 13th April - First Day of Summer Term (children in school)

Monday 13th April - New school dinner menu starts

Wednesday 26th April - School Games Festival - Years 1-6 (more details to follow)

Monday 11th May - 15th May - Year 6 SATs Week

Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May - HALF TERM

Monday 1st June - INSET Day

Tuesday 2nd June - Elm and Willow Books and Biscuits Event (time to be confirmed)

Tuesday 9th June - Maple School Trip Yorkshire Sculpture Park (Details to follow)

Tuesday 9th June - Year 1-6 Books and Biscuits Event

Thursday 11th June - Class Photographs

Thursday 18th June - FHA Children's Awards (Selected children already informed)

Friday 19th June - Father's Day Breakfast

Thursday 25th June - Oak School Trip Magna (Details to follow)

Monday 29th June - Y5 Bikeability (Details to follow)

Wednesday 1st July - Oak Class Road Safety Workshops (Within School time)

Wednesday 8th July - Sports Day (Elm and Willow AM, Year 1-6 PM - timing to follow)

Monday 20th July - Summer Fair (Details to follow)

Tuesday 21st July - Whole School Arts Showcase (Details to follow)

Friday 24th July - Year 6 Memories Assembly

Friday 24th July - END OF SCHOOL YEAR (Children in School)

Have a WONDERFUL Easter break!

