

Woodlands Primary School and Nursery

Termly Newsletter (Term 2)



Welcome Back!

Welcome back! 🙌 We hope you had a restful and enjoyable **half-term break** with your children. As we dive into the next term building up to the festive season, we're excited to announce a special focus on enhancing every child's **sense of belonging** within our school community. This important theme will be woven through our **assemblies** and integrated into our daily **class work**, helping all pupils feel truly connected and valued. Through our continued work on improving attendance, we will working with families to reduce absence and lateness, as well as sharing new initiatives to support this drive,

I would like to share our Greenshaw Learning Trust Members of Pupil Parliament Tyler and Ameya (Year 6 pupils) who have been elected to represent Woodlands within the trust. They will discussing sustainability and belonging with peers from other Greenshaw Learning Trust schools.

Every Child Belongs - Anti-Bullying Week: "Power for Good"

We're excited to share that our school has joined forces with the **Anti-Bullying Alliance** to help everyone feel safe, happy, and included. This year's **Anti-Bullying Week** runs from **10th-14th November**, with the theme "**Power for Good.**" Children will learn how we can all use our power to be kind, help others, and stand up for what's right.



everyone practice using their power for good.

We'll kick off the week with **Odd Socks Day on Monday 10th November!** Children can wear odd socks to celebrate being unique and bring a **£1 donation** to support the Anti-Bullying Alliance. During the week, there will be **fun lessons, games, competitions, and activities** to help

Foodbank thanks!

Thanks to your efforts, the total weight of all the food donated by all the schools to NBSG Foodbank this Harvest is more than the weight of 11 adult polar bears - that's a lot of help! Our contribution of 132.75kg is such an important part of making this possible.



Curriculum update - What is Happening in the Classrooms?

Following a successful start to the year, children are fully immersed in their history-driven theme. This approach integrates writing across the curriculum with the historical topics, making learning engaging and providing children with a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Children are also enjoying our enhanced Maths curriculum, which includes the use of lots more Maths manipulatives (like blocks and counters) in every year group. These are physical objects that children use to turn an abstract idea, like the number '5' into something real and tangible, like 5 blocks they can touch and move. This hands-on experience is vital for deeper understanding of how maths works, not just memorising the steps. They help your child solve problems and explain their thinking clearly.

Our Million Dreams workshops this year will focus on using these manipulatives with your child. They will explain to you how they have used them to develop their knowledge of a mathematical concept. Check the key dates for your child's workshop.

Uniform Expectation

Woodlands Primary school requires pupils to wear school uniform. We believe that a school uniform provides a sense of belonging and identity whilst setting an appropriate tone for an education setting. Details of our uniform expectations can be found [here](#).

Please note that the only jewellery which is acceptable is a wrist watch and one pair of small plain gold or silver stud earrings. Any other form of jewellery is not allowed.

Reception 2026 Head Teacher Talk and Classroom Visit 🎉

We are really pleased to share our Head Teacher Talk and class visit on Thursday 20th November at 6pm for pupils starting Reception.



WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Reception Starters 2026 Open Days

Head Teacher Talk and Class Visit
Thursday 20th November at 6PM

Call 01454 866535 to book your place
More information can be found at www.woodlandsprimarygate.co.uk

Lunch updates

Ordering lunches on MCAS is now up and running, and for many of our families this has been a really positive transition. If you have not yet set this up, you can login to your child's MCAS and follow the instructions below:

For making meal selections

-Log into the MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) portal or app.

-Navigate to the "My Child" or "Dinner" section.

-You will see the available dinner menu. Select the meal choices for the desired dates.

-Confirm your selections.

Please let us know if you have any questions and we will be happy to help.

A Note from the Friends of Woodlands

A huge thank you to everyone for supporting our recent Colouring Competition and making our first Pop-Up event of the year such a wonderful success!

We are very excited for all the upcoming events this year, with the **Christmas Fair** next on the calendar. However, none of this is possible without your help.

We are kindly asking parents and carers to please support us by pledging just a small amount of your time. If you can help for an hour or two at the Christmas Fair, we would be incredibly grateful.

Please speak with Emma or email friends@woodlandsprimaryate.co.uk if you can lend a hand!

Woodlands Christmas Market
Friday 28th November
3.15-5.00PM

3D Printed gifts, Christmas decorations, Notebook and letterbox parcels, Toys, Rebel Cheese, Fresh Image Cosmetics, Handmade Jewellery, Lego.

Raffle draw, Tombola, Krispy Kreme, Sweets, Bouncy Castle, Carnival games and more.

Woodlands Primary School and Nursery
 Sundridge Park
 Yate
 BS16 7PL

FRIENDS OF WOODLANDS
 We are really pleased to share that with your support we have been able to fund £200 worth of plants for the planters, Reception New Starter books, Mud Kitchen for the Forest School area, £100 towards the Y6 and of year productions/celebrations

Staffing News

We are pleased to welcome Teacher of the Deaf Mrs Hanham who will be working at Woodlands during Mrs Kehoe's maternity leave. We would also like to share the exciting news that Miss Scott (Mulberry class teacher) is expecting a baby!

Autumnal and Festive Dates for your diary

Please see our calendar events for Term 2. Information regarding the Academic Review Day and Christmas performances will be sent out separately.

DECEMBER
4-Dec-2025 Nursery Library trip
8-Dec-2025 Yate Shopping Centre choir visit
10-Dec-2025 Christmas Dinner
11-Dec-2025 Christmas Jumper Day
15-Dec-2025 EYFS Nativity 1.45pm
16-Dec-2025 EYFS Nativity 9.30 and KS1 Nativity 2.00pm
17-Dec-2025 KS1 Nativity 9.30
Year 3 & 4 songs 2.15pm
18-Dec-2025 Year 5 & 6 songs 9.15am
19-Dec-2025 Last day of term 2

NOVEMBER
06-Nov-2025 Outdoor Learning Day
10-Nov-2025 Anti bullying week
11-Nov-2025 Remembrance Day
12-Nov Flu Immunisation (R-Y6)
13-Nov-2025 World Kindness Day
14-Nov-2025 Children in Need: non uniform Spots or Stripes
20-Nov-2025 School tours 2026 intake
21-Nov-2025 Y4 Caerleon trip
24-Nov-2025 Academic Review Day
27-Nov-2025 Million Dreams Workshops 9.00 (Yr 4-6)
28-Nov-2025 Christmas market (3.15-5pm)

Behaviour Updates

We are pleased to announce the launch of our **Dojo Milestone Magnets**, which will be awarded to children in years 1 to 6 as they reach increments of 50 Dojo points. This has been shared with children in assembly and they are all very excited. We look forward to giving these out and celebrating their success.

All parents should be able to view their child's most recent Dojo points using the Class Dojo App. Please click here for more information on [viewing your child's points report](#). If you encounter any problems viewing these, please let your class teachers know and they will be able to assist.

MCAS for Behaviour

Last term, we sent out a survey asking for parent feedback on being able to view their child's behaviour on MCAS. We had a very high number of responses to the survey, with all of the responders in favour of this being implemented. Here are some comments below:

'I think this will be a good information tool for parents and it will be good to bring it inline with an app that's already being used'.

'Receiving notifications about my child's behaviour on MCAS would be helpful. I look forward to it'.

We will look to go live with this on Monday 10th November.

Attendance

At Woodlands, we know excellent attendance is crucial for your child's wellbeing and academic attainment, so we're reinforcing our focus this year.

Did you know a child missing 10 days misses around 50 hours of their education? Regular attendance builds confidence and ensures children grasp key curriculum building blocks, preventing anxiety and learning gaps. With 175 days per year out of school, why not use them to book holidays and appointments. Keep school days for school!

Every Minute Counts!

Our doors open at 8:40 am. This deliberate 10-minute window is a vital opportunity to settle and dive straight into banded reading, helping every child reinforce essential literacy skills and start the day strong.

To ensure no child falls behind, if your child arrives after 8:50 am, we will proactively schedule a dedicated session during a portion of their lunchtime. This provides valuable protected time for them to make up the lost reading minutes, guaranteeing they don't miss out on these crucial literacy foundations.

**All absences must now be reported,
before 9.00am, via our dedicated
attendance email address:**

absence@woodlandsprimaryyate.co.uk

**Please do not ring the school or send
Dojo messages for absence.**

