



Woodlands Primary School and Nursery

Termly Newsletter: Term 1

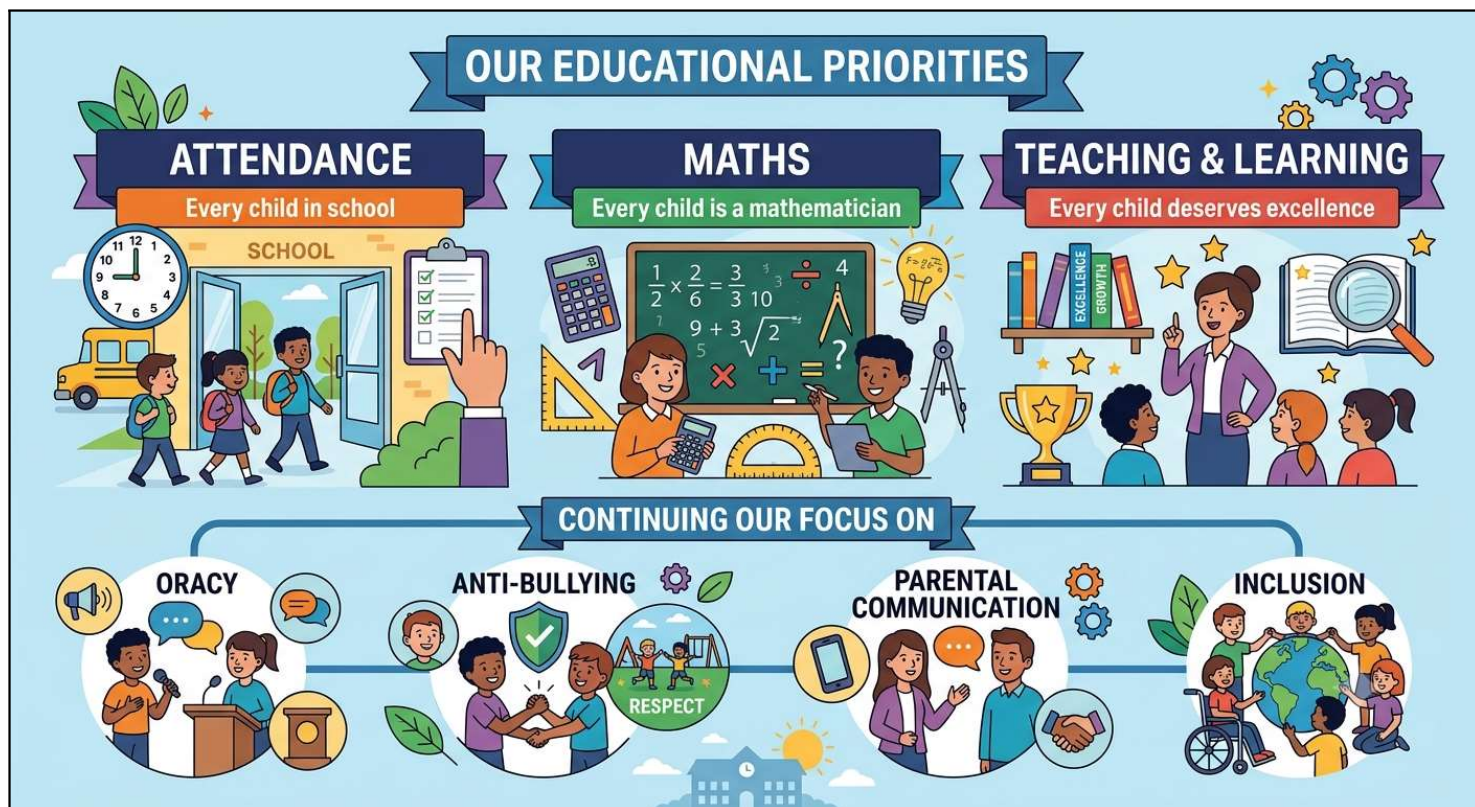
Welcome to a new school year!

Welcome back to a brand-new school year! We are thrilled to welcome back our returning families and extend a warm greeting to those joining our school community for the first time.

Our Focus: Making School Unmissable

This year, our overarching mission is to make school **unmissable** through **connection, interaction, and joy**. We want every pupil to come to school excited to learn, build strong relationships, and thrive in a vibrant environment every single day.

Our Improvement Priorities



Every child attends school every day: Consistent attendance is the absolute foundation for academic progress, social growth, and personal confidence.

Every child is a fluent mathematician: To support this, we are launching Can Do Mathematics as our new school-wide scheme, alongside Number Sense to give children a rock-solid foundation in core number skills and times tables.

Every child deserves excellent teaching: We are committed to high standards in every classroom, ensuring every pupil receives the inspiring instruction they deserve.

We will also be continuing to focus on Oracy, Anti bullying, Parental Communication and Inclusion.

New & Returning Highlights

VIP Days: We are introducing VIP Days to celebrate our pupils! Chosen children will get to wear a crown for the day and take home a special certificate to share their success with you.



Monday Motivation: After its huge success during the World Cup, Monday Motivation is now a regular feature. Every Monday morning, we will launch the week with energetic tunes chosen by pupils or tailored around special themes (extreme weather permitting!).

On Friday we will have a playtime disco to celebrate the first week back and children who have attended school everyday will be given a certificate following this.

Safety, Routines, and Behaviour

This term, we are focusing heavily on embedding strong daily routines. Clear routines promote excellent behaviour, foster a deep feeling of safety, and maximize instructional time so teachers can teach. For clear visibility, staff will continue wearing purple lanyards and will wear bright orange high-vis jackets during duty times so children can easily spot an adult whenever they need support.

- The Silent Signal: Learning to immediately stop, raise an open hand, and wait in silence to listen whenever a member of staff raises their hand.
- STAR Sitting: Encouraging everyone to Sit up straight, Track the speaker, engage in Active listening, and Respect others.
- Woodlands Walking: Moving through our corridors with pride—standing up straight, keeping hands to our sides, and walking calmly without talking.
- Woodlands Lining Up: Transitioning to lines silently, facing forward in a straight line, and waiting quietly to show respect for the learning environment.

By focusing on these small steps together, we create a predictable, positive environment where every single child is set up to succeed and focus fully on their learning.

Working Together

Following your valuable feedback, we are dedicated to strengthening our partnership with parents. We are updating our school website with key information and will ensure all key dates are shared well in advance so you can stay informed. Please see our parent, pupil and staff voice section under Family Partnership to see feedback and our actions.

Friends of Woodlands Updates

Over the coming weeks, we will be sending out further information about how to be part of our Friends or Woodlands community and how to share your views.

We have been busy planning dates for this year which include: Children's discos, Christmas and Summer Fairs, this year each year group will be planning a 'pop up' event which will be spread out throughout the year. These will raise money for both the classes in that year group, and raise money for the whole school.

The Big Future Survey

Please encourage your child to have their say by visiting [The Big Future Website](#). Your support in amplifying their voices is greatly appreciated.

Reducing Absence

At Woodlands Primary School, our priority is to work with you to keep your child in the classroom and avoid legal sanctions, such as Penalty Notices, by ensuring you are fully informed. Expected attendance (96%) is crucial for your child's wellbeing and to ensure they have the opportunity to Learn, Thrive and Play.

Legal Requirements & Leave

- **Legal Duty:** Under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996, parents must ensure their children attend school regularly.
- **Term-Time Absences:** Following Department for Education guidelines, we cannot authorise term-time leave except in extremely exceptional circumstances.

Monitoring & Procedures

- **Home Visits:** If we suspect a family is away, we will conduct home visits to verify your child's whereabouts in line with our Safeguarding procedures.
- **Presumption of Holiday:** If we cannot verify their location during a visit, or if they are absent during dates previously requested for leave, we will assume they are on holiday.
- **Burden of Proof:** It is the family's responsibility—not the school's—to provide evidence (such as medical documentation) proving the child was not on holiday.

Penalty Notices

Failing to ensure regular attendance is an offence. Penalty Notices are currently £160 per parent, per child (reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days).

Every Minute Counts!

Our doors open at **8:40am** for a vital 10-minute banded reading session to reinforce essential literacy skills and start the day strong.

- The back gate and playground gates are locked at 8.45am. Please ensure you have vacated the school grounds by this time.
- If your child is late, they must enter via the main office, where you will be required to complete a late form for monitoring and wellbeing purposes.
- To ensure no child falls behind, pupils arriving late may need to complete a dedicated catch-up session during a portion of their lunchtime to make up the lost reading minutes.



Term 1 Key Dates

Wednesday 16 September:	Friday 18 September Year 6 PGL Residential
Wednesday 23 September:	Year 6 Taster day at Yate Academy
Friday 25 September:	School Photos
Saturday 26 September:	Reception 2027 Intake Open Event (10-12)
Monday 28 September:	Rock Steady Assembly KS1 & KS2
Thursday 1 October:	Census Day special menu and attendance raffle
Friday 16 October:	Wear (more) Red Day: Show racism the red card
Monday 19 October:	Harvest Assembly Y4-6 2.30
Tuesday 20 October:	Harvest Assembly Y1-3 2.30
	Year 5 Berkeley Castle visit
Friday 23 October:	Last day of Term 1 & INSET day - school closed to pupils
Monday 2 November:	Term 2 starts

Term Dates 2026-27

- Term 1: Tuesday 1st September 2026 - Friday 23rd October 2026
- Term 2: Monday 2nd November 2026 - Friday 18th December 2026
- Term 3: Monday 4th January 2027 - Friday 12th February 2027
- Term 4: Monday 22nd February 2027 - Thursday 25th March 2027
- Term 5: Monday 12th April 2027 - Friday 28th May 2027
- Term 6: Monday 7th June 2027 - Wednesday 21st July 2027

INSET Days 2026-2027 (School closed to pupils on these days)

- Tuesday 1st September 2026
- Wednesday 2nd September 2026
- Friday 23rd October 2026
- Friday 20th November 2026 (Academic Review Day)
- Monday 4th January 2027
- Friday 12th March 2027
- Friday 28th May 2027
- Wednesday 21st July 2027