Woodlands Primary School and Nursery

Termly Newsletter: Term 2

Welcome back to term 2!

We hope you all had a lovely half-term break and enjoyed some quality time together. We are thrilled to welcome all the children back into school and look forward to another exciting term ahead with our school community.

As we begin this new term, building a strong, connected community remains at the heart of everything we do. We deeply value stakeholder voice, and through our **"You Said, We Did"** approach, stakeholder feedback continues to shape our school environment. 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.

Punctuality

We start each day with **"A Woodlands Welcome"** to ensure everyone feels a sense of belonging. A smooth, welcoming, and punctual start makes a huge difference in helping children feel calm, confident, and prepared for their daily learning routines.



Key Morning Arrival Times

To help keep everyone on track and ensure morning drop-offs run smoothly, here is a quick reminder of our door opening and closing times:

- **Nursery, Years 1 – 6:** Doors open at 8:40 am and close at 8:50 am
- **Reception:** Doors open at 8:50 am and close at 9:00 am

- **Arrival between 9:00 am and 9:10 am (Code L – Late):** Your child receives a **Late** mark on the register. They are marked as present, but lateness adds up to missed learning over time.
- **Arrival after 9:10 am (Code U – Late After Registers Close):** Your child receives a **Code U** mark. By law, arriving after registers close is recorded as an **unauthorised absence** for the entire morning session, unless an authorized reason (like a medical appointment) has been provided.

How this affects your child's overall attendance: Because a Code U counts as an unauthorised absence, every arrival after 9:10 am directly lowers your child's overall attendance percentage. Over time, these missed sessions can cause their attendance record to drop significantly, which may trigger formal attendance support or interventions.

Arriving right on time allows children to settle in comfortably with their classmates and take part in our essential early-morning learning activities, especially reading practice.

We care deeply about keeping every child on track. If a pupil misses this morning window , we may host a short reading check-in with them during break or lunch to ensure every single child gets the daily reading practice they deserve.

We know that morning family routines can sometimes be busy or challenging. If you are experiencing any difficulties getting to school on time, please feel free to speak to us or get in touch with our team—we are always here to offer support however we can.

Right Respecting Schools Award: Silver Success!



We are thrilled to celebrate achieving our **Silver: Rights Aware** status in UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA), recognizing the fantastic work of our pupils and staff in placing children's rights at the heart of school life! Building on this success, our exciting next step on this journey is striving for **Gold: Rights Respecting**. Achieving Gold will involve fully embedding children's rights across our school leadership, policy, and culture, while empowering our pupils to act as passionate rights advocates and change agents both locally and globally. Crucially, it will mean demonstrating a sustained, positive impact on overall wellbeing, active participation, and strong relationships throughout our entire school community—and we look forward to sharing this journey with all of our families!

Parent & Pupil Voice: You said. We did.

At Woodlands, listening to our parent, pupil, and staff communities is central to shaping our school improvement strategy. Our latest survey responses (available on our website) reflect strong shared confidence across our community: 96% of parents report that their child feels safe, 94% agree their child is happy, and 91% express satisfaction with our extra-curricular club offer. Pupils report a similarly positive experience, with 80% enjoying their learning and 92% understanding our high academic expectations. Furthermore, our staff take great pride in working at Woodlands, with over 81% highlighting our inclusive environment and active promotion of equality and diversity.

This feedback is directly driving clear, actionable changes across the school. In direct response to pupil assembly discussions, we have already introduced measures such as Purple Lanyards, Orange Hi-Vis systems, and updated daily routines.

Thank you to all the parents, carers, and pupils who took part in our recent Winter Support Survey and pupil voice discussions. Your feedback highlighted clear priorities for keeping children healthy, comfortable, and engaged as the colder weather sets in. Parents emphasised the need for prompt gate opening in bad weather, clear guidance on managing seasonal illnesses, and consistent classroom hygiene, while pupils expressed strong enthusiasm for extra indoor break options, warm morning welcomes, and engaging attendance incentives to help keep spirits high during dark winter days.

In response to your input, we are taking direct action across our site and classrooms to support attendance through the winter terms. We are establishing dedicated classroom "sniffle stations" fully stocked with tissues and hand sanitiser, ensuring heating systems are fully serviced and operational, building up spare warm uniform stocks, and planning early for any changes to entry during poor weather. To reward excellent effort, we are also launching fun initiatives—including a midweek "Hot Chocolate Warm Wednesday" pilot and randomised weekly class rewards—alongside clear NHS visual guidance shared via ClassDojo to give parents confidence when navigating winter snuffles.

We welcome your views in our most recent survey here

Anti bullying week & Kindness workshop



This term, our PSHE focus is **"Celebrating Difference,"** grounded in UNICEF Article 2 (Non-Discrimination) to build a kind, inclusive community where every child feels valued. As part of this

term-wide focus, we are excited to mark Anti-Bullying Week, kicking off with Odd Socks Day on Monday 16th November—a fun, colourful way for pupils to celebrate individuality and show that it's okay to be different.

Throughout Term 2, children in every year group will take part in tailored learning, from understanding how to resolve conflict and recognise bullying, to exploring how our words and actions impact others. We are encouraging all pupils to "lift others up", include everyone and remember that trusted adults at school are always here to listen and help.

We are also hosting **Kindness Workshops for parents and carers on Monday 16th November**, where you can learn more about our approach to unkind behaviour and bullying, and hear about the work of our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, who are excited to unveil some new initiatives during Anti-Bullying Week!

- **KS1:** 9:00–9:30am
- **KS2:** 10:00–10:30am

We would love for you to join us!

Children in Need



Get ready to spot the stripes! We're excited to support Children in Need this year with a special non-uniform day on **Friday 13 November**. Children are invited to come dressed in spots, stripes, or their favorite Pudsey accessories to help raise money for children and young people across the UK. A small voluntary donation of **£1 can be submitted through our Just Giving page**. Thank you in advance for helping us make the day bright, fun, and meaningful for a fantastic cause—we can't wait to see everyone's outfits!

Million Dreams – Exciting Home Learning Updates!



Our Million Dreams learning portal has had some exciting updates, with children now able to access home learning in both maths and literacy. Over half term, we

also hosted a whole-school battle, with our winners soon to be announced!

The portal can be accessed via our school website and is a great way for children to practise and build their skills at home. We will be using Million Dreams for our home learning, which will be monitored by staff. If you have difficulty accessing the portal online, please let your child's class teacher know and they can provide a paper-based booklet instead.

We will be sharing more information at our Maths Workshops in January and look forward to seeing you there!

Academic Review Day

Our upcoming **Academic Review Day** will take place on **Friday 20th November 2026**, running from **9:00 am to 3:30 pm**.

- **Booking Window:** Bookings are now open on the **MyChildAtSchool (MCAS)** app and close at **10:00 pm on Thursday 19th November**.
- **How to Book via MCAS:**
    1. Log into your **MCAS** account via the app or web portal.
    2. Go to the **Parents Evening** section and select **Academic Review Day**.
    3. Choose your available time slot with your child's class teacher.

Please ensure you book your appointment prior to the deadline on Thursday 19th November. If you need any assistance accessing MCAS, please contact the main school office.



Get into the festive spirit at the Woodlands Christmas Market on Friday, 27th November, from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

Bring the whole family to enjoy a wide variety of stalls featuring 3D-printed gifts, silver jewellery, toys, artwork, and festive decorations, alongside delicious treats like homemade cakes, bakes, fudge, and candy floss.

Children can look forward to hands-on fun with paint-your-own pottery and crafts, plus exciting activities like "Catch a Santa" and a cozy "Story with Santa".

It's the perfect opportunity to pick up unique Christmas gifts and celebrate the season with our school community! There will be an opportunity to win one of two Christmas hampers. Tickets for this prize draw will be available during the Academic Review Day.

Term 2 Dates

November	December
• 2 Nov: Start of Term 2 • 5 Nov: Outdoor Learning Day. • 9 Nov: Diwali Puppet Show (9:15am KS1 / 10:00am EYFS). • 10 Nov: Reception – Year 6 Flu Vaccinations (9:00am – 12:00pm). • 11 Nov: Remembrance Day & Year 6 National Child Measurement Programme (8:45am – 12:45pm). • 12 Nov: Year 4 Caerleon Trip & Year 6 STEAM Museum Trip. • 13 Nov: Children in Need & World Kindness Day. • 16 Nov: Anti-Bullying Week Begins (Odd Socks Day & Parents' Kindness Workshop 9:00-9:30am). • 16 Nov: Maths Week Begins. • 17 Nov: School Tour for 2027 Intake. (9:00am & 1:30pm) • 19 Nov: School Tour for 2027 Intake. (9:00am, 1:30pm & 6:00pm) • 20 Nov: Academic Review Day (9:00am – 3:30pm). • 24 Nov: Year 2 SS Great Britain Trip. • 27 Nov: Christmas Fair - after school. • 30 Nov: Christmas Card Orders Close.	• 1 Dec: Reception Parents Phonics Meeting (9:00-9:20am). • 9 Dec: Christmas Dinner Day. • 10 Dec: Christmas Jumper Day & KS2 Cinderella Pantomime. • 14 Dec: EYFS Nativity 1.45pm. • 15 Dec: EYFS Nativity 9.30am & KS1 Nativity 2pm. • 16 Dec: KS1 Nativity 9.30am. • 17 Dec: Years 3/4 Christmas Songs 9.30am & Years 5/6 Christmas Songs 2.15pm. • 18 Dec: Last Day of Autumn Term.

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 22th 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