

Thursday 29th January 2026

Whittaker Moss Primary School Newsletter 19

We welcome Mrs Wilmot back to school this week following her maternity leave. She returns to Class 2W alongside Mrs Shoukat. The children have had the opportunity to work alongside Mrs Shoukat since they returned after Christmas to ensure a smooth transition. Mr Houghton has now finished his contract with us, we thank him for his work and commitment to the school and wish him all the best going forward.

This week we have started our pupil voice feedback sessions around well-being and safeguarding. Our children tell us that they feel safe at school and know who to talk to if they have a problem at school. They trust adults to help them and to help sort out problems. Some children find it difficult when they disagree or fall out with their friends so we will be putting additional assemblies and sessions in about how to deal with friendship issues during the next half term. We will also be re-vamping our Facebook and Instagram pages over the coming weeks to include more up to date content and more information about what we are doing in school on a day-to-day basis.

We are all looking forward to our Team GB visitor on Thursday. Jake Witkowski is an American Ice Hockey player who moved to the UK from Boston. Not only is he a very talented athlete, he also has an inspiring personal story to share and motivate our children. Who knows? We could have a budding ice hockey champion amongst us just waiting for the right inspiration! Children can find out more about Jake on the following link:

<https://sportsforchampions.com/athletes/jake-witkowski/>

Please can I ask once again for people to use our carpark in a safe and sensible way. Although I understand the frustration when there isn't a bay to park in when you arrive, please remember that cars outside or blocking designated bays are dangerous for our children. They block access and also lines of sight which increases the risk of an accident.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Backhouse

Last week the total days of lost learning due to children being absent from school was **50.5 days**.

Attendance

Whole School Target: 97%

Whole School Average Attendance to Date:
95.5%

This week's winning class: 6M 99.7% Amazing!



Dress In Pyjamas and Movie Afternoon

This School Council Fundraising Event for Manchester Children's Hospital will take place this **Friday, 30th January**. Children can come to school in pyjamas or non-uniform for a small donation to the hospital. Children may bring slippers to wear inside but must wear shoes or trainers outside. In the afternoon, classes will watch a movie in class. Thanks you for your anticipated support with this event.



PTA Penny Wars

Back by popular demand from our pupils, the PTA Penny Wars has begun this week and will run until Friday 6th February 2026. Each class has a special jar that they can put any copper coins which they find at home, into. The class that fills their jar with the most pennies will win a film and snacks afternoon. All monies raised by the event will go to PTA funds which are used to buy resources or fund special events in school.

Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 9th - 13th February is Children's Mental Health Week. The theme is 'This is My Place', which emphasises the importance of belonging. Children will be completing activities around this theme in their classes. Our Wellbeing Ambassadors will lead a whole school assembly on Thursday 12th February.

Tuesday 10th February is Safer Internet Day.

Children will be completing activities in school around the theme of AI Aware: Safe. Smart, and in Control. Please visit the staying safe online section of the parents' area of the school website for access to a wide range of information leaflets for parents about the latest games and platforms that children are accessing online.

Stars of the Week

Well done to the following children for winning our Star of the Week Award:

Nursery: Cihan	5W: Annum
R1: Zach	5M: Finley
R2: Matthew	6W: Khadijah
1W: Toby	6M: Riley
1M: Archie	Mrs Cadogan: Amber
2W: Arabella	
2M: Polly	
3W: Sonny	
3M: Ameliya	
4W: Whole Class!	
4M: Oliver	

Lunchtime Stars

These certificates are awarded to pupils who display excellent manners and behaviour during lunchtimes. Pupils who received our Lunchtime Stars Certificates last week were: Kaira, Raife, Aurelle, Ani, Iqra, Isabella, Olive, Muhammad and Daisy.

Well done to them!



GB Athlete Visit

On Thursday 29th January, a GB athlete will visit the school to lead an assembly and physical activity sessions with pupils across school. Your child should have come home with a sponsor form for this event. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have not received one.

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School Council News

Councillors met on Friday to discuss the final plans for the Manchester Children's Hospital Fundraising Event on Friday. They also began to gather ideas for an information leaflet for their online safety campaign. Next Friday, councillors will meet with Vicky, the school cook, to discuss school lunches.

Calendar Dates

Please see below for important dates for the Spring term. These may be added to as the term progresses.

Reminder: There will be no after school Dragons Den session on 31 March 2026. This is so staff can complete statutory training.



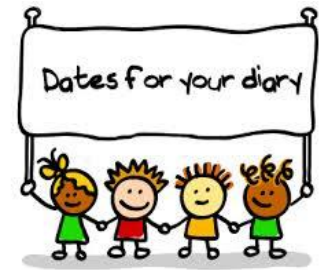
Dojo Winners

Well done to all our dojo points winners for last week:

Nursery: Zain	5W: Theo
R1: Eesa	5M: Oscar
R2: Nell	6W: Isla
1W: Toby	6M: Isla
1M: Thomas & Max	
2W: Jonah	
2M: Qays	
3W: Adeem	
3M: Eliza	
4W: Max	
4M: Pippa	

Dates for the Diary Spring Term 2026

We try to include as many useful dates as we can but suggest that you keep checking this list over the following weeks as dates may be added or amended. Please contact school if you have any queries relating to dates of events or holidays.



W/C Monday 26 th January	PTA Penny Wars for two weeks
Thursday 29 th January	Team GB Athlete Visit
Thursday 29 th January 3pm Greenbank School	Year 5 Volleyball Competition
Friday 30 th January	School Council Dress In Pyjamas & Movie Afternoon For A Donation To Manchester Children's Hospital
Wednesday 4 th February	School Council Network Event
Wednesday 4 th February 3pm Greenbank School	Year 6 Volleyball Competition
Friday 6 th February	Year 2 Theatre Trip
W/C Monday 9 th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 10 th February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 11 th February	KS2 Girls' Cricket Competition
Friday 13 th February	School closes for half-term
Monday 23 rd February	School re-opens after the half-term break
Tuesday 24 th February	Year 3 Rocks & Fossils Workshop
Tuesday 24 th February 3pm Greenbank School	Bowling Event - KS2 Children
Thursday 26 th February	Neeli Mosque Assemblies
Monday 2 nd March 3pm Matthew Moss High School	Year 4 Pickleball Tournament
Wednesday 4 th March	Whittaker Moss Celebrates World Book Day - more details to follow.
Thursday 5 th March	Year 3 Geography Local Walk - Norden & Greenbooth
Thursday 5 th March 3pm Matthew Moss High School	Year 5 Pickleball Tournament
W/C 9 th March	Science Week
Monday 9 th March	Live Animals Science Day - group of KS2 children
Tuesday 10 th March	Parents' Evening 1
Wednesday 11 th March	Healthy Eating Assembly
Wednesday 11 th March	Parents' Evening 2
Thursday 12 th March	KS2 Mixed Football Competition
Monday 16 th March 3pm St. Mary's School	Year 3/4 Girls' Football Tournament
Friday 20 th March	Comic Relief Day: non-uniform
Monday 23 rd March 2.30pm - 3.30pm	Years 3/4 Parent & Child Spring Art Afternoon
Tuesday 24 th March 2.30pm - 3.30pm	Years 1/2 Parent & Child Spring Art Afternoon
Tuesday 24 th March 5 - 6pm	Year 1 Parents' Phonics Meeting
Wednesday 25 th March	Easter Assemblies

Wednesday 25 th March 2.30pm - 3.30pm	Nursery & Reception Parent & Child Spring Art Afternoon
Thursday 26 th March	Eid Party Day
Thursday 26 th March Highwood Hall 9.15am	Eid Coffee Morning
Thursday 26 th March 3pm St. Mary's School	Year 3 Boys Football Tournament
Friday 27 th March 2.30pm - 3.30pm	Years 5/6 Parent & Child Spring Art Afternoon
Monday 30 th March 9.30am	Year 3/4 Spring performance for Year 3 parents
Tuesday 31 st March 9.30am	Year 3/4 Spring performance for Year 4 parents
Tuesday 31 st March 3pm	Year 4 Boys' Football Tournament
Wednesday 1 st April	Easter egg and bonnet entries into school
Wednesday 1 st April	Pupil of the Term Assembly
Thursday 2 nd April	School Council Easter Raffle Drawn
Thursday 2 nd April	Close for Easter Break

! School council movie and PJ's afternoon!

FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 2026

WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A PJ'S AND MOVIE
AFTERNOON !HOORAYYYYYY!

DON'T MISS OUT.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE PJ'S YOU CAN WEAR OWN CLOTHES.

Please bring a small donation as it's going towards Manchester's children's hospital
Every donation helps.

Slippers are allowed but when we go outside please may you bring in
trainers just so they don't get dirty. 😊

Please support this event - every donation helps.

Thanks to the school council for supporting and choosing this event, every
child can have fun.



School Attendance

Every day counts...



Good attendance helps with...



Academic Achievement

Regular attendance helps children stay on track with the curriculum and achieve stronger academic results.



Social Skills

Being in school every day helps children make friends, develop important social skills and feel part of the school community.



Routine & Responsibility

Attending school regularly teaches the importance of commitment, routine and responsibility, helping children build valuable life skills.



Focus & Engagement

Children who attend school regularly are more likely to stay engaged in their learning and develop a positive attitude towards education.



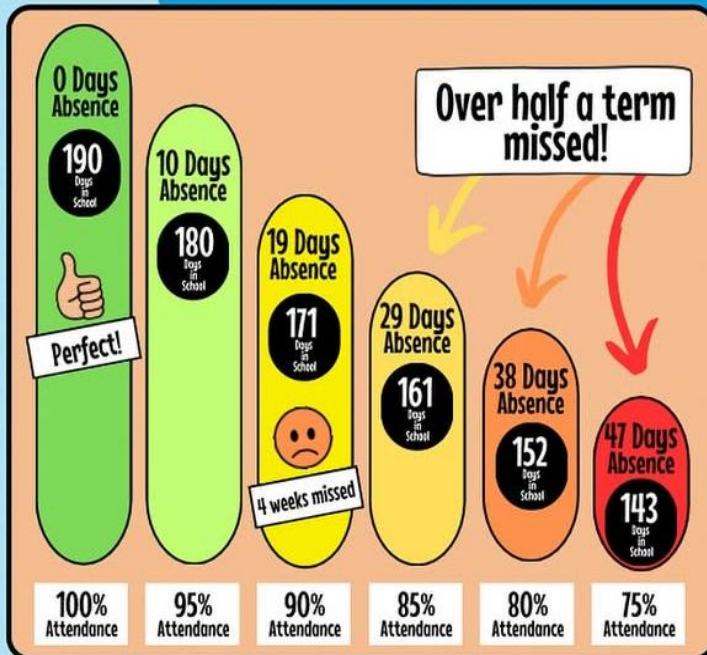
Building Confidence

Regular attendance can boost a child's self-esteem and confidence, as they see their progress and achievements over time.



Enhanced Learning Opportunities

School offers more than academic learning - it provides clubs, activities and enrichment opportunities that help children discover new interests and talents.



Did you know there are...

- 365 Days in a Year
- 190 School Days
- 175 Non School Days

Having 90% over 5 school years, is half a school year's work missed!

Tips for Supporting Good Attendance...

Set a regular routine

A consistent bedtime and morning routine helps children feel ready for school and reduces last-minute stress.

Aim for every day

Try to make school attendance the default. Only keep your child off if they are genuinely unwell.

Plan appointments carefully

Where possible, book medical or dental appointments outside school hours so your child doesn't miss lessons.

Talk positively about school

Ask about your child's day and celebrate the little things they enjoy. Your positivity helps them look forward to school.

Stay in touch

When a child is struggling, early communication with the school helps everyone find solutions and makes things easier for the child.

Prepare the night before

Pack bags, lay out uniforms and check homework in the evening to make mornings smoother and less stressful.

