

Thursday 5th February 2026

Whittaker Moss Primary School Newsletter 20

This week in school, our year groups have been busy getting creative! Year 5 have been exploring cams, while Year 2 have been designing bag tags and bookmarks. Meanwhile, Mrs Cadogan has been joining in cheerleading sessions with Year 3, bringing lots of energy and enthusiasm.

Mr Greenhalgh has been overseeing Design and Technology work across the school and has been impressed by the clear purpose behind the children's designs and the technical skills they are using to bring their ideas to life.

The rest of the week is going to be equally as exciting. Year 5 will be having a whole day of Design and Technology constructing moving models and Year 2 are having a day at the theatre on Friday.

We have received fabulous feedback following the visit from Jake Witkowski last week. Everyone was keen to find out as much as they could about ice hockey, not a sport usually covered. Well done to the children who followed up with their own research about Jake and the sport and thank you to those who sent in sponsor money. The money raised will be used to refresh our playtime sports equipment.

Just a quick reminder for Year 5 and Year 6 parents who wish their children to fast during Ramadan this year. Please complete your permission and information slips as soon as possible and send them back to school so we can make sure all necessary arrangements are in place for when we return after the half term holiday.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend
Mrs Backhouse

Last week the total days of lost learning due to children being absent from school was 76.5 days.

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

Attendance

Whole School Target: 97%

Whole School Average Attendance to Date:
95.5%

This week's winning class: 1M 99.7% Amazing!



Dress In Pyjamas and Movie Afternoon

Thank you to everyone who supported the School Council Movie and Pyjamas Day last week. We raised over £250 for Manchester Children's Hospital.



PTA Penny Wars

The PTA Penny Wars will end on Friday 6th February. Thank you to everyone who has supported this event. The winning class will be announced next week.

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.

PTA Tuck Shop

The PTA will be running a tuck shop straight after school on Friday. The shop will be open under the shelter outside the main office. If your child is in Dragon's Den, and would like to purchase something from the shop, please send some change in an envelope into school with them. Items are priced between 50p and £1.

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: Thomas	5W: Uhyab
R1: Musa	5M: Oscar
R2: George	6W: Freya
1W: Willow	6M: Is'haq
1M: Aleesha	Mrs Cadogan: Ammarah
2W: Charlie	
2M: Iris	
3W: Alf	
3M: Eric	
4W: Scarlett	
4M: Zayyan	

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: Arhaam, Anaya, Willow, Hashim, Remi, Jack, Hassan, Elizabeth and Evelyn.

Well done to them!



GB Athlete Visit

Last week, pupils enjoyed participating in an inspirational assembly and fitness workshops led by ice-hockey player, Jake Witowski. Please send any outstanding sponsor money into school before the end of the half-term. Half of the money raised will go to purchasing new sports equipment for school.

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School Council News

Councillors met on Friday with Vicky, the school cook, to discuss school lunches. Councillors came up with some excellent suggestions for changes and additions to the current menus. Vicky noted all ideas down and told councillors that some could be incorporated into special theme days.

Calendar Dates

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



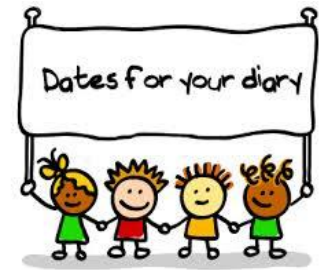
Dojo Winners

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

Nursery: Kaira	5W: Alisha
R1: Fern	5M: Amelia
R2: Raife	6W: Ellie
1W: Olivia	6M: Zayd
1M: Teddy	
2W: Oliver	
2M: Freya	
3W: Marwah	
3M: Liyana & Hira	
4W: Ciara	
4M: Isabella	

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.



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 1st 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 2nd April	Close for Easter Break

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.



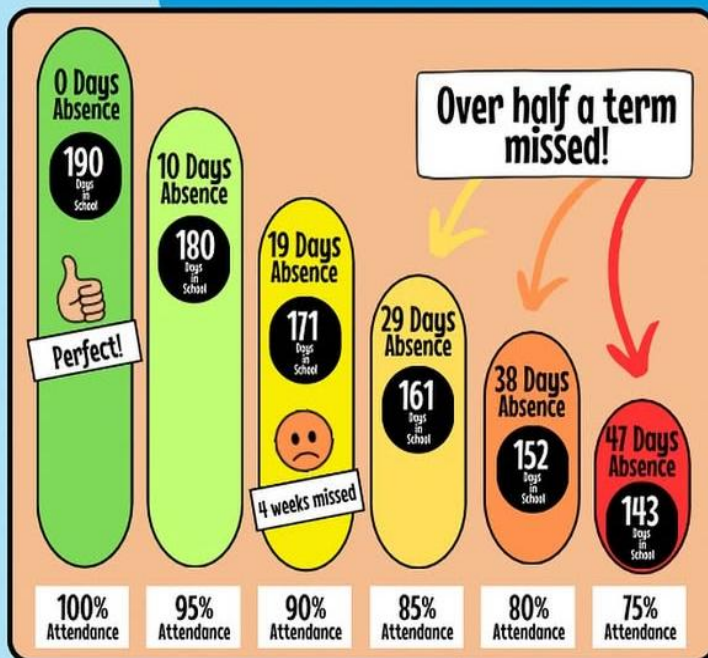
Building Confidence

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.

