

Thursday 12th February 2026

Whittaker Moss Primary School Newsletter 21



As we approach the half term holiday, there has been no let-up in the busy pace of activities at school. This week all of the children across school have been focusing on internet safety and positive mental health.

Tuesday was safer internet day. All classes completed activities and tasks focused on how to use the internet and the online world safely, Miss Buckley led our Thursday 'Talkabout' assembly focusing on ways to get the most out of A.I. in a safe and responsible way.

Miss Buckley has also appointed a group of Year 5 and 6 Digital Leaders. They will act as pupil ambassadors for computing, online safety and the responsible use of technology across the school. Their role will develop over time, but will include helping to raise the profile of online safety and supporting with assemblies and events. They have some great ideas for sharing information with you as parents so watch this space!

Today I am particularly proud of our Well-Being Ambassadors. They have led the whole school across two assemblies focusing on Mental Health and well-being. They had the theme of 'belonging' and what it means to be a part of a nurturing community. Their confidence, understanding and compassion was exceptional. I am really proud to be the Headteacher of a school where children are as much a part of the leadership and support the staff as they do.

Thank you to those parents who have sent in expressions of interest in our Parent Governor vacancies. I will contact candidates after the half term holidays regarding next steps.

If you don't already follow us on Facebook, please do have a look at our page to see some of the updated content we are sharing around what children are doing during the school day, upcoming events and also an early peak at our Friday Star of the Week certificate winners!

Wishing everyone a lovely half term holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 23rd February.

Mrs Backhouse

Attendance

Whole School Target: 97%

Whole School Average Attendance to Date: 95.6%

This week's winning classes: 2W & 3W 99.67% Amazing!

Last week the total days of lost learning due to children being absent from school was 81.5 days.

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



World Book Day Thursday 5th March

Our theme for World Book Day this year is 'Wonderful Words!' Children are invited to come to school dressed in an outfit that represents their word. If they come as 'sporty' they could wear the kit they wear for the local sports team they play for or they could choose a colour as their word and wear clothes in that colour. We just request that children wear sensible footwear. There will be an individual prize of a book of choice for the most inventive interpretation in each year group.

Children's Mental Health Week

Last week was Children's Mental Health Week. The theme was 'This Is My Place'. Children completed some fantastic activities around belonging in their classes. Thank you to our brilliant Wellbeing Ambassadors who led assemblies for the whole school. Please contact Mrs Cadogan or Mrs Beswick if you feel your child would benefit from some extra support around their mental health or wellbeing.



PTA Penny Wars

The PTA Penny Wars ended on Friday 6th February. Thank you to everyone who supported this event. The winning class was R2. Well done to them! They will enjoy a movie and snack afternoon as their reward. The event raised over £400 for PTA funds.



Tuesday 10th February was Safer Internet Day.

Children completed activities in school around the theme of exploring the safe and responsible use of A.I.

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

Stars of The Week

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

Nursery: Freya	5W: Alisha
R1: Hunter	5M: Fatima
R2: Arlo	6W: Hadi
1W: Olivia	6M: Sahir
1M: Aurelle	Mrs Cadogan: Evie
2W: Khadija	
2M: Amber	
3W: Adeem	
3M: Mirha	
4W: Josh	
4M: Jessica	

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: Reyah, Hayat, Freddie, Wilf, Liyana, Hawa, Zahra, Riley and Charlie.

Well done to them!



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School Council News

Councillors met on Tuesday to discuss the success of their Movie and Pyjamas Day and to discuss ideas for their ongoing Online Safety Campaign. Some councillors will take part in a network event with other schools after the half-term break. Councillors will be selling daffodils for Marie Curie during March for a suggested donation of £1.

Paul Waugh, MP, World Book Day Competition

Please see below for information about Paul Waugh's, Rochdale MP, World Book Day Competition for Year 5 pupils across the borough. Please let Miss Lane know if you have entered.



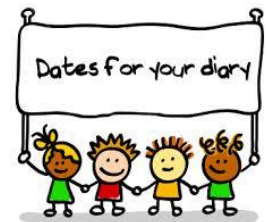
Dojo Winners

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

Nursery: Sienna	5W: Sienna
R1: Lewis	5M: Rayyan
R2: Hayaa-Nur	6W: Hamza
1W: Molly	6M: Riley
1M: Hattie	
2W: Eva	
2M: Beauden	
3W: Aayan	
3M: Eliza	
4W: Jackson	
4M: Elaiza	

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.



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
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day (Please Note Change of Date) - Dress as a word for our 'Wonderful Words' theme.
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	Year 3 Greenbooth Walk (Please Note Change of Date).
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

PAUL WAUGH MP'S WORLD BOOK DAY COMPETITION

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

WIN PRIZES FOR YOURSELF AND
YOUR SCHOOL!

**Year 5 students: Write about your
favourite book, and tell us why
you love it so much!**

**Send entries to
paul.waugh.mp@parliament.uk
by 5pm Sunday 22nd February**

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.



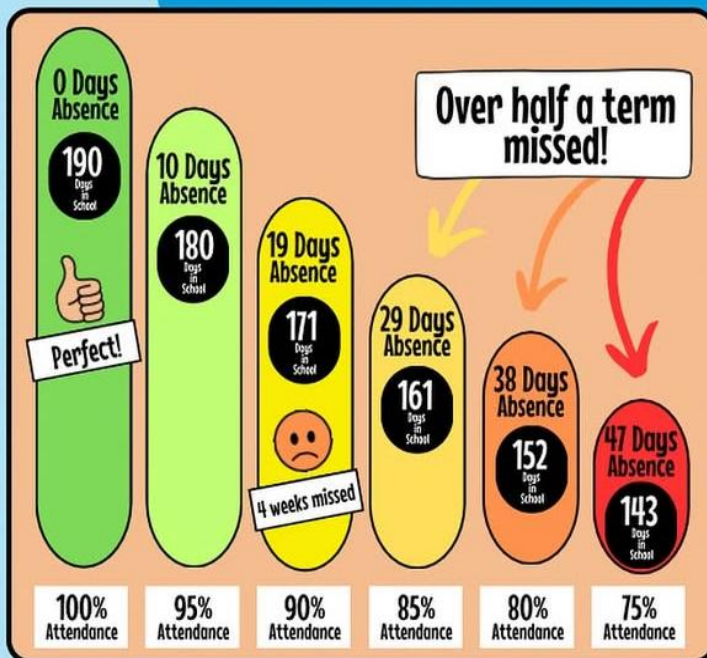
Building Confidence

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.

