

Thursday 12th March 2026

Whittaker Moss Primary School Newsletter 24

In what has been one of the busiest weeks of the year so far, we have lots of positive things to share.

On Monday, a group of our children visited the interactive Henry Moore art installation in Leeds. There was added excitement when the bus broke down but this was quickly resolved and they were on their way. Everyone had an amazing time; being able to physically interact with the art is something a little different and the feedback from the children was that they loved it and want to go again!

On Tuesday, Year 3 were out in the community walking to Greenbooth reservoir to complete Geography and Science observations and experiments. It was a long and challenging walk and they all showed excellent determination and resilience with good humour too!

All this week, we have been focusing on Science. There have been workshops in school from Nova Schools who have taken the theme of 'curiosity' to a whole new level with some impressive (and explosive), experiments. We have also had groups of children working with live animals in school and finding out all about their habitats and how they survive. In classes, there have been a wide range of classroom activities and lessons designed to make Science both fun and accessible and to encourage and nurture curious minds. Thank you once again to our PTA who help to fund these experiences so that there is either no cost to families or costs are kept as low as possible.

Members of our School Council attended a Rochdale network meeting this week at Rochdale Sports club. Our School Council are already very proactive within Rochdale - hosting meetings, supporting other schools and fundraising. It was just another good opportunity for them to network and share good practice with other schools.

We also have the Year 6 Magistrates' Competition to look forward to on Friday and wish our team the very best of luck!

Have a lovely weekend Mrs Backhouse

Attendance

Whole School Target: 97%

Whole School Average Attendance to Date: 95.6%

This week's winning class: 3W 100% Amazing!

Last school week the total days of lost learning due to children being absent from school was **118 days**.



World Book Day Thursday 5th March

Well done to all children and staff who embraced our theme of 'Wonderful Words' for this year's World Book Day. Marvellous interpretations of words were seen across school. A winner for each class was chosen and they got to choose a book as their prize. Well done to: Aadam, Seth, Noah, Bobby, Lily, Lottie, Oliver, Evie, Rosie, Jess, Norah, Aria, Muhammad, Hattie and Fearne. Pictures of the event can be found on the school Facebook page and the school website.



Marie Curie Daffodils

Throughout the month of March, the school council will be selling Marie Curie daffodils. If you would like your child to purchase one in aid of this worthwhile charity, please send a £1 donation in to school with them. At Whittaker Moss, we are proud to support many different charities, and we thank parents for their continued generosity.

Parents' Evenings

Thank you for your attendance at Parents' Evenings this week. We hope you found your meeting informative and enjoyed celebrating your child's successes with their class teacher.



Red Nose Day

Children may come dressed in non-uniform on Friday 20th March for Comic Relief. Donations are welcome but not necessary. Donations can be made through ParentPay accounts.

British Science Week 2026

This week is British Science Week. This year's theme is 'Curiosity: what's your question?' To celebrate, some KS2 pupils participated in a live animal workshop on Monday. Pictures are on our Facebook page and the school website. All classes will attend a STEM workshop led by Nova Science on Thursday. Thank you to the PTA for helping to fund these experiences. Pupils have also been completing a range of practical science activities in class during this week.

Stars of the Week

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

Nursery: Jude	5W: Daniel
R1: Fern	5M: Amelia
R2: Liyana	6W: Amelia
1W: Deen	6M: Adam
1M:	Mrs Cadogan: Amelia
2W: Laitham	
2M: Thomas	
3W: Annabelle	
3M: Sam	
4W: Raees	
4M: Owen	

Lunchtime Stars

These certificates are awarded to pupils who display excellent manners and behaviour during lunchtimes. Pupils who received our Lunchtime Stars Certificates for the week before the break were: Hashim, Lewis, Austin, Aleena, Arnie, Rukaiyah, Muhammad, Jessica and Beauden.

Well done to them!



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School Council News

This week, some school council members attended a successful network event along with children from several other local schools. It was great to share ideas with one another. Photos of the event are on Engage Rochdale.

The school council will be running an Easter raffle over the last two weeks of term (50p for two tickets or £1 per strip of tickets). Please send money into school with your child if you would like them to participate in this event. They will also be running a name the bunny or chick competition which is 50p per entry. The school council have voted that the money raised will go towards the purchase of new musical instruments for school.

Spring Art Afternoons

Parents/Family Members are invited to join us to complete an art activity with pupils. Please see below for the dates for different year groups.



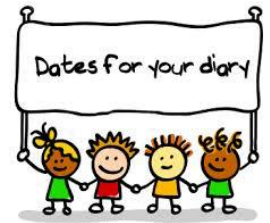
Dojo Winners

Well done to all our dojo points winners for the week before the half-term break.

Nursery: Amaal	5W: Harriet
R1: Bella	5M: Adam
R2: Kade	6W: Ayaan
1W: Ada	6M: Fearne
1M: Teddy	
2W: Aadam	
2M: Ani	
3W: Ayaan	
3M: Gilya	
4W: Ayda	
4M: Lucy	

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.



Thursday 12 th March	KS2 Mixed Football Competition
Thursday 12 th March	Nova Stem Science Workshops In School
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 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.



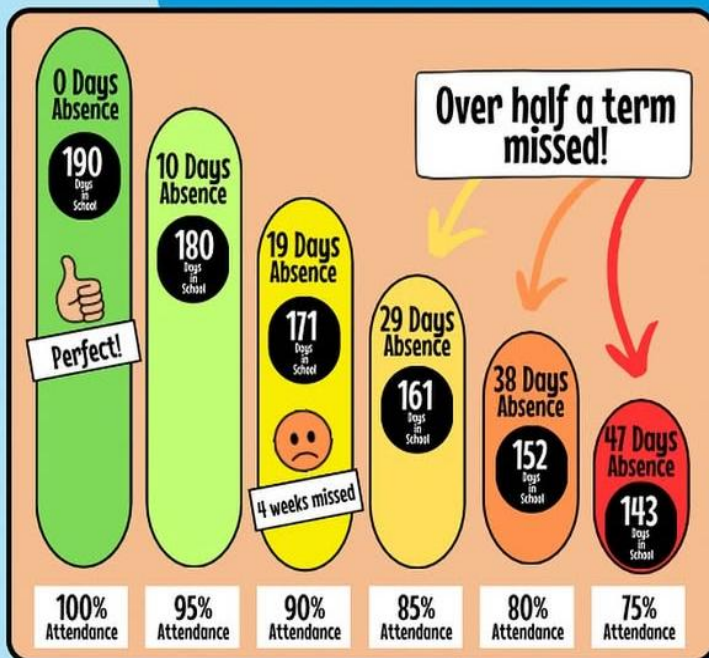
Building Confidence

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.

