

Thursday 21st May 2026

Whittaker Moss Primary School Newsletter 32

The highlight of the week this week has been the visit from Neil Griffiths. Neil is a former Headteacher, children's author and storyteller. He is also responsible for producing a number of resources widely used by schools over the years to promote storytelling, oracy and a love of reading. He captivated both children and staff in storytelling sessions and a follow up staff meeting. He also was available for parents during the last hour of the school day. For those who were unable to make the parents session, I would strongly recommend spending a few minutes watching the videos on the following link where Neil explains the huge benefit of reading positively with children and gives his top tips for reading with children. Research shows, and our children clearly tell us how beneficial and how much they enjoy being read to. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TC8c2se0xs>

Good luck to our Year 5 and 6 Unihoc team who will be going out to Greenbank later this week and thank you to the parents who are supporting this event.

Please can parents check ParentPay emails from school. We sent out an important one earlier in the week regarding some concerns which have been raised about sand and products which contain sand. The email sets out what actions we have taken in school to ensure all our products are safe but there are some products on the list which you may have at home and want to check for safety.

Have a lovely half term holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 1st June.

Mrs Backhouse

Attendance

Whole School Target: 97%

Whole School Average Attendance to Date:
95.4%

This week's winning class: 6W 99.6% Amazing!



Half-Term Break

School will close on Friday 22nd May for the half-term break. It will re-open on Monday 1st June. We wish all our families a restful holiday and we hope that the weather is fine!

Children's Champion

Congratulations to Max and Piper who, at the weekend, successfully got through the interview stage to make the final nine of this year's Children's Champion. Both pupils will film a video this week where they will talk about their ideas for improving Rochdale. The videos will then be shared with all primary schools in Rochdale and pupils will vote for who they wish to elect as their Children's Champion. Good luck, Piper and Max - you have the full support of the school behind you.

Online Safety

Our Digital Leaders and School Council members will lead a whole school assembly on Thursday about the responsible use of Whatsapp. It has been lovely to see the two groups of children working together on this project and the end result is impressive.

Author Visit

Thank you to all parents who came along to attend the reading workshop led by author, Neil Griffiths, this week. We hope you found the session informative.

Mental Health Support

Please look in the mental health section of the school website (bottom of the home page), to access links to parent and child Padlets that contain a wealth of information and support on a range of mental health topics.

Stars of the Week:

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

Nursery: Aizah	5W: Harriet
R1: Liyana	5M: Grace
R2: Rory	6W: Year 6
1W: Jamal	6M: Year 6
1M: Mia	Mrs Cadogan: Safa
2W: Oliver	
2M: Emily	
3W: George	
3M: Liyana	
4W: Maiya	
4M: Hawa	

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: Ivy, Eleanor, Frankie, Harry, Jessica, Oliver, Amelia, Rumaisa and Matilda. Well done!



New To Reception Meeting

There will be a meeting for the parents of children who will join our Reception classes in September on **Tuesday 2nd June at 5.30pm**. There will be a lot of important information shared at this meeting so please attend if you are able.

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School Council News

Councillors met this week to finalise plans for an assembly with the school digital leaders about the responsible use of social media which they will deliver to the school on Thursday. Our charity reps fed back about the rules they negotiated to break for the upcoming 'Break The Rules Day' for Cancer Research. More information about this can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Uniform Reminders

Please remember that only plain studs should be worn in ears and that ear-rings must be taken out for P.E. lessons or medical tape placed over them if they can't be taken out.

Bobbles and headbands should be plain. Please speak to your class teacher if your child needs to wear dark trainers because they have grown out of their school shoes.



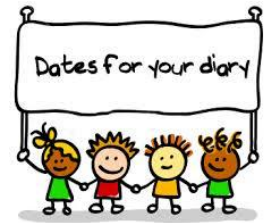
Dojo Winners

Well done to all our dojo points winners for last week. We are really impressed with your efforts.

Nursery: Hashim	4M: Nomi
R1: Heidi	5W: Harry
R2: Insiyah	5M: Finley
1W: Amari	6W: Freya
1M: Zahlie	6M: Bella
2W: Ella	
2M: Ni'mat	
3W: Sonny	
3M: Jess	
4W: Jack	

Dates for the Diary Summer 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 21 st May	Year 5/6 Unihoc Tournament
Friday 22 nd May	School Closes For The Half-Term Break
W/C Monday 1 st June	Year 6 Bikeability For Two Weeks
W/C Monday 1 st June	Year 4 Tables Check Week
Tuesday 2 nd June 5.30pm	New To Reception Meeting
Wednesday 3 rd June	Year 5 Trip To The Mosque
Thursday 4 th June	PTA Bags To School
Friday 5 th June	School Council Fundraiser For Cancer Research
W/C 8 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Week
Tuesday 9 th June	Year 5 Geography Fieldwork Trip
Wednesday 10 th June	Year 3/4 Boules Tournament
Thursday 11 th June	Year 5 Boules Tournament
Friday 12 th June	Year 3 Trip To Ribchester
W/C 15 th June	Sports Week
Monday 15 th June 2.30pm	Year 5/6 Parents' Sports Afternoon
Monday 15 th June 5.30pm	New To Nursery Parents' Meeting
Tuesday 16 th June 3.30pm	PTA Summer Fair
Wednesday 17 th June 2.30pm	Year 3/4 Parents' Sports Afternoon
Thursday 18 th June 2.30pm	EYFS Parents' Sports Afternoon
Thursday 18 th June	KS2 Girls' 5 A Side Netball Tournament
Friday 19 th June 2.30pm	Year 1/2 Parents' Sports Afternoon
Friday 17 th July	Year 4 Trip To Manchester Museum
W/C 22 nd June	New To Nursery Stay and Play Sessions For Two Weeks
Monday 22 nd June	Year 6 Geography Fieldwork
Tuesday 23 rd June	Year 5/6 Boys' Tennis Tournament
Wednesday 24 th June	Year 5/6 Girls' Tennis Tournament
Wednesday 24 th June	Children's University Graduation - Rochdale Town Hall
Friday 26 th June	Staff INSET Day
Monday 29 th June	Staff INSET Day
Thursday 2 nd July	Year 5/6 Girls' Cricket Tournament
Monday 6 th July	Neeli Mosque Assembly & Hajj Workshop
Monday 6 th July	KS2 Boys' Cricket Tournament
Tuesday 7 th July	Whole School Transition Day
Tuesday 7 th July	New To Reception Visits
Thursday 9 th July	School Council Network Event
Thursday 9 th July	KS2 Mixed Rounders Tournament
Friday 10 th July	Stuart Willis, St. Paul's Church, Assembly

Friday 10 th July 6.30pm-8.30pm	Year 6 Red Carpet Event
Monday 13 th July 2.45pm	KS2 Childer Assembly
Monday 13 th July	Year 3/4 Athletics Tournament
Tuesday 14 th July	End Of Year Reports Out
Tuesday 14 th July	New Reception Visits and Coffee Morning
Wednesday 15 th July	KS2 Swimming Gala
Wednesday 15 th July	Year 5/6 Show For Year 5 Parents
Wednesday 15 th July	Year 5/6 Athletics Tournament
Thursday 16 th July	Year 5/6 Show For Year 6 Parents
Friday 17 th July	KS1 and KS2 Sunshine Assemblies
Monday 20 th July	Star Of The Year Assembly
Tuesday 21 st July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly
Tuesday 21 st July	School Closes For The Summer Break



**Rochdale
Borough
Family Hubs**
Support that grows with you



Rochdale North Family Hubs

**Half term family fun for 5-12
year olds**



**Looking for some free half term fun?
Come and get creative, learn and take part in a
range of activities themed on 'Courage'**

**Friday 29th May
1pm-2.30pm
Meanwood Family Hub**



Funded by
UK Government



ROCHDALE
BOROUGH COUNCIL



SCAN ME



Justin Axon
Training & Consultancy Ltd

Free Workshops for Parents & Carers of Children & Young People with SEND/SEMH in Rochdale

'Communication Through Play'

Wednesday 20th May 2026 @ 9:30am-12pm

'De-Escalate, Regulate & Recover'

Tuesday 16th June 2026 @ 9:30am-12pm

'Communication & Wellbeing for SEND/SEMH Families'

Tuesday 29th September 2026 @ 9:30am-12pm

'Lifeskills and Independence'

Tuesday 20th October 2026 @ 9:30am-12pm

'E-Safety for SEND/SEMH Families'

Tuesday 17th November 2026 @ 9:30am-12pm

'Friendships, Puberty & Safe Choices'

Wednesday 9th December 2026 @ 9:30am-12pm



Scan QR Code for more & to book!





**FRIDAY 5TH JUNE
BREAK THE RULES DAY
SCHOOL COUNCIL EVENT
HELPING RAISE FUNDS FOR CANCER
RESEARCH UK**

BRING YOUR TEDDY - 20P

WACKY HAIR- 50P

PAINTED FINGER NAILS- 50P

**NON- UNIFORM, INCLUDING FOOTBALL KITS (NO
FOOTBALL BOOTS)-50P**

FACE PAINT/MAKE-UP- 50P

COME IN YOUR PYJAMAS- 50P



**YOUR SUPPORT HELPS OUR SCHOOL
COUNCIL MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THIS
WORTHY CAUSE.**



**CANCER
RESEARCH
UK**