

Thursday 17th September 2026

Whittaker Moss Primary School Newsletter 3

Attendance

Whole School Target: 97%

Whole School Average Attendance to Date: 98.5%

Last week's winning classes: R2, 2W, 2M & 3M. 100%

Fantastic!



Thank you for your prompt responses to our clubs booking form and for engaging with the parent survey. Although our extra-curricular clubs are a strength of the school and a wide offer, we are always looking for ways to improve so parent voice is very important. Prior to putting together our list of clubs, we have spoken to the children to get their preferences as we want to be sure our offer closely matches what the children want. Our aim is to have all children in school accessing at least one club. We run clubs before, during and after school as we know families are busy and cannot always facilitate after school only. Please speak with your child to see if there is a club on the list they would like to try!

We have been busy hearing from children this week who are keen to put themselves forward for School Council or our Eco Committee. The strength of the applications is impressive! It is the children of the school who vote to decide who will represent them. Voting takes place on Friday and we will announce the successful candidates early next week. Good luck to everyone putting themselves forward for these important roles!

This Wednesday we have a meeting for Reception parents about how we teach reading in school. Please attend if you can so you have all of the information you need to support your children with this essential skill. The meeting will be in the main hall at 5.30pm-6pm.

Lastly, please can parents make sure all items of school uniform is named? The changeable weather means jumpers are off, on and then off again and not all have names in which is making it tricky to match them up with the correct owner.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mrs Backhouse.

Jeans for Genes Day Friday 18th September

Children may come dressed in their jeans (or non-uniform) for a silver donation on Friday 18th September. They may also wear their own top and sensible footwear. The school has supported this worthy charity for many years so please support this fundraising event.



Clubs

Thank you to everyone who submitted a club application form. Over 300 responses were received, and Mr Chapman has worked hard to allocate everyone a place in one of their preferred clubs. All clubs begin next week. Please let the teacher who runs the club know if your child is unable to attend for any reason.

Parking

School has received a number of requests from local residents to remind parents to park considerately on the streets surrounding the school. Please ensure that the way you park allows residents space to get through to their homes. We thank you for your support with this matter.

Outstanding Medical Information

Please ensure that any asthma, allergy or health care plans are returned to your child's class teacher as soon as possible so that we can ensure our medical information is up to date.



Stars of the Week

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

Nursery: Charlotte	4M: Ameliya
R1: Marley	5W: Aleena
R2: Reggie	5M: Eesa
1W: Daisy	6W: Salah
1M: Rex	6M: Haris
2W: Teddy	Mrs Cadogan: Alf
2M: Florence	
3W: Zander	
3M: Jonah	
4W: Bobby	

Four Books Challenge

The Four Books Challenge has been launched again this year. Your child will be coming home soon with a sheet to evaluate the four books set for their year group. There are copies of the books in school if your child would like to borrow one. Lots of children participated in the challenge last year and we hope lots will this year.

European Languages Day

This will take place on **Friday 25th September**. Please see the end of the newsletter for more information about this event.

Lunchtime Stars

These certificates are awarded to pupils who display excellent manners and behaviour during lunchtimes. Pupils who received our Lunchtime Stars Certificates before the holiday were: Eva, Clay, Daisy, Jessica, Maryam, Ava, Pearl, Annum and Alfie.

Well done to them!



Thursday 17th September 2026

School Council / Eco Council

Voting for school and eco councillors will take place this Friday (18th September). A councillor will have the responsibility of taking ideas and suggestions from year one and the foundation stage to ensure that their voice is heard. Children will have the opportunity to make a speech in class or share a PowerPoint presentation during the week leading up to the voting day. Please encourage your child to put themselves forward for nomination if they are interested in being a school councillor or eco rep.



Dojo Winners

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

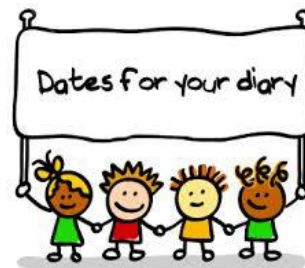
Nursery: Leo	
R1: Millie	5W: Zaki
R2: Evelyn	5M: Ezaan
1W: Faris	6W: Harry
1M: Roman	6M: Grace
2W: Zahlie	
2M: Olivia	
3W: Evie	
3M: Layke	
4W: Henry	
4M: Yusuf	

EYFS Reading Meeting

Thank you to all parents who attended the meeting on Wednesday. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you were unable to attend as they will have an information pack to share with you.

Dates for the Diary Autumn 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 16 th September 2026 5.30pm	Reception Parents' Reading Meeting
Friday 18 th September 2026	Jeans for Genes Day (non-uniform), small donation, please.
Friday 18 th September 2026	School Council and Eco Council Voting Day
W/C 21 st September 2026	Before and after school clubs commence
Tuesday 22 nd September 2026	Year 3 Stone Age Workshop
Friday 25 th September 2026	European Languages Day
Friday 25 th September 2026 9.15am	Macmillan Coffee Morning in Highwood Hall
Wednesday 30 th September - Friday 2 nd October 2026	Year 6 Mount Cook Residential
Wednesday 7 th October 2026	Year 6 Crucial Crew - Rochdale Football Club
Friday 9 th October 2026	World Mental Health Day & Parent Coffee Morning
Tuesday 13 th October 2026	School Council Network Event
Monday 19 th October 2026	Flu Vaccinations
Tuesday 20 th October 2026	Individual & Sibling Photographs from 8.30am
Thursday 22 nd October 2026	School Closes for Half-Term
Friday 23 rd October 2026	INSET Day
Monday 2 nd November 2026	School Re-Opens
Tuesday 10 th November 2026	Parents' Evening 1 4-7pm
Wednesday 11 th November 2026	Parents' Evening 2 4-7pm
Wednesday 11 th November 2026	KS1 Visit To Cenotaph
W/C 16 th November 2026	Anti-Bullying Week
Wednesday 18 th November 2026	Prospective New Parents' Evening 5.30pm
Friday 20 th November 2026	Children in Need - non-uniform, small donation, please.
Friday 20 th November 2026	Year 2 Royal Opera House Online Workshop
Tuesday 24 th November 2026	Open morning for prospective Reception parents 9.30am
Wednesday 25 th November 2026	Open morning for prospective Reception parents 9.30am

Christmas Activity Dates To Follow



European Day of Languages

On Friday 25th September we will be taking part in the European Day of Languages. Each year group will be focussing on a different country where they will research the language spoken, landmarks, famous/significant/inspirational people, food, music and flag etc. We will all come together via Zoom at the end of the school day to share our research with each other. The children can come into school/nursery in non-uniform on this day and, if possible, it would be great if they could wear the colours of the country flag they are researching.

Nursery/Reception - France (blue, white, red)

Years 1/2 - Germany (black, red, gold)

Years 3/4 - Spain (red and yellow)

Years 5/6 - Italy (green, white, red)

The official theme this year is 'Languages Unite!' to emphasise the role of languages in **connecting people** and **breaking down barriers**.

Thank you for your support with this event.

Mrs Orley (MFL Lead).



Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing!

With the introduction of the new Department for Education National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.

What is a Penalty Notice?

A penalty notice is an out of court settlement which is intended to change behaviour without the need for criminal prosecution. If repeated penalty notices are being issued and they are not working to change behavior they are unlikely to be most appropriate tool. Therefore, from August 2024, only 2 penalty notices can be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within a 3-year rolling period and any second notice within that period is charged at a higher rate. Any further offences will result in criminal prosecution.

The law will be clear that where a Penalty Notice threshold met – in each individual case, the school **must** consider if a Penalty Notice is appropriate.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued to each parent (even if they do not reside together) for each child that was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

A school day has two sessions:
1 morning and 1 afternoon session per day.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

5 consecutive days of term time leave

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days.

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

Rochdale LA have the discretion to issue Penalty Notice fines before the above threshold is met in cases where parents are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below the threshold, or for repeated absences for birthdays or other family events.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate, due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.



SEND Advice Service and Rochdale Parent Carer Voice present...

SEND is Everyone's Business Event 2026

Discover a wide range of services and organisations available for 0-25 years, dedicated to supporting families on their SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) journey.

Meet representatives from the Local Authority, health services and voluntary organisations. You will have the opportunity to find out more and learn how these teams can assist you and your family.

Teams joining us include: Home Start, CAMHS SPOA, SENDIASS, Jolly Josh, Eliza Says, Preparing for Adulthood Team, Youth Service, Positive Steps, The Neurodiversity Hub, representatives from the EHC Team, and more...

Contact us on 0300 303 0380 with any questions.

Professionals are also welcome to attend.

Featuring:

**A relaxation
area provided
by the Town
Hall**

TUESDAY

22 September 2026

Drop in between 3pm – 5pm, no booking required.

Location

The Bright Hall at Rochdale Town Hall

The Esplanade, Rochdale, OL16 1AZ

