

Thursday 24th September 2026

Whittaker Moss Primary School Newsletter 4

Attendance

Whole School Target: 97%

Whole School Average Attendance to Date: 97.75%

Last week's winning classes: 1W & 2M 100% Fantastic!



It has been another busy and exciting week at school!

On Wednesday, our Year 3 pupils spent the day learning all about the Stone Age. They explored what everyday life was like during this period, discovered how people hunted for food and learned about the tools they used. The children even had the opportunity to put their hunting skills to the test and see whether they would have made effective Stone Age hunters!

We are delighted to welcome our new School Councillors and Eco Representatives. We look forward to working with them as they represent the pupils of our school, ensuring that pupil voices and opinions are heard. They will play an important role in helping us to make positive changes, with pupils at the heart of our decision-making. Our Eco Representatives will also help us to ensure that we continue to show care and consideration for our school environment and the wider world.

Our extra-curricular clubs are now well underway, and it is our ambition that all children have the opportunity to access a club wherever possible. Interest has always been high, but this term has been better than ever, with over 250 places allocated!

A huge thank you to our staff for giving up their time voluntarily to ensure that clubs remain free for pupils and that we can offer such a varied and extensive programme. Thank you also to everyone who took the time to leave comments on the booking forms. Your feedback is invaluable and helps us to continue developing our offer to meet the needs and interests of as many pupils as possible.

A polite reminder for parents and carers: please be considerate of our neighbours when dropping off and collecting children from school. In particular, please do not park across residents' driveways, even for a few minutes. It can be very frustrating for our neighbours when they are unable to enter or leave their own properties. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Finally, this Friday we will be holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning at school, straight after morning drop-off. Everyone is very welcome, and donations will be gratefully received to support this very worthy cause.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Mrs Backhouse.

Jeans for Genes Day Friday 18th September



Thank you to everyone who supported our recent Jeans for Genes day. We will let you know the final total raised, shortly.

Photographs

Individual and family photographs will be taken on Tuesday 20th October. All children should come to school in uniform. If your child has P.E. on this day, they may come to school in their trainers. The school will be open from 8.30am for photos with siblings who do not attend the school.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Please join us at 9.15am for a coffee morning in Highwood Hall this Friday, 25th September, to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

European Languages Day

This takes place this Friday, 25th September. Children have been invited to attend school in clothes in their country's colours.



Mental Health & Wellbeing Update

If you have any concerns around your child's emotional wellbeing, there is a range of support that the school can offer to parents. For a wealth of resources, please visit the mental health and wellbeing section on the school website, within the parents' tab. If you would like to speak to someone, please contact Mrs Cadogan, the senior school mental health lead, on the school telephone number or by e-mailing

scadogan@whittakermoss.rochdale.sch.uk.

Whittaker Moss, along with over 30 other schools in the authority, is part of the Mental Health Support Teams Project. MHSTs are intended to provide early intervention on some mental health and emotional wellbeing issues, such as mild to moderate anxiety, as well as helping staff within a school or college setting to provide a 'whole school approach' to mental health and wellbeing. As part of the project, the school has access to an onsite NHS mental health practitioner, one day a week. Referrals to Cheryl, our practitioner, are through Mrs Cadogan.



Stars of the Week

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

Nursery: Luca	4M: Aria
R1: Oliver	5W: Zayaan
R2: Thomas	5M: Connie
1W: Penelope	6W: Daniel
1M: Roman	6M: Oscar
2W: Jessica	Mrs Cadogan: Uh'yab
2M: Olivia	
3W: Erin	
3M: Anaya	
4W: Adeem	

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: Florence, Emilia, Vinnie, Ada, Rory, Hira, Hibah, Arib and Zaynab.

Well done to them!



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School Council / Eco Council

Thank you to everyone who put themselves forward to be a school or eco councillor. Your speeches and presentations were amazing! School council and Eco council members received their badges this week. The school council will meet on Friday when roles will be assigned and photos for the school council display board will be taken. The eco council will be meeting shortly with Miss Eccles to decide on their priorities for the year.



Dojo Winners

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

Nursery: Emmeline

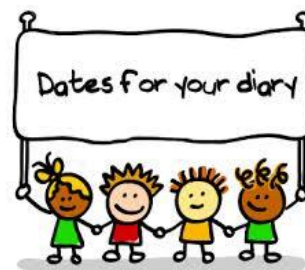
R1: Reyah	5W: Jessica
R2: Arham	5M: Layla
1W: Wilfred	6W: Isabella
1M: Khadijah	6M: Amelia
2W: Hattie	
2M: Bobby	
3W: Amber	
3M: Aadam & Zidane	
4W: Ava	
4M: Archie	

Class Website Pages

Please visit your child's class page on the school website to find out what they will be learning this term. Photos of class events can also be found within this page.

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.



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 2nd 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'.