

Thursday 15th October 2026

Whittaker Moss Primary School Newsletter 7



As we enter the final two weeks of this half term, school life continues to be as busy as ever! The learning atmosphere across school is positive, and we have been particularly pleased this week to see such high levels of engagement in lessons.

Year 2 have taken part in Rosa Parks and Neil Armstrong workshops this week, while Year 4 have enjoyed an Anglo-Saxons workshop with Touchstones. These experiences complement the children's History units and provide valuable, hands-on learning opportunities. It has been wonderful to see how these workshops have inspired some excellent follow-up work!

Children in Years 2-6 have taken part in cross-country running events over the past two weeks. These events are always a real test of grit, endurance and determination, and the children have risen to the challenge brilliantly.

Our school photographer will be in school next Tuesday. If you are having photographs taken with younger siblings, please bear with us on the day, as things can get quite busy first thing in the morning! It takes a little organising to ensure everyone is photographed as smoothly and efficiently as possible. We will be able to arrange sibling photographs for children who attend our school. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate wider family photographs, such as those involving cousins.

Finally, Friday sees our annual Halloween disco, which is always a very popular event! Thank you for your fantastic support of our hard-working PTA, for your enthusiasm for the event and for your patience while tickets were allocated. We really appreciate it.

Children are welcome to come to school dressed up for Halloween on Friday. We simply ask that they wear sensible shoes and do not bring any additional props.

Have a lovely weekend when it arrives!

Mrs Backhouse.

Attendance

Whole School Target: 97%

Whole School Average Attendance to Date: 97.3%

This week's winning class: 1W 99.6%. Fantastic!

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 **8.00am** for photos with siblings **who do not attend the school**.

SEND and SALT Padlet Links

Please visit the parents' section of the school website to find links to useful Padlets created by the LA SEND and Speech and Language teams. Both padlets contain lots of useful information about provision and services in the Rochdale borough.

Harvest Assemblies 2026

Our Harvest assemblies will be led by Stuart Willis (ALM) on **Wednesday 21st October**. We will be collecting Harvest donations on this day which will go to the Rochdale Community Food Pantry. Please send donations into school with your child. We thank you for your support with this - all donations are much appreciated.

Halloween Dress Up Day

On Friday 16th October all pupils are invited to come to school in a costume, which may be Halloween themed. No scary masks or accessories, please. If they prefer, they may come in non-uniform. This is a fun event, so no donation is required.



Scholastic Book Fair

This will take place between the 6th and 12th of November. We are asking that money to purchase a book is sent in an envelope with your child's name on. Please indicate if you do **not** wish your child to purchase stationery items. Each class will be assigned a day to bring their money in. The average price of a book is £8. Class days are as follows:

Friday 6th November: R1, R2, Nursery

Monday 9th November: 6W, 6M, 5W, 5M

Tuesday 10th November: 2W, 2M, 3W, 3M

Wednesday 11th November: 1W, 1M, 4W, 4M

Thursday 12th November: Last chance for all pupils

Stars of The Week

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

Nursery: Amelia	5M: Ezaan
R1: Dastan	6W: Amaya
R2: Esme	6M: Zainab
1M: Fern	Mrs Cadogan: Cecilia
1M: Poppy	
2W: Arthur	
2M: Hira	
3W: Caleb	
3M: Eva	
4W: George	
4M: Rosie	
5W: Aria	



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: Esme, Miley, Rory, Neve, Evie, Liyana, Esme, Buddy and Willow.

Well done to them!



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School Council / Eco Council

School council members met last week to decide which charities to raise money for this year. They have voted for Manchester Children's Hospital for the chosen local charity and NSPCC for the national charity. Some members attended a network event with other local schools this week. It was a great opportunity to share ideas.



Poppy Appeal

The school council is selling poppies and poppy-related merchandise for the Royal British Legion over the next week and the first week after half-term. Please send your child with a donation into school if you would like them to support this worthy cause. There is a minimum donation of £1 for wrist bands and £1.50 for slap bands.



Dojo Winners

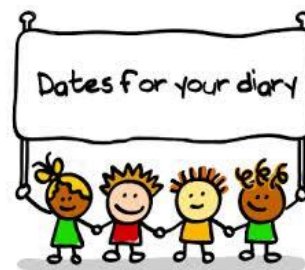
Well done to all our dojo points winners for last week:

Nursery: Florence

R1: Aizah	5W: Kaylib
R2: Jude	5M: Jess
1W: Blake	6W: Bruce
1M: Zaki	6M: Muhammed
2W: Lily	
2M: Airah	
3W: Ani	
3M: Aariz	
4W: Aayan	
4M: Jessica	

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.



Friday 16 th October 2026	Dress in Halloween Costumes / Own Clothes Day & PTA Halloween Discos.
Monday 19 th October 2026	Flu Vaccinations
Tuesday 20 th October 2026	Individual & Sibling Photographs from 8.30am
Tuesday 20 th October 2026	PTA Pumpkin Carving Competition £1 Entry
Wednesday 21 st October 2026	Harvest Assemblies - Stuart Willis ALM
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 3 rd November 2026	Remembrance Assemblies Rev. Margaret
Friday 6 th - Thursday 12 th November	Scholastic Book Fair
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
Tuesday 24 th November 2026	Year 5 Cinema Trip - Kensuke's Kingdom
Wednesday 25 th November 2026	Open morning for prospective Reception parents 9.30am
Thursday 26 th November 2026	Year 5 Trip Jodrell Bank
Thursday 26 th November 2026	Year 6 Dodgeball Competition
Friday 27 th November 2026	Staff INSET Day. School Closed.
Tuesday 1 st December 2026	Advent Assemblies / EYFS Christingles
Wednesday 2 nd December 2.30pm - 3.30pm	Years 5/6 Christmas Craft Afternoon
Thursday 3 rd December 2.30pm - 3.30pm	Years 1/2 Christmas Craft Afternoon
Friday 4 th December 2.30pm - 3.30pm	EYFS Christmas Craft Afternoon
Monday 7 th December 2.30pm - 3.30pm	Years 3/4 Christmas Craft Afternoon
Monday 7 th December	KS2 Darts Competition
Tuesday 8 th December 9.30am -10.30am	EYFS Christmas Performance
Wednesday 9 th December 9.30am - 10.30am	Year 2 Christmas Performance
Wednesday 9 th December	Year 4/5 Pickleball Tournament

Thursday 10 th December 9.30am - 10.30am	Year 1 Christmas Performance
Friday 11 th December 10am - 11am	Nursery Christmas Performance
Friday 11 th December 10am - 11am	KS2 Christmas Carol Service St. Paul's Church
Monday 14 th December 9.30am - 11am	Choir Singing At Beechwood Lodge
Monday 14 th December	Year 5/6 Table Tennis Tournament
Tuesday 15 th December	Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Party Day
Thursday 17 th December	Star of the Term Assembly
Friday 18 th December	School Closes for Christmas Break

PUMPKIN CARVING Competition

Tuesday 20th October

Get ready to show off your pumpkin carving skills! There will be a prize for the winner in each year group, plus a special Parent's Category – so grown-ups, get carving too!

Make sure to pop the creator's name and class on your pumpkin.

Drop off will be in the morning on the field, by the small playground next to the car park. Don't forget to collect your pumpkin at pickup!

£1 per entry

