Thursday 5th November 2026

# Whittaker Moss Primary School Newsletter 9

It has been nice to welcome everyone back this week for what usually is the busiest half term of the academic year. It is an important few weeks for us as a school as we approach the 1 December and our official move to academy status with ALTUS Education Partnership. Over the next few weeks, you will see a few subtle changes (ALTUS logos on school signs etc) and there will be some communications to you regarding payments as our bank accounts will change. Please keep an eye on communications so we can support if needed with any required changes. On a day-to-day basis, there will be very few changes at all. We will retain our identity and autonomy whilst benefitting from working more collaboratively across the Trust with a centralised team and economies of scale. All of the amazing things that make us so special and unique will be staying just the same!

Next week we have our parents' evenings. As usual, we offer both in-person and online appointments. If you are unable to book on or your preferred timeslot is not available, then teachers will offer you a telephone conversation during their weekly PPA time. It is not possible for us to offer appointments outside of the allocated parents' evening days.

Our fabulous PTA will shortly be sending out a letter regarding their upcoming meeting. Please consider attending or joining the PTA if you can. They are a very small group who will become even smaller across this year. Without the PTA there won't be any discos, pumpkin competitions, Christmas Elfridges or Summer Fairs all of which the children enjoy so much and which raise much needed funds that directly benefit children and families. A lot of our school trip costs are subsidised by PTA funds. It would be a real shame to lose these but they can't happen without a PTA so we really need as many people as possible to come onboard!

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.
*Mrs Backhouse.*

## Attendance

Whole School Target: 97%
Whole School Average Attendance to Date: 96.9%
This week's winning classes: 2M, 3W and 3M 98.3%.

## Poppy Appeal

The school council is selling poppies and poppy-related merchandise for the Royal British Legion during this week. 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.

## Harvest 2026

Thank you so much to everyone who sent in donations for Harvest during the last week before the break. Donations were taken to Rochdale Food Bank and they were gratefully received. School has a food box at the front of the main office where food donations can be placed throughout the year. These are regularly taken to local food banks. We thank you for your continued generous support.

## Parents' Evenings

Please remember to book a virtual or face-to-face appointment for our Autumn Parents' Evenings, which are on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th November, using our online booking system. Please e-mail Mrs Cadogan if you have any problems booking.

# Thursday 5th November 2026

## 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 all our recipients of this award last half term. Certificates will be awarded again from this week. Please look out for our award winners on the school Facebook page each week.



## Lunchtime Stars

Lunchtime star certificates are awarded to pupils who display excellent manners and behaviour during lunch times. They will be awarded again from this week.



## Prospective New Parents' Evening

This will take place on Wednesday 18th November at 5.30pm for parents who have children who are due to start school in September 2027. There will be the opportunity to speak to the staff team and see the EYFS area.

### School Council / Eco Council

School council members met on Tuesday to discuss their campaign for the year and finalise the timetable for selling poppies. Some councillors fed back about their recent first aid training at Hamer Primary School.
Eco council members launched the Move Makers initiative this week. The scheme encourages children to walk to school as often as they can. Children can earn bronze, silver and gold rewards for walking to school. Eco members will be responsible for logging journeys daily. Please look out for a letter about this scheme tomorrow.

### Uniform Reminder

Please remember that only plain, small studs should be worn in ears for school. Earrings must be taken out for P.E. lessons or medical tape worn if ears are recently pierced. Watches that have cameras are not allowed in school for safeguarding reasons.



### Dojo Winners

Well done to all our recipients of this award last half term. Certificates will be awarded again from this week. Every child in school has been assigned a virtual Dojo monster. Dojo points will be awarded for excellent effort, good manners, reading at home, great homework and super behaviour.

### Fruit Reminder

Please only send a piece of fruit in as a snack for your child. All children in KS1 receive a piece of fruit each day as part of the government fruit scheme.

## 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.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday 3rd November 2026 | Remembrance Assemblies Rev. Margaret |
| Friday 6th – Thursday 12th November | Scholastic Book Fair |
| Tuesday 10th November 2026 | Parents' Evening 1 4-7pm |
| Wednesday 11th November 2026 | Parents' Evening 2 4-7pm |
| Wednesday 11th November 2026 | KS1 Visit To Cenotaph |
| Friday 13th November 2026 | Children in Need – non-uniform, small donation, please. |
| W/C 16th November 2026 | Anti-Bullying Week |
| Wednesday 18th November 2026 | Prospective New Parents' Evening 5.30pm |
| Friday 20th November 2026 | Year 2 Royal Opera House Online Workshop |
| Tuesday 24th November 2026 | Open morning for prospective Reception parents 9.30am |
| Tuesday 24th November 2026 | Year 5 Cinema Trip – Kensuke's Kingdom |
| Wednesday 25th November 2026 | Open morning for prospective Reception parents 9.30am |
| Thursday 26th November 2026 | Year 5 Trip Jodrell Bank |
| Thursday 26th November 2026 | Year 6 Dodgeball Competition |
| Friday 27th November 2026 | Staff INSET Day. School Closed. |
| Tuesday 1st December 2026 | Advent Assemblies / EYFS Christingles |
| Wednesday 2nd December 2.30pm – 3.30pm | Years 5/6 Christmas Craft Afternoon |
| Thursday 3rd December 2.30pm – 3.30pm | Years 1/2 Christmas Craft Afternoon |
| Friday 4th December 2.30pm – 3.30pm | EYFS Christmas Craft Afternoon |
| Monday 7th December 2.30pm – 3.30pm | Years 3/4 Christmas Craft Afternoon |
| Monday 7th December | KS2 Darts Competition |
| Tuesday 8th December 9.30am -10.30am | Reception Christmas Performance |
| Wednesday 9th December 9.30am - 10.30am | Year 2 Christmas Performance |
| Wednesday 9th December | Year 4/5 Pickleball Tournament |
| Thursday 10th December 9.30am – 10.30am | Year 1 Christmas Performance |
| Friday 11th December 10am - 11am | Nursery Christmas Performance |
| Friday 11th December 10am - 11am | KS2 Christmas Carol Service St. Paul's Church |
| Monday 14th December 9.30am – 11am | Choir Singing At Beechwood Lodge |
| Monday 14th December | Year 5/6 Table Tennis Tournament |
| Tuesday 15th December | Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day |
| Wednesday 16th December | Christmas Party Day |
| Thursday 17th December | Star of the Term Assembly |
| Friday 18th December | School Closes for Christmas Break |

# 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'.**