Thursday 12th November 2026

Whittaker Moss Primary School Newsletter 10

It has been great to see so many parents attending our first parents' evening of the academic year. Lots of smiles and positivity. One of the best parts of a teacher's job is the sharing of good news with parents. The children have made a wonderful start to the new year, and it is right that we share that with parents. Thank you to the parents of class 1M for your kind understanding and patience as we have had to reschedule your appointments. I promise you, equally good news will be shared with you too!

Very proud of our KS1 children this week for how respectful they were during the cenotaph visit on Wednesday. Each year group laid a wreath and very respectfully observed the minutes silence. Those year groups back at school also learned about the importance of remembrance and respect and we completed a whole school silence to pause and reflect.

Friday is Children in Need Day. Children can come to school in their own sensible clothes (including sensible shoes please). If you can contribute for good causes, then these would be gratefully received. Thank you.

We are a breath away from hitting our whole school attendance target for the first time in a long time! Even though the weather is getting colder and sniffles are arriving, we encourage all children to be in school wherever they possibly can. Children tell us that they find coming back into school difficult if they have had time off as they have missed vital learning. Mrs Cadogan has produced an Attendance newsletter which has been sent out to all parents this week explaining the school's approach to attendance and our responsibilities and policies around tracking and recording absence.

And finally, a big congratulation to Eric Smith who was appointed our new permanent caretaker this week. Eric has recently stepped up to act as interim caretaker over the last 8 weeks. We are thrilled that he is now permanent in the position and wish him the very best in his 'not so new' role!

Attendance

Whole School Target: 97%
Whole School Average Attendance to Date: 96.9%
This week's winning class: 3W 99.3%

Poppy Appeal

The school council would like to thank everyone who has supported the Poppy Appeal over the last few weeks by purchasing poppies and poppy-themed items. They have been amazed by your generosity.

Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who has supported the book fair this week. School will receive 60% commission in books that will be used across school and to replenish the school library.

Children In Need Friday 13th November 2026

Children may come in non-uniform (spots if they wish!) on Friday 13th November 2026 for a small donation for Children in Need. Please support this worthy cause.

Remembrance Day

Well done to our year one and two pupils who represented the school brilliantly at Norden Cenotaph on Wednesday for an act of remembrance.

Thursday 12th November 2026

Anti-Bullying Week

Next week is anti-bullying week. This year's theme is 'Break the Silence' to encourage children, young people, and adults to start conversations about bullying, speak up, listen, and take action together. Children will be completing activities around this theme in school.

Stars of The Week

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

Nursery: Amora
R1: Yusuf
R2: Yusuf
1M: Ibrahim
1M: Matthew
2W: Hagan
2M: Molly
3W: Beauden
3M: Robyn
4W: Matilda
4M: Mirha
5W: Pippa
5M: Nathan
6W: Emily
6M: Ayaan
Mrs Cadogan: Isabella & Dottie

Lunchtime Stars

Lunchtime star certificates are awarded to pupils who display excellent manners and behaviour during lunch times. Pupils who received our Lunchtime Stars Certificates last week were: Oliver, Heidi, Isaac, Nelly, Sami, Aria, Annum and Yusuf.

Well done to them!



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 this week to discuss the success of the Poppy Appeal, the upcoming Christmas trolley and ideas for a Being On Time For School campaign.

Parents' Evenings

Thank you to all parents who attended this week. Please remember to complete the Whittaker Moss and ALTUS parent survey on the separate sheet given out, by scanning the QR code on it.

Uniform Reminder

Please remember that only plain, small studs should be worn in ears for school. (No large diamond studs, please, as they get caught on clothing).
Ear-rings 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 dojo points winners for last week.

Nursery: Jannat
R1: Hudson
R2: Aadam
1W: Seb
1M: Noah
2W: Hattie
2M: Finley
3W: Amber
3M: Aleena
4W: Rosie
4M: Ameliya
5W: Noah
5M: Toby
6W: Sienna
6M: Muhammed

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 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'.