Thursday 19th November 2026

Whittaker Moss Primary School Newsletter 11

We are incredibly proud of our Year 3 and Year 4 children who took part in the RUSC Dodgeball Tournament this week. With the changeable weather and increased levels of staff and pupil absence, we weren't entirely sure whether the event would go ahead. However, our children rose to the occasion and, once again, represented the school brilliantly. Well done to everyone involved!

Year 2 are looking forward to Friday morning, when they will take part in a workshop with the Royal Opera. These are always fantastic sessions, providing wonderful opportunities to broaden the children's horizons, spark creativity and unlock their imaginations. Please ask them all about it as they love sharing what they have learned!

As the weather becomes increasingly unpredictable and the evenings grow darker, please ensure that all children come to school wearing appropriate outdoor clothing. We would also be grateful if all items could be clearly named to help prevent them from getting lost. I would also like to take this opportunity to ask everyone to be particularly vigilant when using the school car park and the surrounding areas. Children can be much harder to see as the light fades, so it is more important than ever that we all take extra care.

Please remember to park only in designated parking bays, keep pathways clear at all times and drive slowly following the one-way system.

Thank you for your cooperation with this. I appreciate that mornings and evenings can be busy, particularly when the weather is poor and everyone is rushing to get where they need to be. However, the safety of our children must always come first. The car park is primarily a staff car park, which we keep open to help ease congestion in the surrounding area. We are keen for this to continue but is dependent on everyone using it safely and considerately. Please help us to ensure that this remains a safe and accessible space for everyone.

Just a little reminder that school will be closed on Friday 27th November next week. We will reopen as usual on Monday 30th November.

Mrs Backhouse

Attendance

Whole School Target: 97%

Whole School Average Attendance to Date: 96.74%

This week's winning class: 2M 100% Amazing!

Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who supported the Book Fair last week. We took over £2200 in sales which means that the school will receive over £1200 in new books.



Children In Need

Thank you to everyone who sent in a donation for Children In Need last week. We raised over £240 for this worthy cause. Fantastic!

PTA News

The PTA have lots of exciting Christmas events and surprises coming up. Please see the end of the newsletter for more information.

Back by popular demand, the PTA Elfridges shop will be opening its door shortly. More details to follow next week.



Parents' Evenings

Thank you to all parents who attended our parents' evenings last week. Please remember to complete the Whittaker Moss and ALTUS parent survey by scanning the QR code on the separate sheet. By completing it, you could win £25.

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Before and After School Clubs

Before and after school clubs will finish on Friday 27th November until after the Christmas break due to the stage going up for Christmas productions. We will send out a new club booking form early in the new year for the Spring term clubs. If your child is on a waiting list, they will automatically receive a place in the club of their choice.

Stars of The Week

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

Nursery: Zayaan
R1: Darcy
R2: Eddie
1M: Lewis
1M: Reuben
2W: Bella
2M: Toby
3W: Nelly
3M: Aadam
4W: Fara
4M: Ibrahim
5W: Rumaysa
5M: Joshua
6W: Jack
6M: Dawood
Mrs Cadogan: Jax

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: Charlotte, Jasmine, Musa, Jamal, Hawwa, Yusuf, Ciara, Finley and Oliver.

Well done to them!



Open Mornings 24th and 25th November 2026

We will be showing prospective new parents around school between 9.30am and 10.30am on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. Please book a day with the ladies in the school office if you would like to attend.

School Council / Eco Council

School council members met this week to discuss plans and a timetable for the Christmas Trolley Fundraiser and ideas for a being on time for school campaign. The Christmas Trolley Fundraiser will take place from the week beginning 30th November. More details to follow next week.

Christmas Jumper & Dinner Day

This will take place on **Tuesday 15th December**. Pupils have voted for a traditional Christmas dinner this year. If your child normally has a packed lunch and would like a school lunch on that day, please look out for a letter that will be sent home shortly.



Dojo Winners

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

Nursery: Eva
R1: Hallie
R2: Amelia
1W: Mia
1M: Musa
2W: Muaad
2M: Ava
3W: Ari
3M: Robyn
4W: Sonny
4M: Imogen
5W: Esme
5M: Rukaiyah
6W: Aaryan
6M: Ayaan

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 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'.