

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year 2026! We have loved welcoming all our families and staff back to school this week and getting started with the new term! Although the snow beat us today, it couldn't keep us away from our learning on Monday as we braved the cold and trudged in fully dressed with our Woodlands Smiles! Thank you so much for such a great effort, making sure that your children were in school on those tricky days. I hope you have all enjoyed a lovely break over Christmas and are feeling well rested and ready for our next adventures!

If like me you have eaten far too many mince pies and spent far too much time in your pyjamas, you may be finding the early mornings a bit tricky this week and a bit of a shock! Don't worry, we'll all get back into the swing of things in no time so let's start the new year as we mean to go on... in school and on time every day!



If I have counted correctly, we only have 113 school days left this year - let's make every single one count!

Of course there is never a dull moment at Woodlands and we have been busy already! Children have been sharing their news from the holidays and nearly everyone (including our staff) has played out in the snow creating a wonderful exhibition of snowmen across our school field! Also, to kick off the new year in style our amazing children rocked the bp pulse LIVE Arena at the Young Voices Children's Choir Concert on Wednesday, raising the very large roof with their singing - a truly amazing experience for all—well done to our talented children and a huge thank you to parents for supporting this fabulous event!

So, as we go into our first weekend of the year, I hope that you can all snuggle up and stay warm, drinking hot chocolate and, if you're anything like me, continue to munch your way through the ridiculous amount of Christmas cheese you still have left over!!



Staffing Updates

As we begin the new year, Mrs Macpherson will be continuing as Acting Head Teacher for the time being. Miss Edmunds & Mrs Jackson are always on hand if any of our families need us but I shall take this opportunity to remind everyone that your child's class teachers are always the first port of call with any queries you may have.

Phase Leaders are the next level of support as follows:

Root Phase: Nursery & Reception Mrs Jackson

Shoot Phase: Year 1 & Year 2 Mrs Purcell

Branch Phase: Year 3 & Year 4 Miss Edmunds

Oak Phase: Year 5 & Year 6 Miss Harvey

We also have our amazing Pastoral Team Mrs Graham & Mrs Pedley who continue to support our families in many ways and our wonderful SENDCo Mrs Dickson who has a wealth of knowledge around children's additional needs.

We also warmly welcome back Miss Sellman who has returned from her travels to continue her adventures with us. It is so lovely to have you back!



Fun in the Snow!

One of our Woodlands Values is to Seize Every Moment and that is exactly what we did when the snow came! We got boots, coats, hats, gloves & scarves on and made the most of the opportunity! As you can see from the photos, there was also lots of Enjoyment and Laughter!



Woodlands Star Readers!

These children have been chosen by their teachers as our Autumn Term stars for their amazing progress in reading, showing love and enthusiasm both in school and at home! They have all been awarded with a copy of one of our class texts to share with their families.



Darcy Nursery

Joel Nursery

Henry S RG

Biffy RJ

Elsie 1E

Evie 1W

Mila-Rae 2CP

Oliver 2D

Jeevan 3E

Arthur AC 3A

Aubrey 4N

Sahil 4R

Isobelle 5H

Kaiya 5D

Arthur B 6P

Jacob 6H

Well done to all of our Star Readers!

Out of School Awards

A huge WELL DONE to:

Sreeya in Year 1, who shared her swimming certificates

and

Reya in Reception who was awarded for coming first in dance.

We will share their pictures next week.



Young Voices 2026

Our Amazing Woodlands Choir once again raised the roof of the bp pulse LIVE Arena in Birmingham as they took part in the Young Voices Children's Choir Concert.

The children were amazing and did Woodlands proud as always!



Juniper has arrived at Woodlands!

We have launched our new communication app this week so that staff can send messages, awards and share positive news with parents & carers. Be sure to sign up if you haven't already!

Parent App

Quick Reference Guide

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Get started

1. Open your **email** invite
2. **Create** an account
3. Download the **Juniper Education** app from the **App Store** or **Google Play**
4. Enable two-factor authentication (2FA) and **login**
5. You're all set – stay informed and enjoy! 🥳

Homepage

Hi there Hello

Messages sent to you by school

View your children in **one** account

Swipe through **Latest Updates**

Tap **See all** to view all updates in that area

Press and hold to **reorder** widgets

Tap **Hub** to explore other areas in the app

Allow **push notifications** to stay informed with school

Observations

Change **order** newest to oldest

Press and hold to **react**

React with an **emoji** or post a **comment**

View **full** photo

Swipe **up** to flick through each observation

Why is it important to interact with the updates?

By adding an emoji or leaving a short comment, you're showing your child (and their teacher) that **you care** and **you're excited** to see what they've been up to at school.

Juniper Education

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Awards

How many **points** they have achieved

Press to view their **badges** and see what's left to receive

Tap through to see the **badges** they have been awarded

Attendance

Your child's overall attendance in the current school year

An attendance summary and their **absence** and **late** records

Swipec to view attendance for **each** child

Summary and breakdowns with charts below

Confetti celebration

If your child is at **100% attendance**, at the end of each term you'll have a celebration with onscreen confetti 🎉

Juniper Education

It is vital that **every** parent/carers uses this app as we will send a lot of information out this way and without the app you could miss something important! We will check in with you to make sure you aren't having any technical issues but if you have any worries please email ict@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk for support.



Who are the SUPERSTARS this week?



Class	Name	Reason
Treehouse	All of the Saplings	For showing fantastic manners when we had a special visit from Santa! Well done!
NAM	All children	Working so hard in learning all the songs for our Christmas performance, and wonderful acting skills. We are so proud of you all.
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RG	Hero	For his fantastic performance as King Herod in our Christmas play 😊
RJ	Millie	For always showing care and kindness towards everyone – you are such a fantastic role model to your classmates.
1W	Lucie-Mae	For fantastic involvement in all of our end of term activities. Lucie –Mae always has a positive attitude and remains fully engaged no matter the task. Well done!
1E	Carter	Carter really shone in our Christmas performance, giving his all to remember the song lyrics and sang them well despite feeling nervous. Good effort Carter!
2CP	Chase	Using perseverance with his writing and maths skills. Chase never gives up and always gives 100% effort. We are super proud!
2D	All in 2D	For a fantastic performance of Boogie Woogie Nativity! Remembering all their lines and knowing when to be on stage at the right moment. Well Done!
3A	Alessa	For creating a wonderful stained-glass window in RE using tracing paper, PVA glue and tissue paper. Well done, Alessa!
3E	Hunter	For excellent effort and engagement when completing his stained-glass window in RE.
4R	Theo	For creating a fabulous cross stitch for his calendar and for showing kindness when supporting his friends. Well done Theo.
4N	Poppy	For being a sewing expert. She completed her own and then helped the rest of the class.
5D	Ella	For trying in every lesson with her handwriting to ensure it is neat and that letters are following the correct formation. Well done, Ella!
5H	All in 5H	For engaging enthusiastically with all the activities during the last week of term. You have produced some fantastic artwork. You all improved your writing during the Buster the Dog activity. Well done!
6P	All in Year 6	A great week filled with excitement and creativity. You have all demonstrated great manners and behaviour whilst on our theatre trip and have worked well within teams when creating your Ferris Wheel models. Well done!
6H		

British Values at Woodlands Academy of Learning!

We actively promote British values in school to ensure our young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain. Pupils are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance and understand that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to it's law. We teach British Values through Picture News:



The question of the week that we will be discussing in school and that you can discuss at home too:

What role will Reading play in our future?



Mutual Respect and Tolerance

The National Year of Reading encourages everyone to explore a wide range of texts. By sharing what we enjoy and listening to others, we can learn about different experiences and viewpoints. This helps us read and learn together with respect.



Can your child tell you about the British Values? We use this handy reminder in school!

Dates on the horizon

Thursday 15th January	Applications for Reception for September 2026 deadline (see info below)
Friday 16th January	Y5 Visit to Selly Manor
Tuesday 20th January	Year 6 SATs meeting
Tuesday 20th January	2CP Class assembly
Tuesday 27th January	4N Class assembly
Thursday 29th January	Y1 Visit to Ironbridge
Tuesday 3rd Feb	1W Class assembly
Monday 9th February	Y5/6 Netball Tournament TBC
Tuesday 10th February	2D Class assembly
Friday 13th February	Break up for half term at the end of the day

Monday 16th February—Friday 20th February—HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 23rd February	School opens to children as normal
Tuesday 3rd March	RG Class assembly
Tuesday 10th March	1E Class Assembly
Week Beg 16th March – Easter Extravaganza	
Wednesday 18th March	Y2 visit to Dudley Zoo
Tuesday 24th March	RJ Class assembly
Friday 27th March	School closes at the end of the day for Easter Break
Monday 13th April	School open to children as normal
Tuesday 21st April	4R Class assembly
Wednesday 22nd April	Y3 visit to Walsall Art Gallery



WINNING CLASSES FOR THE LAST WEEK OF AUTUMN TERM WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE!

Well done to our children who arrive on time, before 8:50, and so are ready for the important first lesson of the day.

Best classes during the last week of term who earn extra play time are:

2CP 97.5% and 4N 99.2%

Fantastic!

Is your child due to start Reception next September?



Walsall Council

The application form process is now open on Walsall admissions website.

Parents and carers are advised to submit applications on time before **15 January 2026** for primary school applications.

Children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 are due to start reception in September 2026.

Please remember that having a place in Woodlands nursery does not guarantee a place in the Reception class—parents/carers must submit a separate application for a place in the Reception class.

The applications process is all online. Offers will be sent by email to on-time applicants on **16 April 2026** for primary school places.

Further information and help with school admissions can be found on the council's website: [Apply for a primary school place | Walsall Council](#)



Walsall
Family Hubs

Supporting families to live happier lives

Walsall Family Hub

There's plenty of exciting and **FREE** activities to do and enjoy this month at our four Family Hubs;

- Saturday Stay and play session / PEEP Stay and plays
- Dads Groups – Dads for Dads Peer Support and Stay and plays
- Breastfeeding support groups and Introducing solid food workshops
- Walsall Works drop-ins for careers advice and help
- PEEP Antenatal workshops
- Sensory room at our North Hub
- Free therapy service for pregnant families & with child up to the age of 3 (Secure Beginnings)
- Parenting workshops including first aid, online, antenatal

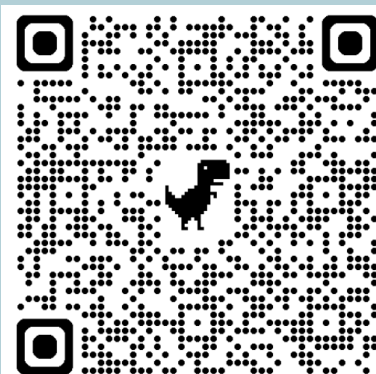
.....And lots more!

Take a look at our Family Hubs website for more information on what's on offer in Walsall for families <https://walsallfamilyhubs.co.uk/> and follow and share our posts on Facebook [WalsallfamiliesintheKnow](#)

Did you know we also have recently launched some new resources for families ??

- Free Apps available to download with a Walsall postcode – EasyPeasy, Dads Pad and Baby Buddy!
- Home learning booklet for families - [Supporting your Child's Learning and Development at Home :: Walsall Together Family Hub](#)
- Best Start for Life booklet for expectant and new families - [Pregnancy :: Walsall Together Family Hub](#)

Family Information Service



Better Health Start for Life

Top tips for TEETH

Children aged 0-3 and pregnant women

1. Protect your PREGNANCY smile
During pregnancy, you're more vulnerable to gum disease. Remember, your dental check-ups and treatments are FREE up to a year after your baby's birth.

2. Help them brush TWICE A DAY to keep decay away
From the moment their first tooth appears, it's time to start helping your child brush twice a day.

3. PROTECT THEIR SMILE with regular visits to the dentist
Under 16s are entitled to FREE NHS dental treatment in England.

4. Remember... NO NEED TO RINSE after brushing
Don't rinse with water after brushing as it washes away fluoride. As they get older teach them to spit instead.

5. SKIP THE SUGAR they're sweet enough!
Brushing before bedtime is important. Don't offer food after brushing teeth at night. To protect their smile, offer only water to drink (or milk for younger babies).

6. Go with THE FLOW
Introducing your baby to free-flow cups from 6 months can help avoid tooth decay.

Search **Start for Life** or scan the QR code for more tips and advice for taking care of your little one's teeth.

Helpful Info for Families!

NHS Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust

Fun FRIENDS (4-7 years)
Groups for children and young people to help improve self esteem and confidence.

The **Fun FRIENDS** groups are for children aged between **4-7 years**. These programs teach children to **engage resilience** early on, **encouraging them to thrive and smoothly transition into school life**. Each course runs for **8 weeks** and are **1 hour sessions between 4pm-5pm**. (Venue is dependent on availability. Please ask us to find out). Parents/carers will be in the face to face sessions and will be involved in the activities. The groups will be run by staff from the **school nursing service**.

The secret to the Fun FRIENDS Program is the group activities that help children to **develop new skills**. There are several **different play-focused activities**, which help teach the following skills in a way that can be easily grasped, understood and used in everyday life:

- Smiling and making eye contact when communicating
- Speaking with a brave and confident voice
- Talking about and understanding feelings in themselves and others
- Helping other people including family, peers, and teachers
- Self-awareness of body clues, e.g., tense means stressed, butterflies mean nervous
- Relaxation techniques to relax the body and mind during stressful situations
- Approaching groups of peers and making friends
- Trying new things, and different approaches to problem solving
- Identifying negative thoughts and turning them into positive thoughts

To book on a session or for further information please email: wht.wellbeing@nhs.net

(Please note that there are limited places available on our face-to-face groups. Instructions will be sent to parents/carers once you book a place for your child)

kooth

Scan to get started or visit: kooth.com

It can be hard to know what to do when you have something on your mind. That's why Kooth is here. We are totally free and anonymous — and we're here whenever you need us. Go to kooth.com whenever you're worried, feeling low — or just need someone to listen.

Feeling worried?
Text chat with our team. They're here to support you with whatever you're going through. We won't ask for your name or address and you don't need a referral from your doctor.

Feeling alone?
Use our forums and discussion boards to get advice, find people who feel the same — and to help others. You can also share your experiences anytime by submitting a poem or article.

Feeling unsure?
It may help you to write your feelings down, or to set a personal goal. At Kooth, you can set goals and use an online journal whenever you choose.

Feeling lost?
We have a tonne of helpful podcasts, videos and articles on all kinds of topics, from self harm, anxiety and depression to coming out, relationships and self care.

Free to use | No doctor's referral needed | We're a BACP* accredited service

Live text chats with our team from midday to 10pm on weekdays and from 6pm to 10pm at weekends.

Start here kooth.com: free access to support today.

*BACP stands for British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy. We're an accredited service, and our practitioners are either BACP accredited or working towards it. You're in safe hands.

Transitions, like moving to a new school year or starting secondary school, can be tough. Nearly **1 in 4 pupils in England** become disengaged during this period, often feeling less safe, less heard, and less happy in school.

That's where Kooth's free digital mental health support for young people can make a difference.

Here to help you juggle family life

In the beautiful chaos of parenthood, balance is everything — but it can sometimes be hard to find.

Childcare Choices is here to support you with expanded childcare options that can help give your child a great start, and make the juggle a little easier.

HM Government | **Childcare Choices**

DIGITAL DIVIDE

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MORE DIGITALLY SAVVY?

Our team are here to support you to navigate your digital devices.

Including:

- Downloading & using the NHS App
- Support using mobile phones, tablets, laptops, iPads & other devices.
- Downloading & using specific apps
- Search the internet
- Communicate safely online
- Create jobsearch accounts
- Create an email address and more!

The digital support is tailored to your needs!

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION
Manor Farm CA - 01922 614316
Bloxwich Community Partnership - 01922 403351

Tackling tough moments, getting help now

Is your child on a waiting list to be seen by a paediatric health service?

Come and join us at Manor Farm Community Association for the first meeting of the Supported Waiting Network.

We have guest speakers to advise on a variety of monthly topics and many services who support with access to additional support for you and your child. Come and chat to other parents, find out what additional support is available across the partnership with our monthly themed support group.



9.30am-11.30am

The last Wednesday of every month

Manor Farm Community Association
King George Cres, Rushall, Walsall, WS4 1EU

CAMHS Parent/Carer Workshops

Come and join our Parent/Carer Workshops, run by Black Country CAMHS services (on Zoom for 1.5 hours)! Groups held 12pm - 1.30pm.

We know that suffering from mental health difficulties does not only affect the person struggling, but also the family around them. Parenting a child/young person with mental health difficulties can create additional challenges for parents.

We are running workshops exploring a range of difficulties that children/young people may experience, that can impact their emotional wellbeing.

11.06.25 - Anxiety

09.07.25 - Low Mood / Depression

17.09.25 - Autistic Spectrum Conditions

15.10.25 - Trauma and Attachment

12.11.25 - Anger / Conduct Issues

10.12.25 - Self Harming Behaviours

14.01.26 - Anxiety / OCD



To register your interest telephone **Andrea Ehgartner** on **01922 607400**



bchft_camhs



@CAMHS_BCHFT



www.blackcountrychildrens.nhs.uk/

Welcome to S.N.A.P Playground



S.N.A.P. is a Special Needs Adventure Playground.

It provides a safe, secure and non-judgemental play area for children and adults with special needs. Siblings without special needs are also welcome.

Walsall School Nursing Service

Information for Parents and Carers

Who are School Nurses?

School Nurses are qualified nurses with specialist training in public health for children, young people and families.

School Nurses are supported by staff nurses, nursery nurses, clinical support workers and administrative staff.

Where do School Nurses deliver their service?

The service is delivered to children and young people from when they start full time school until 19 years old (and up to 25 years for young people with additional needs), who attend a Walsall School in a range of places including schools, community venues, homes and clinics.

What do School Nurses do?

Promote the health, wellbeing and protection of children and young people in Walsall. Identify health needs and offer early intervention. Work with other health professionals, GPs, children's services, voluntary services, schools and other agencies to ensure the health needs of Walsall children and young people are met.



How can the School Nurse Service support your child or young person?

Promote healthy lifestyles

- Maintaining a healthy weight (inc. physical activity, healthy eating and advice for worries about eating disorders)
- Preventative education about tobacco, alcohol and substance misuse
- Promoting good oral health
- Screening and support to provide and increase immunisation uptake
- Relationships, sexual health and contraception
- NCMP - National Child Measurement program - Children in reception and year 6 are offered height and weight checks

Keep children and young people safe and well

- Safeguarding against knife, gun and gang crime
- Promoting good mental health to enhance resilience (inc. bullying, including physical/on-line, peer pressure)
- Promoting safety and reducing accidental injuries
- Safeguarding vulnerable children and young people
- Looked after children

Support children and young people who have additional needs

- Long term health conditions e.g. asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and anaphylaxis
- Disability and complex health needs
- Continence

Helping children and young people make transitions

- Starting school
- Moving to secondary school
- Preparing for adulthood
- Changes and life events



Online support for you and your family

Health for Kids

www.healthforkids.co.uk
Games and activities for children and pages for parent/carers.



Health for Teens

www.healthforteens.co.uk
Blogs and information for young people.



Contact us

Tel:

01922 423349

Email:

schoolnursingadmin@nhs.net
bcicb.walsallhnp0-19.spa@nhs.net

Website:

www.walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk/
our-services/school-nursing/
parents-and-carers



Parent ChatHealth text:

07520 634 909

Teen ChatHealth text:

07480 635 363

There are so many services you can access, ask in school for more information!