



Friday 26th September 25

Dear parents and carers,

Our final attendance figures for the academic year 2024 - 2025 are really great and place Woodlands attendance above the National average, which is just fantastic. We want to say thank you to all our families and to all our children who attended school, every day that they could, to help us in this achievement. However, these attendance figures are so much more than numbers, it shows our families commitment to their children's learning and to their children's friendships because every day really does matter. Good attendance leads to success in every area of a child's development. I am not sure all our families are aware of the government changes to unauthorised absence that were introduced in September 2024 and continue into this year, therefore this information is over the page.

We are about to embark on a new journey in our writing curriculum. Writing is an area of the curriculum that many children find tricky and we want to enable our children to enjoy writing and simultaneously improve their writing skills. Therefore we are purchasing and implementing a brand new scheme that we are very excited about called 'I am a Clever Writer'. We shall be using our fifth training day to enable our staff to be trained in this new approach. The training day will be on Monday 1st December when school will be closed to children. We are hoping to launch our new writing scheme in January 2026 and will keep you updated with our progress.

Next week, we shall be celebrating harvest and welcome any donations for our local food bank in school. In assembly, we shall be thinking about what we take for granted, how it affects us if we don't have enough to eat and how we can make a difference to other people's lives through our donations - even one tin of beans would make a difference! The 'shopping list' of items that would help the food bank are later in the newsletter.

In assembly this week we talked about how wonderful it would be if every child could donate at least one item of food and what a significant difference Woodlands would collectively make through this donation.

Mrs Newton

I am sure our parents are missing Marvellous Me – I know our staff are!

The company are upgrading the system and we are about to be moved over very soon to the new system so we can then get our communications system back up and running. Access information and logins will come out to parents as soon as we are moved to the new system.

Parents Consultation

A link to a letter should have come home to you this week about arranging an appointment with your child's class teacher for parent consultation.

Face-to-face teacher meetings for Nursery to Y6 classes will be held on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th October – between 4pm & 6pm.

Appointments will need to be booked in advance, and this can be done easily via the 'Parents Evening' tab on your child's Scopay account, (www.scopay.com) If you have not yet registered your child's account, please contact the school office who will issue a new account letter.

Appointment bookings will go live on Scopay at 7am on Monday 29th September and will close at 1:00pm on Monday 13th October.

If your child is in The Treehouse then you do not need to make an appointment because Miss Smith is meeting each parent at a different time. You also do not need to make an appointment if your child has SEND and the class teacher has met with you separately.

Unauthorised Absence

We are now in the second year of Government changes to unauthorised school absence, this includes absence for holidays. These changes were introduced in September 2024 and continue into the new school year.

This affects children with low attendance, children who have absences without valid reasons either in a block or over sporadic days and this also includes absence due to term time holidays.

Previously, fines for non-school attendance were fixed but now they are cumulative and I am not sure all our families are aware of this.

As can be seen in the poster, the National changes are: The first 5 days unauthorised absence will incur an £80 fine if paid straight away. The second absence will incur a fine of £160. Whereas the third absence of 5 days over 10 weeks could result in legal action that could result in a criminal conviction for the adult.

Therefore, if a fixed penalty notice was issued last year and there is further unauthorised absence so that a second fixed penalty notice is issued this year then the fine will increase.

School policy is that if children are absent for longer than three days then our attendance office will undertake a home visit in order to undertake a safe and well visit.

If a holiday is suspected then the guidelines are that we refer to the Local Authority. If children are absent for 5 days or longer then we urge families to gain evidence that they are not on holiday, such as medical evidence.

The national guidelines are in the Walsall poster to provide further information for our families.

From September 2024, the new National Framework for issuing penalty notices will apply.

Penalty Notice Fines will continue to be issued per parent per child.

For example: 3 Siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a Penalty Notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.

The 10-school week period can span over different terms and school years.

1 First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term Time Holiday or Irregular School Attendance the Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

2 Second Offence
(within 3 years of the First Offence)

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second Penalty Notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first notice, the second Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

(Unpaid Penalty Notices after 28 days may result in a prosecution)

3 Third Offence and any further Offences
(within 3 years of the First Offence)

The third time that an offence is committed for either a term time holiday and/or Irregular attendance, a Penalty Notice will not be issued, the case may be proceeded straight to prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure.

If found guilty of the offence of 'failure to secure their child's regular attendance at a school' the Magistrates can impose a fine up to £1,000.

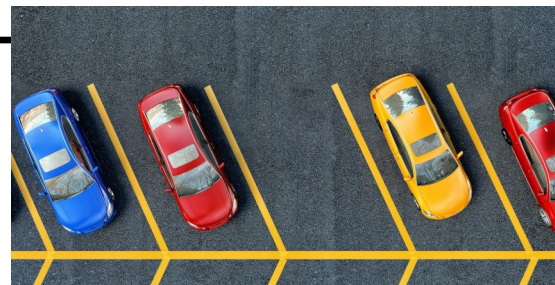
 **Walsall Council**

PROUD OF OUR PAST OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE

A plea to Woodies parents...

A plea from staff to our Woodies parents: Please can parents park in a designated parking bay when dropping off or collecting their child from Woodies. Some parents leave their car outside of the bays that blocks staff parking spaces which makes it harder for staff to park when they arrive at work.

Considerate parking helps everyone and makes for a happier start to the day!



Achieving Out of School!

The football season is back in full swing! A significant number of our children are on a football team which involves lots of commitment, from weekly training to weekly matches.

Jude was awarded Parents Player of the Week for playing in different positions from defender to striker, whereas Callum was awarded Coaches Player of the Week for saving goals.

Alfie is also excellent at saving goals and Phoebe-Rose is good at scoring goals!



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

Can sport bring people closer together?

**What's happening
in the news this week?**



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

29th September - 5th October 2025

Running charity, parkrun, has announced a new project called parkrun primary, which is bringing junior running events closer to primary schools.

**Our linking
Woodlands value is
'Motivated'**



Who are the SUPERSTARS this week?



Class	Name	Reason
Tree-house	Patrick	For being a fantastic friend to others during his time in The Treehouse. Patrick was very supportive and made great behaviour choices to help his friend. Well done Patrick!
NAM	Jacob	For using the correct mathematical language tallest and shortest when we were measuring ourselves in nursery.
NPM	Fateh	For being creative with the natural materials, using them to create facial features.
RG	Arayah	For beginning to show more confidence with adults around her and trying hard to answer questions in our learning time J
RJ	Heidi-Louise	For always giving 100% effort in all of her learning and smashing her phonics! Well done Heidi-Louise!
1W	Noah	For always trying his best to create super sentences. Noah puts 100% effort into every piece of work and always does so with a Woodlands smile. Well done, Noah!
1E	Zachary	For thinking of detailed adjectives to describe the properties of materials in our Science learning.
2CP	Perin	Perin worked really hard to find the most suitable adjectives to describe nouns and create exciting expanded noun phrases. Well done Perin J
2D	Elsa	Elsa has settled into Year 2 amazingly, and has been working really hard in all her lessons. Well done Elsa!
3A	Jaxon L	For Jaxon's fantastic work in maths last week when adding and subtracting 1, 10 and 100 to a three-digit number. Jaxon completed his learning challenges accurately and independently. Well done Jaxon!
3E	Ted R	For his fantastic explanations in his maths and for impressing by using the inverse operations to work backwards when solving his digging deeper challenges in maths. WOW!
4R	Grayson	For using great tone and shading techniques in his still life drawings, well done Grayson.
4N	Nevaeh	Always wanting to make notes in lessons so she can refer back to them. This really helped you in your History lesson this week.
5D	Myah	For a wonderfully expressive diary entry as Michael from our class text 'Kensuke's Kingdom'. Well done Myah!
5H	Sam	For being a superb role model and helping a new addition to Woodlands settle into our school. Well done Sam.
6P	Harley	Making fantastic contributions to our learning about World War II. He's shown great curiosity and shared thoughtful ideas.
6H	Mia	For continually having a positive work ethic. She always puts 100% into everything that she does. Well done Mia a great role model. Keep it up.

Dates on the horizon

Week of 29th September Whole school Harvest theme (Food Bank donations are very welcome)

Monday 29th September Parent consultation booking opens on Scopay

Tuesday 30th September 2:45, 6P Class Assembly, parents invited

Thursday 2nd October 2:30 Y6 Parent meeting for Bryntysilio

Tuesday 7th October 2:45, 5D Class Assembly, parents invited

Wednesday 8th October 2:15 and repeated at 4:30 Reception Parent meeting about phonics

Thursday 9th October Y2 visit to The Black Country Museum

Monday 29th September Parent consultation booking closes

Monday 13th to Thursday 16th October Book Fair after school

Wednesday 15th October and Thursday 16th October Parent Consultation

Monday 20th October Explore and Discovery Week

Monday 20th October Y6 to Bryntysilio for the week

Tuesday 21st October 2:45, 3E Class Assembly, parents invited

Tuesday 21st October After school, Nursery and Reception Pumpkin Party with an adult

Wednesday 22nd October Treehouse trip for our saplings

Thursday 23rd October After school, Halloween Disco for Y1 to Y6

Friday 24th October School closes for half term at the end of the school day

Monday 3rd November School opens. All children in Y1 to Y6 to be in winter uniform

Friday 7th November Y3 & Y4 parent deadline for ordering & paying for parent Christmas dinner

Monday 10th November Anti Bullying week starts with Odd Socks Day

Tuesday 11th November Remembrance Day

Friday 14th November Children In Need

Tuesday 18th November 2:45, 6H Class Assembly, parents invited

Tuesday 25th November 2:45, 5H Class Assembly, parents invited

Wednesday 26th November Christmas Dinner with your child for 3E

Thursday 27th November Christmas Dinner with your child for 3A

Thursday 27th November Evening Walsall Arena Performance by the choir

Monday 1st December Teacher Training Day, school closed to children.

Wednesday 3rd December Christmas Fayre after school

Wednesday 3rd December Y4 visit to Black Country Living Museum

Wednesday 10th December Christmas Dinner with your child for 4N

Thursday 11th December Christmas Dinner with your child for 4R

Tuesday 16th December Y6 visit to the Theatre

Tuesday 16th December Christmas Performances by Nursery to Y2

Wednesday 17th December Christmas Performances by Nursery to Y2

IMPORTANT: CALLING ALL YEAR 6 PARENTS

Families with a child in Year 6 who live in Walsall should have received a letter about the application process for Secondary Schools from Woodlands

Families need to apply online, through the below link, to select the choices for their child.

[Apply for a secondary school place | Walsall Council](#)

The portal is already open so if you know which schools you would like to apply for then you can complete and submit the form now. The portal will close on 31st October so it is important that every family applies before this date because otherwise a school will be selected for your child which might not be your preference and might be located a distance from your home.

Parents can list up to 5 school preferences, they recommend that parents use all 5 preferences.

If you are still unsure then please do go and visit the Secondary Schools that you are interested in. Many Secondary Schools are currently holding Open Evenings when you can go and visit and meet the staff. The dates of these events will be on the Secondary School's website.

Parents will be notified of the school that has been allocated for your child on the 2nd March 2026.

If you live in a different authority then please access your council website to find the relevant information. You can apply for Walsall schools through their application form.

Drop-in sessions

At our drop-in sessions, we will be available to help you make your child's secondary school application.

Location	Date	Time
Willenhall Library, 1 Walsall St, Willenhall WV13 2EX	Tuesday 14 October 2025	9am to 12pm
Darlaston Library, 1 King St, Darlaston, Wednesbury WS10 8DE	Tuesday 14 October 2025	1pm to 4pm
Lichfield Street Hub, Lichfield St, Walsall WS1 1TR	Wednesday 15 October 2025	9am to 5pm
Blakenall Village Centre, 79 Thames Road, Bloxwich WS3 1LZ	Thursday 16 October 2025	1pm to 4pm

WINNING CLASSES LAST WEEK 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 who earn extra play time are:

RG 98% and 4N 98%

What a fantastic start to the new academic year!





SHOPPING LIST

BLACK COUNTRY FOODBANK HELPS VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN CRISIS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF AN EMERGENCY FOOD AND TOILETRY PARCEL, WHILE A LONGER-TERM SOLUTION IS DEVELOPED

PLEASE SUPPORT US BY DONATING ITEMS FROM OUR SHOPPING LIST

- CARTONS OF UHT MILK
- TEA BAGS BOX OF 40'S
- SMALL JARS OF COFFEE
- CARTONS OF LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE
- CORDIAL/SQUASH
- TINNED POTATOES/MASH
- TINNED CHOPPED TOMATOES
- TINNED VEGETABLES
- TINNED FISH
- TINNED SOUP
- TINNED READY MEALS (MEATBALLS/MACARONI CHEESE/CHILLI)
- TINNED MEAT
- TINNED FRAY BENTOS PIES
- BREAKFAST CEREAL
- PASTA SAUCE
- SAVOURY RICE
- INSTANT NOODLES
- TINNED FRUIT
- TINNED CUSTARD/RICE PUDDING
- BARS OF SOAP
- SHOWER GEL
- TOILET ROLL
- ROLL ON DEODORANT
- SHAMPOO



PLEASE SCAN THE **QR CODE** TO RECEIVE A WEEKLY REMINDER OF OUR SHORTAGES LIST ON YOUR SHOPPING DAY

