

Headteacher's Blog - Week Beginning 13th October 2025

It's been another full and rewarding week at Woodlands, rich with learning, community spirit, and opportunities to see our children and staff shine. As we move deeper into the autumn term, it's wonderful to see how routines have settled, curiosity is thriving, and a real sense of purpose is taking hold across the school. The only routine that hasn't been established (for about 8 years and despite best efforts from us all at school) is that there are parents who, no matter how much we say you are not allowed to drive down Eddisbury Road at certain times, or double park, or park on double yellows or park in the staff car park, or block neighbours' driveways, think they are above everyone else and simply do as they please – one actually hit another parent yesterday when mounting the curb in a hurry. There was a further incident after school today in which a vehicle was driving down Eddisbury Road in a dangerous manner whilst children and staff were crossing to attend after-school club. Thankfully, no one was hurt, but it serves as an important reminder for us all to remain cautious and considerate. The driver of the vehicle also used offensive language towards our member of staff and in the vicinity of children - this also is not acceptable. We have run out of ideas for how to manage this, despite not being within our remit, but we do live in hope that one day all of our parents, including the small handful of antisocial ones, will try to keep our community safe and simply adhere to the rules! As you know, **Eddisbury Road should only be accessed by residents and blue badge holders between 8.30am-9am and 2.45pm-3.30pm** - this is to help keep our children, families, and staff safe.

Learning and Enrichment

The week began with our ever-popular Breakfast Club Archery, where KS2 pupils started their day with focus and energy on the junior field. It's always impressive to see how many children are willing to arrive early, ready to give their best before lessons have even begun! Alongside this, our academic clubs continue to flourish, with sessions in reading, writing, phonics, maths and times tables running throughout the week. These additional learning opportunities are already showing a positive impact - especially for our Year 6 pupils who are demonstrating maturity and motivation in their approach to learning.

Tuesday brought something a little different, as Andy Martin from Mersey Rivers Trust led workshops with our Year 3 and 4 pupils. These sessions gave the children a hands-on understanding of river ecosystems and sustainability, linking beautifully to their geography and science curricula. Meanwhile, our PTA Autumn Glow Discos brought warmth and sparkle to a chilly October afternoon, with music, laughter, and dance filling the halls from Reception right up to Year 6. Thank you to our PTA and all the staff who stayed to make the event such a success.

Visits, Trips, and Professional Growth

We also welcomed Amy Wright, LA EYFS consultant, who spent time with Mrs Watts and the early years team, offering insights into provision and practice in the foundation stage. Her feedback was extremely positive, and it was heartening to see how the team continue to reflect, refine, and celebrate the unique learning journeys of our youngest pupils.

Later in the week, our Year 5 and 6 pupils enjoyed their long-awaited trip to Park Hall Farm, giving them a wonderful opportunity to learn about the trenches, Royal Guard Museum and life through the World Wars bringing context and meaning to what we teach in the classroom, and the children returned full of questions and exciting stories of what they had learnt.

Staff professional development remained strong, too. Members of the team attended training on the New Writing Framework 2025, keeping us ahead of curriculum developments, while others took part in ELSA and subject leadership training, ensuring our school continues to meet both academic and emotional needs of all of our pupils. Our SLT meeting midweek focused on pupil progress, with phase leaders sharing insights and strategies to help every child achieve their best. It's this collective, reflective approach that makes our

team so strong. We also welcomed our new Associate School Improvement Associate into school, Ms Nicky Dowling, which was super exciting!

Supporting, Connecting, and Communicating

This week also marked the Parent Governor nomination deadline, an important part of our democratic process as a school community. Thank you to both parents who have put themselves forward – whoever is successful will ensure that partnership and perspective remain, as ever, at the forefront of what we do, vital to shaping our continued growth and improvement.

Our Reception team hosted a Read Write Inc. meeting for parents on Wednesday evening, under the auspices of Miss Skillen and Mrs Williams, helping families understand how we teach phonics and early reading. Engagement in phonics and reading from parents makes such a difference at this stage, and we're grateful to everyone who attended and asked such thoughtful questions.

Looking Ahead and Final Thoughts

As we approach the final week before half term, a few gentle reminders: Parents' Evening bookings close at midnight tonight, so please make sure you've secured your slot. We're really looking forward to welcoming you online to share your child's progress and celebrate their achievements.

Next week also promises more wonderful learning opportunities and events, not to mention with harvest celebrations on the horizon - a chance to come together, reflect on gratitude, and support our wider community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, encouragement, and partnership. Woodlands remains a truly special place to learn and work - a community where kindness, curiosity, and commitment shine every single day.

Warm regards,
Dr Victoria Carr
Headteacher