

Headteacher's Blog - Week Beginning 20th October 2025

As we reach our final day before half term, it's been another busy and rewarding few days here at Woodlands — a time filled with connection, reflection and a wonderful sense of shared purpose. The children have worked incredibly hard this half term, and it's been lovely to see so many families engaging with school life this week through parents' evenings and assemblies.

Parent Partnerships and Pupil Progress

We began the week with parent drop-in sessions across all year groups for 'book looks' - a fantastic opportunity for families to chat informally with teachers and celebrate the progress children are making. These short, focused interactions are invaluable; they strengthen the home-school partnership and remind us just how invested our families are in their children's learning. The Reception Stay and play session had a wonderful turnout and the children were so proud to show their adults their morning routine, classroom environments and share activities with them. RP had a spooky stay and play which was enjoyed by all that attended.

Mid-week, our online Parents' Evenings took place, with strong attendance across both days. Thank you to everyone who took the time to meet with teachers, ask questions, and share positive feedback. The genuine warmth and interest shown by parents makes a huge difference - it reminds staff why their work matters so much, and it allows us to work together in setting clear, achievable goals for the term ahead.

The pupils in 3BS helped us to trial a potential addition to our behaviour policy this past couple of weeks and I want to thank them publicly for being so open to trialling something new – on reflection and as a result of this trial, we have decided not to go ahead with rolling this out across the school.

Learning, Visits and Enrichment

This week also included a range of exciting enrichment opportunities. Our Year 3 pupils continued their judo sessions, growing in confidence and discipline with each week. Year 5 and 6 girls represented the school in tag rugby at EPSV winning 5 out of 7 matches, demonstrating not only skill but fantastic teamwork and resilience - we're so proud of their sportsmanship and effort.

We're delighted to offer a wide range of academic clubs across the school, each designed to support, extend, and challenge our pupils in different areas. Our academic clubs also provide additional stretch and challenge opportunities for children working above expectations.

Each club has a letter outlining its focus and activities, but if you're unsure, please don't hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher. We strongly encourage children to attend any clubs they are invited to (Invitations for next term will be sent out after half term for academic clubs to recommence the week beginning 10th November). They are hugely beneficial, and, having reviewed pupil progress, we've already seen excellent progress from those who took part in Autumn 1. Don't waste the opportunity if it is presented to your child!

We also welcomed prospective parents to an EYFS tour on Monday afternoon, it was lovely to take them around and show off our fabulous children and staff. It's always a joy to share our early years environment with families considering joining the Woodlands community. The enthusiasm from parents was matched by the pride our team feel in the nurturing, stimulating environment we've created for our youngest learners.

Meanwhile, staff continued to invest in their own professional growth. Mrs Watts attended the PEACE Project training, deepening our inclusion and wellbeing provision, while Miss Roberts and I

took part in a Maths Hub workshop exploring mastery and reasoning strategies over in Runcorn. Mrs Liversey completed Day 2 of the attendance training she has been working on and all relevant staff will complete Phonics training tomorrow. Continuous learning for staff ensures that what happens in classrooms is always underpinned by the latest evidence and best practice.

Leadership, Development and Celebration

Leadership and governance also remained active this week. We welcomed Governor Daryl Pickering into school for a data and attainment monitoring visit - governor visits are vital in maintaining accountability and celebrating the strengths of our provision and I would urge you to exercise your democratic right to vote by voting in our parent governor election. I joined an online session to lead on having "Difficult Conversations", part of our ongoing professional reflection on communication, leadership, and emotional intelligence in leadership, something that was well-received.

As I said, on Friday, staff will take part in an INSET day, with the morning devoted to Read Write Inc. training led by Mrs Williams, and the afternoon focused on subject leader development time and curriculum. This protected space for curriculum and professional dialogue ensures that our provision continues to evolve and that every subject area receives the time, focus, and love it deserves.

Harvest and Community Spirit

A particular highlight of the week was Year 1 Harvest Assembly on Thursday morning - a beautiful celebration of gratitude, sharing and singing. Thank you to all the parents who joined us. These moments remind us that schools are about far more than lessons and targets - they are places where values take root, and where children learn to see themselves as part of something bigger than themselves.

Looking Ahead

As we head into half term, I want to thank our whole school community - staff, families, governors, and, of course, our amazing children - for making the first half of the autumn term so successful. It has been filled with learning, laughter and teamwork in equal measure. Please don't forget to vote in our Parent Governor Election, via the link sent to you recently. This is your chance to choose our next parent governor. The vote will close at 9am on Thursday 6th November, with the result announced on the 7th.

Have a wonderful, restful break when it arrives. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another exciting half term ahead, full of opportunity and growth.

Warm regards,
Dr Victoria Carr
Headteacher