

## Headteacher Blog - Week Beginning 5 January 2026

Well, that was a week! Welcome back and Happy New Year to all our Woodlands families! It has been an absolute joy to see the children returning to school this week, despite the snowy disruption on Monday, full of stories, smiles and (in many cases) a surprising amount of energy for January. There is something special about the first week back after the Christmas holidays - a sense of fresh starts, renewed routines and that familiar hum of learning coming back to life across the school.

We began the week with a strong focus on pastoral care and reintegration, ensuring that pupils returning after time away were supported calmly and thoughtfully, not everyone enjoys the same kind of holidays and we are respectful of this. Behind the scenes, our pastoral and safeguarding teams have worked closely together, meeting with families and professionals to ensure children's wellbeing remains at the heart of everything we do. Indeed, I attended a full day of safeguarding training, in a freezing local tennis club, on Wednesday to ensure compliance and up to date information sharing remains at the forefront of all we do in our school safeguarding team.

We were delighted to welcome back our Wrexham University student teachers, who joined us from Tuesday to Friday as part of their block placement. They have settled in brilliantly and are already becoming valued members of our classrooms. Alongside this, our Year 6 pupils began their Bikeability training, naturally this was not outside on Monday, developing essential life skills around road safety, confidence and independence - skills that will serve them well far beyond their time here.

One of the real highlights of the week was welcoming Heidi Cato, a parent at the school and representative from Lloyds Bank, who delivered a full day of age-appropriate financial capability workshops on Wednesday. The sessions were carefully tailored to each age group and covered everything from understanding money and saving, to making thoughtful choices and planning ahead. The children were thoroughly engaged and asked some wonderfully perceptive questions. We're very pleased that Heidi will be returning next week to deliver the second day of her Moneybox workshops, building on this excellent work and further strengthening our commitment to real-world learning. Again, if any other parents have a job they would like to talk to our children about, do contact your child's class teacher to arrange a convenient time to come in.

Thursday brought a much-anticipated trip for Year 4 (and a special helper, Paul, who made a surprise appearance!). They all headed to the Floral Pavilion to see Robin Hood and Babes in the Wood! Thanks to PTA support, this was a truly memorable experience, and the children were buzzing with excitement from the moment they left school. We were especially proud to see our very own Daisy D shine on stage as part of the performance - a real Woodlands star moment! Trips like this are such an important part of children's cultural education, helping to bring stories, theatre and the arts vividly to life and as for Daisy, I asked the children on their return just how proud of her they were and bar none, they said they were 'super proud'.

This week has also been full of smaller but equally wonderful moments of celebration. Scarlett F was awarded an incredible 100 house points for memorising Pi to 71 decimal places and confidently reciting it in the office - a jaw-dropping achievement that left several adults questioning their own mathematical recall! Call me generous but just before the holiday, Isla M was awarded 50 house points for producing some truly outstanding writing: sophisticated, mature, and clearly shaped by a deep love of reading. Moments like these remind us how powerful encouragement and recognition can be. I was chuffed to bits.

We also want to share a heartfelt thank you following our Christmas holiday camp, run in partnership with Vara Sports & Education. Joey Fontana, Managing Director, wrote to express his gratitude for the opportunity to use the school site, highlighting how together we were able to support families, provide a safe and positive space for local children, and promote our wonderful school community far and wide. Special mention was made of Pete and David, who were described as “absolutely amazing” and a joy to work with!! We are incredibly proud of this partnership and look forward to working together again in the future.

To add a little fun to the weeks ahead, we'd also like to let families know that there will be a parent lunch in school with Year 4 on Tuesday, and a SpongeBob-themed lunch for the whole school next week on Thursday - something we're sure will bring plenty of smiles (and possibly some underwater jokes) to the dinner halls!

As we move forward into this term, I'd like to thank you all for the warm welcome back, your ongoing support, and the strong sense of community that makes Woodlands such a special place. It's been a busy, purposeful and uplifting first week of 2026, and we're excited for everything still to come!

Warmest regards,

Dr Carr