

Headteacher Blog – Week Beginning 12 January 2026

This week at Woodlands has been one of those wonderfully full weeks where learning, opportunity and community all seem to come together at once. From outdoor adventures and sporting success to quiet pastoral work and curriculum enrichment, there has been a real sense of momentum across school.

We continued to welcome our Wrexham University Y1 Foundation student teachers throughout the week, alongside a Chester University PGCE student joining the EYFS team from Wednesday. They have quickly become part of everyday school life, supporting learning, joining in routines and gaining invaluable experience. As ever, our children have been confident hosts - keen to explain expectations, demonstrate routines and proudly show visitors “how we do things at Woodlands”.

A major focus this week has been Bikeability for our Year 6 pupils, running every day. Developing road awareness, confidence and independence is such an important life skill, and our pupils approached it with maturity, focus and enthusiasm. Seeing them navigate real-world situations so sensibly is always a reminder of how ready they are becoming for the next stage of their journey. I only hope they take all they have learned away with them when they leave us!

Our curriculum enrichment has also been a highlight. Year 4 and Year 3 visited the Burwardsley Centre on separate days, enjoying the chance to learn outdoors, build resilience, and work collaboratively in a different environment. The lovely feedback and the photos Mrs Dutton shared brought it all to life and reminded us of the huge benefits of such enrichment visits which are invaluable experiences and opportunities for developing confidence, teamwork and independence - the tired, yet happy, faces on their return said it all.

Tuesday brought a particularly special moment as we welcomed Year 4 parents into school to join their children for lunch. This was a lovely opportunity for families to experience a normal part of the school day together. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with parents commenting on how proud their children were to show them routines, seating arrangements and friendships, and how meaningful it was to share that time together. Moments like these strengthen the partnership between home and school and remind us how important the everyday experiences are.

On Wednesday, we were delighted to host Financial Capability Workshops led by Heidi Cato who is not only from Lloyds Bank, but who is also one of our parents! The sessions were carefully tailored to different age groups and supported pupils in understanding money, saving, choice and responsibility in an age-appropriate way. The engagement from the children was excellent, and this work forms part of our wider commitment to preparing pupils for life beyond the classroom.

Thursday was a day full of energy and excitement. Alongside Census Day and our brilliantly fun SpongeBob-themed special lunch, our Year 5/6 Girls' Netball Team travelled to EPSV - and what a stellar performance they gave. The team absolutely shone, winning every single match they played. Their teamwork, determination and sportsmanship were outstanding, and we are incredibly proud to share that they have now qualified for the County Final. A huge congratulations to all involved - they represented Woodlands superbly.

Behind the scenes, the quieter but vital work of school life has continued. Attendance panels, safeguarding meetings, parental feedback questionnaires, SEND reviews, speech therapy sessions and multi-agency work have all taken place to ensure children are supported holistically. Staff have also been deeply engaged in professional learning, with training in RE, Maths, attendance, SEND and inclusion taking place across the week.

As always, enrichment has extended beyond the school day, with a wide range of after-school clubs running, from cheerleading and dodgeball to music and multisports, offering children opportunities to explore interests, build confidence and enjoy being active with friends.

This week has been another powerful reminder of what makes Woodlands special: rich learning, strong relationships, high expectations and a genuine sense of community.

Warm regards,

Dr Carr