

Headteacher Blog Friday 6th March 2026

Well, spring has definitely sprung! With that, it has been a wonderfully busy and exciting week at Woodlands, with books, science, sport and creativity taking centre stage across the school. Weeks like this are a fantastic reminder of how rich and varied school life can be when learning stretches beyond the classroom and into experiences that spark curiosity and enthusiasm.

We began the week with the arrival of our Scholastic Book Fair, which created a real buzz around reading. Children have been excitedly browsing the shelves, discussing favourite authors and deciding which books might make their reading pile at home. Thank you to all families who have supported the fair - despite the hiccups experienced with the online payment system! I understand this caused some frustration and I am very sorry for any inconvenience. Unfortunately, the online payment method was stipulated by Scholastic rather than by the school. We are incredibly grateful to all the families who attended, and especially thankful for your patience and understanding while payments were being processed. Your support truly makes a difference to our school community and helps us to continue promoting a love of reading. Events like this not only encourage reading for pleasure but also help us continue to grow our love of books across the school. Alongside this, our Book Week themed lunches have added a little extra fun to the dining hall each day.

Across the week we have also continued to welcome our teacher trainees from Chester University and those working alongside our Year 3 and 4 team. Their enthusiasm and commitment are always appreciated, and our pupils benefit enormously from the additional support.

A highlight of the week for many pupils has been the opportunity to attend the STEAM Festival at the National Waterways Museum, with Year 5 visiting on Tuesday and Year 6 attending on Wednesday – a huge thank you to science and maths enthusiast (and former Chair of Governors) Chris Marchant for leading on this and enabling our children to engage with such wonderful learning. These visits give pupils the chance to explore science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics in hands-on and inspiring ways, and the children returned brimming with ideas and excitement about what they had discovered.

Sport and wellbeing have also been well represented this week. Our Year 5 pupils took part in Hoops for Health workshops, developing their basketball skills while learning about the importance of staying active and making healthy choices. It was fantastic to see the energy and enthusiasm in the hall as pupils challenged themselves and supported one another.

Thursday brought the much-anticipated World Book Day, and the school was filled with storytelling, reading activities and celebrations of our favourite books. Days like this are always a joy - a chance to remind children that reading opens doors to imagination, knowledge and adventure. When I visited our Early Years, and specifically Reception, on Tuesday morning I was taken back many years when the pure excitement in the room centred around THE FIRST BOOK TO GO HOME – children were beside themselves (and Miss Skillen was excited too)!

Behind the scenes, staff have been just as busy with professional learning and collaboration. Teachers have been involved in moderation meetings, Maths Hub workshops, and phase meetings focused on improving teaching and learning across the school. This ongoing work ensures that we continue to reflect, develop and provide the best possible education for our pupils.

Careers Visitors

We also welcomed a number of visitors into school to talk to pupils about their careers and the jobs they do. The father-in-law of one of our teachers came in and was overwhelmed as the last time he

was in school was as a pupil. He had no idea of the work that goes on in classrooms and corridors, offices and outside spaces and was humbled at the work of our teachers – which is very affirming to all of the staff who work so hard. Huge thanks to the parents and members of our community who have kindly volunteered their time to support this - we truly appreciate it, as do children, who have been talking all about the jobs they can do in the future. Hearing first-hand about different professions helps children broaden their horizons and understand the many different paths their future learning could lead to.

Morning Arrival – Important Reminder

Finally, a reminder about morning arrival times.

Our gates open at 8:30am for soft arrival to try to help us manage the safety of the road outside school and pupils arriving.

All classroom doors open at 8.45am.

Registers will be taken promptly at:

- Foxes, Squirrels and Hedgehogs: 8:45am
- Reception and KS1(Yr1-2): 8:55am
- KS2 (Yr3-6): 8:50am

All registers close at 9am

From Monday, we will be closing all gates promptly at 9:00am. Any pupil arriving after this time will be recorded as late and must be signed in at the school office.

This includes the gate at the top of the field, which will also be locked at 9am. Parents arriving after this time may therefore need to come the long way round to the main entrance - and potentially walk back the long way round again if gates are locked.

We hope this change will help reduce the number of late arrivals and ensure that the school day begins promptly for all pupils.

As always, thank you for your continued support and partnership. Weeks like this, full of books, curiosity, creativity and community, are exactly what make Woodlands such a special place to learn and grow.

Warm regards,

Dr Carr