

☀️ Headteacher Blog – Week Beginning 23 March 2026

If ever there were a week that captured the full breadth of Woodlands life, this has been it - from residential adventures and muddy art days to parent lunches, safeguarding work, rain, hail, sleet, sunshine, fire alarms and everything in between. It has been busy, purposeful and full of those moments that remind us how much children gain from the opportunities we provide.

The standout highlight this week has undoubtedly been our Year 6 residential to Condoover Hall, which took place across three days and saw Mrs Liversey in her element overseeing the Year 6 staff as they did high ropes and zip wires, movie nights and sleepless nights! For many pupils, this is a real milestone - a chance to develop independence, resilience and teamwork away from home. I have heard fantastic reports for 3 days of children supporting one another, stepping outside their comfort zones and embracing every challenge with enthusiasm (and, no doubt, very little sleep!).

Experiences like this stay with children for years, and we are incredibly proud of how they have represented Woodlands, and all of you. We'd also like to say a huge thank you to the staff who have shown incredible dedication and commitment in preparing for and taking the children on the Year 6 residential, giving up their own time and energy to make it a memorable experience for the children. We are sure that parents are truly grateful for the care, effort, and enthusiasm they have invested.

Back in school, Year 5 have had a week of their own special experiences. Thursday's Art Day saw the junior hall transformed into a creative studio, with pupils fully embracing the opportunity to explore, experiment and - judging by the "messy clothes needed" reminder and the time it took them to clean up ready for their parents to have lunch - get thoroughly stuck in. Parents who joined us for the Year 5 Parent Lunch, which, as these activities do, provided a lovely opportunity for families to share a small but meaningful part of the school day with their children, were very complementary and left feedback such as what they liked the most:

"Just being together to share something a parent wouldn't usually get to see."

"Spending time with my child and catching up on their day, it also pointed out how kind my son is when he invited a child who he thought was sat alone to eat with us. Made me very proud, his dad was in the queue for food and thanked **** for being so kind."

"It was lovely seeing how school dinners work and enjoyed eating with the children, the food was very tasty too! Would love to have the opportunity to do this with the infant side too!"

Sport has continued to play a big part in school life this week. Some of our Year 5 pupils, as if art and hosting their parents was not enough, also travelled to Warrington for a Netball Event, representing the school with energy and team spirit. Although they did not place in the event, I can assure you all that they have some netball superstars in the team and were a credit to us all. Meanwhile, clubs across the week - from football and table tennis to choir and music - have kept the school buzzing well beyond the end of the school day. I loved supervising Mad Science on Thursday after school in the infants, not sure I could rewire a house but the electrical circuit activity didn't just teach children about conductors and connectivity, but also sharing!

🌍 Science Fact that I shared with the children – The Earth is constantly moving!

Even though we don't feel it, the Earth is spinning at around 1,000 miles per hour and orbiting the sun at approximately 67,000 miles per hour. Which means ... even when you're sitting still in class, you're all actually travelling incredibly fast!

We have also continued to welcome new families into our Hedgehogs and Squirrels provision, with visits, stay-and-play sessions and parent meetings taking place throughout the week. Thursday's

Squirrels Easter Stay and Play and Friday's wonderfully themed Hedgehogs "Old MacDonald" Stay and Play were particular highlights, giving families the chance to see learning in action and children the chance to shine in front of their grown-ups.

Music continues to be a thread running through the school, not least as I have been leaning towards a classical playlist to keep us focussed in the office, but with Year 3 violin sessions taking place again this week. There is something incredibly special about seeing pupils develop not only musical skill, but also confidence and perseverance through learning an instrument.

Alongside all of this, there has been a huge amount of important work happening behind the scenes. Staff have been involved in pupil progress meetings across every phase, carefully reviewing attainment, progress and next steps for every child. These meetings are detailed and reflective, ensuring that teaching is responsive and that support is precisely targeted where it is needed most.

We have also hosted a wide range of professionals in school this week, including speech and language therapists, social workers and family support workers, alongside SEND reviews, CAMHS discussions and training for staff on SEND law and reasonable adjustments. This work is vital in ensuring that every child receives the support they need to thrive.

I have met with LA representatives with regard to some exciting developments for the coming academic year and cannot wait to share!

Finally, a quieter but equally important moment - Friday has been dedicated to assessment and data completion, ensuring that we have a clear and accurate picture of pupils' progress across the school. While this work is less visible, it plays a crucial role in shaping teaching and supporting outcomes for all learners.

Life at Woodlands

As always, what stands out most from a week like this is the balance between the big moments, residential, events, performances, and the quieter, everyday interactions that build confidence, kindness and a love of learning. This and the fact that we continue to battle with parents who simply park in an antisocial way and put their own and other people's children at risk.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Dr Carr
Headteacher