

☀️ Headteacher Blog – Week Beginning 20 April 2026

Welcome back! It has been a real pleasure to not only see the sunshine (for the whole week!!!) but also to see the children return to school this week, refreshed, full of stories of their spring break and ready to learn. There is always something special about the first week of the summer term - a sense of renewed energy, longer days and plenty to look forward to as the term unfolds.

This week has been an extremely busy and purposeful one, with a strong focus on both learning and the systems that sit behind it to ensure every child continues to thrive. Across the week, Mrs Liversey and I have been really enjoying seeing how our new maths training is being translated into learning for children and have enjoyed being in all 3 Year 6 classes and with 2 groups of our RP children. Spending time in classrooms and seeing first-hand the high-quality teaching and positive relationships that define Woodlands has been a total highlight of the week for us both and we continue to do this for the rest of the half term. It is always a privilege to see learning in action, from confident discussion to focused independent work, and to celebrate the strengths of our staff and pupils (plus, we both LOVE maths!).

We have also continued to welcome our teacher trainees from Chester University, alongside students working with the Year 3/4 team. They have quickly settled back into school life, contributing to lessons, supporting pupils and gaining valuable experience. Our children are always excellent ambassadors, confidently explaining routines and expectations - and often offering helpful “tips” on how things should be done!

A lovely certificate from the Royal British Legion arrived this week, thanking us all for our contribution to the Poppy Appeal last year – as a school we raised £659.09. Our collective generosity and willingness to support this cause (and all that sits behind it) is testament to our dedication to national history and our armed forces.

💧 Staying Safe and Well

A real highlight this week was our series of Water Safety assemblies, delivered to pupils across the school. These sessions are incredibly important, particularly as we move towards the warmer months when children are more likely to be around water. Pupils learned about how to stay safe, how to recognise risks, and what to do in an emergency - essential knowledge that could make a real difference. On the topic of being safe around water, as our pond continues to fill it is essential that you all, as parents and carers, educate your children alongside us in school to ensure they can behave in a safe and responsible way near ALL water, especially on school grounds on the way to and from school.

Alongside this, we have continued to host a range of professionals in school, including speech and language therapists, specialist teachers and the mental health support team. We also held several Child in Need (CIN) meetings, annual reviews and pastoral discussions across the week. While much of this work happens quietly behind the scenes, it is vital in ensuring that every child receives the right support at the right time.

⚽ Learning Beyond the Classroom

Opportunities beyond the classroom have been plentiful this week. Our Year 3 pupils took part in a Mini Kickers event at Vauxhalls, representing the school with enthusiasm and team spirit. Sporting events like this are not only about skill development but also about confidence, teamwork and resilience - all qualities we are proud to see in our pupils.

A few clubs have also returned in full swing, including Digital Wizards, choir and guitar lessons, ensuring the school continues to buzz with activity beyond the end of the school day and we look forward to all sports and academic clubs resuming next week. Don't forget to give consent on Parentpay for your child to attend.

Staff Development and Collaboration

Wednesday saw a whole-school focus on professional development, with staff taking part in Canva training sessions across all phases and teams. This will support staff in creating high-quality resources and communications, enhancing both teaching and the way we share learning with families.

Alongside this, colleagues attended Maths Hub workshops and SEND-related meetings, demonstrating the ongoing commitment across the school to continuous improvement and professional growth.

Looking Ahead

As we move further into the summer term, there is a real sense of momentum building. With trips, sports events, assessments and transition work all on the horizon, this is always a busy but incredibly rewarding time of year – for me I look forward to the annual reports.

As always, what stands out most is not just the big events, but the everyday moments - children settling back into routines, supporting one another and taking pride in their work.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Dr Carr
Headteacher