

Week Beginning 27th April 2026

This week at Woodlands has been another wonderfully full and purposeful one, with learning, visits, training and those important everyday moments all coming together to create a real sense of momentum across the school.

Across the week, Mrs Liversey and I have been spending time in classrooms (and playgrounds), working with children and seeing the fantastic learning that takes place each day. It is always a privilege to see pupils so engaged and to celebrate the strength of teaching and relationships across the school – I have lost count of the number of pupils who have told me maths is their favourite subject! We were also pleased to welcome Diane Tongue, our Maths Hub Lead, into school this week to work alongside staff, continuing to strengthen our approach to mathematics teaching.

We have also continued to welcome a number of student teachers from Chester University, alongside those working with our Year 3/4 team and within EYFS. They have brought energy and enthusiasm to classrooms, and our pupils have once again shown themselves to be excellent ambassadors for Woodlands. We have also said cheerio to some of our student teachers today (or *au revoir* to one, who will volunteer for the Menai residential next week – no mean feat!).

Learning Beyond the Classroom

There have been some fantastic enrichment opportunities this week. Some of our Year 5 pupils visited Whitby High School for Food Technology, gaining a real insight into secondary school life and developing practical skills (get them to cook for you!).

Meanwhile, Owls and Badgers enjoyed outdoor learning sessions, making the most of the spring weather and exploring learning in a hands-on, engaging way.

On Thursday, Year 4 pupils were treated to a visit from Andy Martin from Mersey Rivers, who spoke to them as part of their rivers topic, which I know Mrs Dutton wants to expand upon in the coming weeks... It was a brilliant opportunity to bring classroom learning to life and deepen their understanding of the world around them.

Younger pupils also benefited from important online safety learning, with Cyber Sid sessions for Reception, helping them begin to understand how to stay safe in the digital world. This is something ALL of us should be taking really seriously!

Working with Families

It has been another busy week of working closely with families. We have hosted a number of prospective parent tours and meetings for new starters, as well as visits for families joining our Resource Provision in September 2026. These early conversations are so important in building strong partnerships and ensuring children feel settled and supported from the very beginning.

We have also continued to hold a range of SEND reviews and multi-agency discussions throughout the week. While much of this work happens behind the scenes, as I have said before, it plays a crucial role in ensuring that every child receives the support they need to thrive.

A Proud Moment

We were delighted this week to receive the outcome of our hygiene audit, where the school achieved the top possible score. This is a real credit to our cleaning, catering and site staff, who work incredibly hard to maintain high standards across the school environment every day. It may not always be the most visible aspect of school life, but it is absolutely vital in keeping everyone safe and well.

A Thank You

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the parents who supported myself and our first aid team on Thursday morning when a member of our extended Woodlands family had a fall in the street. Your calm, kindness and willingness to help in that moment were hugely appreciated, and a real reflection of the strong community we are proud to be part of.

Life at Woodlands

Alongside all of this, school has continued to buzz with activity - from speech and language sessions and specialist visits to clubs running every afternoon, including reading, maths, sport, music and creative opportunities. These experiences enrich the school day and allow children to explore interests, build confidence and enjoy being part of our community.

As always, it is the combination of these big moments and the quieter, everyday interactions that make Woodlands such a special place - children supporting one another, staff going above and beyond, and a shared commitment to helping every child succeed.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Dr Carr
Headteacher
Woodlands Primary School