

Week Beginning 8th May 2026

I am not entirely sure how, but this week has somehow felt like both four days and four weeks all at once. It has been one of those incredibly full weeks where everything happens at pace - and we are certainly feeling it as we head towards SATs week next week!

We returned from the Bank Holiday straight into a busy schedule, and one of the absolute highlights has been our Year 2 residential to Menai. By all accounts, it was a roaring success. The children had an incredible time, building independence, confidence and friendships - and we must give a huge shout out to the staff who made it happen. Residential are joyful, exhausting, unpredictable and unforgettable in equal measure, and they simply wouldn't run without the dedication and care of our team. Thank you to all involved.

Back in school, it has been lovely to welcome parents in for Reception and Year 1 lunches. These moments always mean so much to children - there is something very special about being able to show their grown-ups where they sit, who they talk to, and what their day looks like. Food in schools is carefully balanced in line with government expectations and combinations of food groups – it is not necessarily like home-made food, where children are accustomed to the seasoning we add, the 'heat' we like and so on, but it is nutritious, mild enough for all, and healthy!

We have also continued to provide a wide range of enriching experiences, from outdoor learning sessions in EYFS to coding workshops with Whitby High School and a pond plant workshop for pupils. Alongside this, clubs and wider opportunities have continued to run, ensuring that school life remains vibrant well beyond the classroom.

Learning, Leadership and Looking Ahead

Mrs Liversey and I have particularly enjoyed spending more time this week working with some of our pupils in Year 3 and Year 4 maths. It has been a real pleasure to see the confidence, reasoning and resilience the children are developing - and to be reminded just how much they enjoy being challenged and thinking deeply about their learning.

Behind the scenes, there has been a strong focus on planning and development, with key EYFS and nursery planning meetings taking place on Thursday as we continue to shape our provision moving forward. We also held a budget meeting with governors on Friday, ensuring that we continue to make the very best decisions for the school and our pupils – not just today but for years to come.

Safety Matters

On Thursday, we carried out an evacuation drill - something we hope we will never need to use, much like a fire drill, but an essential part of keeping our school as safe as possible. I could not have been more proud of the children. They responded calmly, sensibly and followed instructions brilliantly. It is reassuring to know that, should we ever need it, we are as prepared as we can be.

School Streets

You may have seen recent discussions locally around School Streets, particularly at Raeburn Primary on the Wirral, where enforcement cameras have been introduced and fines issued for driving down restricted roads. I even spotted a Facebook post this week from someone who had received a £70 fine for ignoring the restrictions...

As many of you know, we are due to have similar camera enforcement introduced at Woodlands, and it is something we are very much looking forward to. The aim is simple: to keep our children and families safe at the busiest times of the day. This is a really positive step forward for our community.

In the Spotlight

We were also delighted to feature in a fabulous article in the local paper this week. It is always lovely to see the work of the school recognised more widely, and it reflects what we already know - that Woodlands continues to go from strength to strength.

Ready, Respectful and Safe

As we head deeper into the final term of the year, not to mention a very important week next week (with SATs for Year 6), I would like to remind all pupils of our expectations: to be Ready, Respectful and Safe at all times - in our language, in our behaviour and in our work. These values underpin everything we do and ensure that Woodlands remains a calm, positive and purposeful place to learn. Please take the time to remind your child of this, and encourage them to be the same when outside school over the summer months to ensure they are as safe as they can be.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Wishing you all a restful weekend - I think we've all earned it!