

And just like that... we have reached half term.

This week has been another wonderfully busy one at Woodlands, as ever packed with performances, outdoor learning, meetings, workshops and all the quieter moments that make school life what it is. There is definitely a sense that everyone has earned a well-deserved break by the end of this week!

One of the highlights of the week was undoubtedly our Year 5 Assembly, performed twice on Monday to packed halls of proud parents and families. The children were absolutely fantastic - confident, articulate and full of personality. Assemblies like this are such an important part of primary school life; they build confidence, speaking skills and teamwork, whilst also giving children the opportunity to shine in front of those who matter most to them. Big thanks to Sarah our fab TA in upper Key Stage 2 who was instrumental in bringing this performance home. A little reminder that whether the staff remind you all at the start of a performance or not, you should not take photos or videos during a performance and certainly not post any images you may take on social media. Thank you for your help with this, it is solely to protect our children.

Across the week, our youngest children have continued to enjoy a range of wonderful experiences too. Owls and Badgers took part in Outdoor Learning sessions, making the most of the warmer weather and embracing practical, hands-on learning. Meanwhile, both Owls and Badgers visited Hope Farm Library, helping to further nurture that all-important love of books and storytelling. No to mention that Mrs L and I have enjoyed seeing maths sessions across early years and Key Stage 1 this week – what a joy!

Tuesday brought a lovely moment for our younger pupils with the Teddy Bears' Picnic for Acorns, Butterflies and Ladybirds. There is something very special about seeing children enjoying these simple childhood experiences together — and I suspect a few slightly squashed teddy bears was worth it!

Meanwhile, Year 5 and 6 pupils continued their exciting Coding and Micro:Bit workshops with Whitby High School. Opportunities like this are fantastic for inspiring curiosity around technology and helping children see the wider possibilities open to them in the future.

🌊 Oceans Competition Success

We were also thrilled this week to hear back from the Oceans Competition, and letters have now been handed out to the children whose work has been selected for publication. This is a fantastic achievement, and we are incredibly proud of all the pupils involved. A huge well done must go to Mr Bowles, whose initiative and enthusiasm brought this project to life. Opportunities like these allow children to see themselves as genuine writers, artists and contributors to the wider world — and that is incredibly powerful.


Looking ahead to next term, we are also very excited about a whole-school art project on Refugees, developed by Mr Barnes. The project promises to be thoughtful, creative and deeply meaningful, encouraging pupils to explore themes of identity, belonging, empathy and humanity through art. We are very much looking forward to sharing more about this as it develops.

🏠 Behind the Scenes

Alongside all of this, there has been a huge amount of important work continuing behind the scenes. SEND reviews, annual reviews, safeguarding supervision, network meetings and staff training have all taken place throughout the week, not least my training this afternoon as a fire marshall in Winsford... Staff have also been working hard on moderation and professional development, including training linked to the New Writing Framework 2025, ensuring that teaching and learning continue to evolve and improve.

Thursday's themed lunch brought a lovely buzz to lunchtime, I think this could have been partially to do with the fact that we were a cook down (!) while clubs across the week - from yoga and hockey to maths, reading, netball and choir - have continued to enrich children's experiences beyond the classroom.

And finally, tomorrow's INSET moderation work will mark the close of what has been a very full and productive half term indeed. The next one will be just as productive and we will cram a lot into the coming 8 weeks!

 Thank You

As always, what makes Woodlands special is the people within it - the children who continue to amaze us daily, the staff who work tirelessly behind the scenes, and the families who support us every step of the way.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, kindness and encouragement.

We wish all of our families a restful, happy and safe half term break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for the final half term of the year.

Dr Carr
Headteacher