

Headteacher Blog - Week Beginning 1 June 2026

Welcome back everyone! I hope all of our families enjoyed a restful and enjoyable half-term break, for once, I switched off for 5 days and rested (the weather was glorious and perfect for a well-earned rest). That said, it has been lovely to see the children return this week, full of stories, sunshine-filled memories and, in some cases, looking considerably taller than when they left us just ten days ago!

As always, Woodlands has sprung straight back into life, and the final half-term of the academic year is already proving to be a busy and exciting one. We have A LOT to do and not much time to do it.

One of the highlights of the week was seeing three of our Year 6 pupils attend the Hospice Ambassadors Celebration Event on Monday. Throughout the year, these children have represented the school brilliantly, helping to raise awareness and support for an important local cause. Opportunities like this help our pupils understand the importance of compassion, service and community, and we are incredibly proud of the mature and thoughtful way they represented Woodlands.

Across the school, learning has continued at pace. Our Year 5 pupils once again enjoyed Food Technology sessions at Whitby High School, whilst Year 2 visited Hope Farm Library, continuing to develop their love of reading and books. Later in the week, Year 4 also enjoyed their regular library visit, while Year 5 continued developing their musical talents through their ukulele lessons. It is these wider opportunities, beyond the classroom, that help make school life so rich and memorable.

This week has also seen a significant amount of important work taking place behind the scenes to support children and families. Annual reviews, SEND meetings, physiotherapy appointments, speech and language consultations, transition planning meetings and Child in Need reviews have all taken place throughout the week. Whilst these meetings are often unseen by the wider school community, they play a vital role in ensuring that every child receives the support they need to both be safe and also to thrive. I met with the LA representative about future special needs changes and how we can support the LA and our school community as we all navigate them. Exciting times! I also delivered a briefing, on behalf of the DfE, about school-based nurseries, which went down well (I have already had multiple follow up messages from fellow headteachers who need some support with the tricky process!).

We continue to be fortunate to host a number of student teachers and university trainees across the school. They bring enthusiasm, fresh ideas and an eagerness to learn from our experienced staff. As ever, our children have been fantastic ambassadors, making visitors feel welcome and proudly demonstrating what it means to be part of the Woodlands community.

Wednesday's staff meetings reflected our continued commitment to improvement, with teams focusing on Early Years development, Resource Provision practice and history across Years 1 to 6. We are constantly striving to refine and strengthen our provision, ensuring that every child receives the best possible educational experience.

Friday has had a particular focus on transition, with meetings taking place between Woodlands staff and colleagues from Whitby High School. At this time of year, we begin working increasingly closely with our secondary partners to ensure our Year 6 pupils are fully supported as they prepare for the next stage of their educational journey. It always feels slightly strange discussing transition when it seems like only yesterday that they arrived as Reception children clutching oversized book bags! That said, we are already thinking about transition for ALL of our children (from our babies in Hedgehogs all the way through) and staff have almost completed the school reports for everyone so that there is time for them to be read and me to comment on them all before they are sent out to you!

As we move further into June, the calendar begins to fill rapidly with sports events, multiple transition activities, performances, visits and celebrations. It is one of the busiest but also one of the most rewarding parts of the school year, and we are looking forward to sharing it all with you.

Finally, a huge thank you for your continued support. The partnership between home and school is one of Woodlands' greatest strengths and this week we have relied on it – particularly in relation to children with food allergies!

Have a wonderful weekend!