

As we turn the calendar into July, it is hard to believe we are in the final few weeks of another school year. The pace certainly hasn't slowed, in fact it has sped up! This week has been all about transition - helping children move confidently from one chapter of their education to the next, whilst warmly welcoming the newest members of our Woodlands family.

Throughout the week, we have welcomed many of our new children and families who will be joining us in Reception, Hedgehogs, Squirrels and our Inclusion Base in September. It has been wonderful to see little faces exploring classrooms, meeting staff and beginning what we hope will be a long, happy journey at Woodlands. For many parents, starting school is every bit as emotional as it is exciting, and we hope our transition events have helped everyone begin to feel part of our school community already.

At the other end of the school, our Year 6 pupils have spent much of the week getting to know life beyond Woodlands. Transition days at High Schools, enhanced transition visits, Food Technology sessions and the Year 7 parents' evening have all helped our children begin looking ahead to September with confidence and excitement. Although we are always a little sad to see them preparing to leave us, it is lovely to watch them take these next important steps.

Transition has also been taking place much closer to home. Children across the school spent time in their new classes this week, getting to know their new teachers, classrooms and routines ready for September. These days are invaluable in helping children feel settled and excited about the year ahead, and we know many of them went home full of stories about their new classrooms and the adventures that await them.

One of the highlights of the week was undoubtedly the AmaSing Concert, where members of our choir performed alongside children from other schools. Opportunities like this take enormous commitment - not just on the evening itself, but through months of rehearsals - and we are incredibly proud of every child who took part. Thank you to Mrs Dutton, Miss Hughes and Miss Parry, not to mention our Chair of Governors, Mrs Mather, for supporting the visit, running the choir and giving our children such a memorable musical experience.

Our Year 3 pupils also enjoyed walking to Whitby High School to take part in a Science Show, whilst Year 4 continue to enjoy their regular library visits and children across school have been making the most of outdoor learning opportunities whenever the weather has allowed.

Behind the scenes, there has been a tremendous amount of work taking place to ensure a smooth end to the academic year. Staff have been proofreading reports, handing over information to colleagues, attending safeguarding meetings, annual reviews, attendance panels and professional development sessions, alongside planning for September. Much of this work is invisible to families, but it is fundamental in ensuring every child continues to receive the very best support as they move through school but it does keep us 'running hot' right up to the last minute.

I have also spent part of the week not only in discussion with our Local Authority Associate School Improvement Advisor, but also engaging in professional leadership development with colleagues from a range of across the country. One of the privileges of working in both leadership and education is that there is always something new to learn. Bringing back fresh ideas, reflecting on research and sharing effective practice helps us continue to strengthen what we offer our staff and children here at Woodlands.

Finally, can I say a huge thank you to our wonderful staff. This point in the year is incredibly busy, as they somehow manage to celebrate the achievements of the children they have taught and supported all year whilst simultaneously preparing classrooms, resources and plans for those they will welcome in September. It is a remarkable balancing act, and they continue to do it with professionalism, care and enormous commitment.

There are still plenty of exciting events to come before we break up for the summer, and we are looking forward to sharing them all with you over the coming weeks.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and have a wonderful weekend.

Dr Carr