

Well... here we are! The final Headteacher's Blog of the 2025-2026 academic year.

It is hard to believe how quickly another year has passed. Looking back over the last twelve months, I am incredibly proud of everything our children, staff and families have achieved together. There have been challenges, celebrations, laughter, the occasional tear (usually mine!), and countless moments that remind me just how privileged I am to lead such a wonderful school community.

This week has been exactly what the final full week of term should be – full of celebration, transition, planning, preparing and looking ahead to exciting new beginnings.

One of the highlights of the week has undoubtedly been celebrating our fantastic Year 6 pupils. Today's Leavers' Assemblies and Leavers' Lunch gave us the opportunity to reflect on how much they have grown during their time at Woodlands. Watching them perform, share memories and prepare for the next chapter of their education is always bittersweet. They leave us as confident, thoughtful and caring young people, and I know they will all go on to do amazing things. We wish every one of them the very best as they begin life at secondary school.

Throughout the week we have also continued welcoming the newest members of our Woodlands family. Our Reception, Hedgehogs and Squirrels 'Life is a Beach' Stay and Play sessions, alongside transition visits and parent meetings, have been wonderful opportunities for children and families to begin building relationships with staff and becoming familiar with their new learning environments. It is always lovely watching children who may have arrived a little shy leave with huge smiles and growing confidence.

Our Year 3 children enjoyed their visit to the World Museum in Liverpool, whilst a group of Year 4 pupils represented the school brilliantly at the Rivers Project held at Anfield Stadium (although I definitely think Mr Bowles enjoyed the trip the most #livinghisbestlife). These opportunities beyond the classroom are so valuable in bringing learning to life and creating memories that children (and staff) will carry with them for years to come. We were delighted that they won the event out of 11 other schools bringing home not one, but three trophies!

Speaking of prizes, well done to all the children that were chosen to have their artwork published in the 'Ocean Artist' book and a special congratulations to Sophie in Year 3 for winning a prize for her artwork which was chosen as the front cover of the book! Thank you to Mr Bowles and the Sunbeams team for organising the project.

We were also delighted to welcome Sam Eastwood from the Hospice into school this week to present us with our Gold Fundraising Award. This recognition reflects the generosity and compassion shown by our children, families and staff throughout the year. We are incredibly proud that our pupils understand the importance of supporting others and making a difference within our wider community. Yet another trophy proudly displayed in our cabinet.

Behind the scenes, as always, there has been a tremendous amount of work taking place. Reports have been finalised, transition information has been shared between teachers, safeguarding meetings, annual reviews and planning meetings have continued, and staff have already begun preparing classrooms and resources ready for September. It is often said that schools close for six weeks - the reality is that there is still a huge amount of work taking place right up until the last moment and again, during the holidays, before the children return.

♥ Supporting Families

As we head into the summer holidays, I would also like to remind families that support continues to be available should you need it. If your child requires mental health support over the summer, you can speak to your GP, who is able to make referrals where appropriate. Families may also find the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust 'My Mind' website extremely helpful, which offers advice, self-help resources and signposting for children, young people and parents. [My Mind :: Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust](#) Please remember that asking for support is always a strength, never a weakness.

💖 Health Reminder

Earlier this week we contacted families in Squirrels and Foxes regarding a small number of confirmed and suspected cases of bullous impetigo. Following advice from both the Health Protection Team and Infection Prevention and

Control Team, we made temporary changes to some activities to try to prevent the spread and asked parents to keep children at home for the requisite 48 hours after starting treatment or until all lesions had crusted over, in line with NHS guidance. We are very grateful to families for their support. For our youngest children, unable to regulate their temperature as effectively as older children and adults, any illnesses can cause quite terrifying convulsions, known as febrile convulsions (or febrile seizures). These are fits triggered by high temperatures in children aged 6 months to 6 years. While often frightening for parents, they usually last less than five minutes, resolve completely on their own, or when the child is medicated to bring down their temperature. Please do be vigilant about illnesses and temperatures during heatwave or holiday periods.

A Small Act of Kindness

One email particularly stood out to me this week. Many of you will know the fantastic work carried out by Vara Sports & Education, who have supported Woodlands in so many ways, not just this year, but for some years now. They kindly offered partner schools the opportunity to choose how a donation from them should be used. Rather than selecting a gift for the school, we chose to use our donation to fund a free holiday camp place and a warm meal for a child in need during the summer holidays. It felt like the most 'Woodlands' decision we could make. Thank you to Joey and the entire Vara team for everything they have done to support our school this year.

A Few Reminders

As we finish for the summer, a few practical reminders (although you have had this on a specific email):

School closes at the usual times on Tuesday. Nursery and Pre-School: usual collection times - Infants: 3.15pm, Juniors: 3.20pm. With the warm weather continuing, children may wear their own clothes on Monday and Tuesday. Year 6 should come dressed in clothes suitable for the Colour Run and bring a plain white T-shirt or shirt for friends to sign. Please send children with a Bag for Life or sturdy carrier bag so they can bring home books and work. Please remember to collect all medication, including inhalers, on the final day. Any medication required in September will need to be signed back into school with new medical forms. Any lost property remaining in school after Tuesday will be disposed of during the summer holidays. An ice cream van will be on the Junior playground from 3pm on Tuesday for anyone who would like an end-of-term treat.

Tuesday 1st September is an INSET Day. We look forward to welcoming all children back on Wednesday 2nd September. If your child attends Sunbeams, please ensure childcare vouchers have cleared by 24th August. September bookings will be available via ParentPay from 15th August.

Please also take a moment to read the guidance from Cheshire West regarding the ANPR cameras being installed to support our 'School Street' that was emailed out today so that you don't get caught out unnecessarily.

I also want to say thank you, to our children, who continue to amaze us every single day, to our incredible staff, who work tirelessly, often far beyond what anyone sees, to give our children the very best opportunities and to our governors for their continued support and challenge.

The Final Two Days

Although this is my final blog of the year, we still have two very special days ahead before we officially close our doors for the summer.

Monday evening sees our Year 6 Prom at Inglewood Manor. The prom has become such a wonderful tradition and gives our oldest pupils one final opportunity to celebrate together before they head off to secondary school. I have no doubt they will all scrub up beautifully, and I suspect there may be one or two proud (and slightly emotional!!) staff members watching on as they arrive.

Tuesday is, as always, a day of mixed emotions. Our Year 6 pupils will enjoy their Colour Run, before taking part in the annual tradition of shirt signing - one of those lovely rites of passage that somehow manages to be both chaotic and heart-warming at exactly the same time.

We're also delighted to be welcoming Doughnutology into school during the day for a staff treat, before our traditional ice cream van arrives on the Junior playground for the children at the end of the afternoon to help everyone celebrate the end of another successful year.

Looking Ahead to September

Whilst the children (and perhaps a few staff!) enjoy a well-earned summer break, school certainly won't be standing still.

Throughout the holidays, we are delighted that Cool Canvas and Team Maintenance will be on site as they continue transforming Woodlands ready for September.

Work will be completed on our two newest Specialist Inclusion Base classrooms, marking another exciting milestone in the development of our specialist provision. We are incredibly proud of the reputation Woodlands has built for inclusive education, and these additional facilities will allow us to continue supporting even more children with complex needs within our school community.

Alongside this, improvements will be made to the outdoor area on the infant site, creating even better spaces for our youngest learners to play, explore and learn. It is always exciting returning after the summer to see how much has changed whilst the children have been away.

Woodlands continues to grow, develop and evolve, and we cannot wait to welcome everyone back to see the next chapter of our journey.

And finally, thank you to our families. We know that educating children is a partnership, and we are incredibly grateful for the trust you place in us every day.

As I lock the school gates for the final time this academic year, I will do so feeling incredibly proud.

Have a wonderful, safe and restful summer. Make memories, enjoy time together, read lots of books, eat plenty of ice cream, and we'll look forward to welcoming everyone back on Wednesday 2nd September for another exciting year at Woodlands.

Dr Carr
Headteacher

A little note from the Woodlands team:

From everyone here at Woodlands, we'd like to wish Dr Carr a beautiful wedding day over the summer and a lifetime of love, laughter, and happiness. Congratulations!