

NEWSLETTER



Friday 27th February 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

I would like to welcome you all back to school after the half-term break. I hope you managed to spend some quality time with friends and family.

During the 'holiday' some of the school staff were in school making some changes and improvements to benefit the children. Mrs Mills, our school business manager, along with other staff, were in school creating some new reading areas for the children. Just outside Year Six there is now a **Starbooks** reading area; there is a **Cosy Corner** reading area for junior children outside my office; and there is also a **Jungle Nook** reading area in our Key Stage One building. The children have been really enthused and excited by the improvements and the new reading areas have been well used in just the first few days of this half term.

I have also created a new attendance reward game for each class. This will be played during our Friday assembly. Each class with an attendance percentage close to 100% will be able to roll-the dice and try and win an additional prize for themselves.

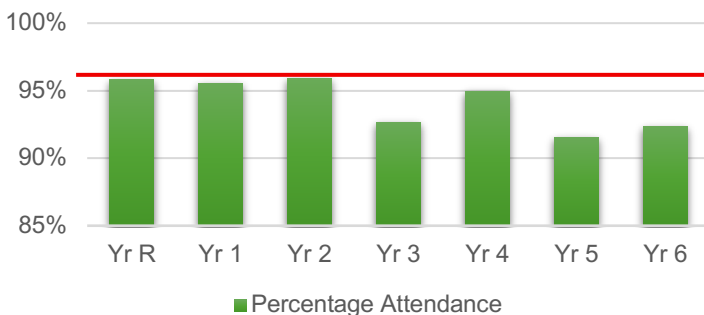
I would like to thank all the teachers and support staff who gave up their half-term week, both in school and at home, to benefit the children of Woodcock Hill Primary School.

With very best wishes
Mr Higgins



Attendance

w/c 9th February 2026



96% is our **MINIMUM** expectation for attendance.

Did your child's class reach 96% last week?

This year's attendance, to date, is

91.9%

DIARY

w/c 2nd March Lunch Menu:
Week One

4th March 2026 – 9.10am
Year Four's Class Assembly

4th March 2026
Parents' Evening

5th March 2026
World Book Day

5th March 2026 – 3.20pm
PTA Book Sale

11th March 2026
Autism Workshop:
What is autism?

11th March 2026
Olympic Athlete
Joel Fearon in school

24th March 2026
Autism Workshop:
Understanding meltdowns

26th March 2026 – 9.30am
EYFS & KS1 Easter Assembly with
PTA Cake Sale

27th March 2026
PTA Non-Uniform Day Fundraiser

27th March 2026
Last Day of Spring Term

30th March – 10th April 2026
Easter Break



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A Focus on Reading

World Book Day 5th March 2026

This year our World Book Day theme will be *When I'm Older*. This half term our school value has been Ambition and next half term it will be Perseverance; with this in mind, children can come to school dressed as what they would like to be when they are older. We do not wish to place families under any financial pressures to buy costumes for this day. So, it could be as simple as a hat, a badge or something homemade that represents that career.

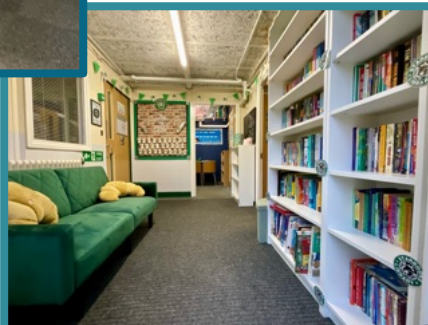
Book Sale

Do you have any high-quality books at home that you no longer need or read? Our PTA would love any donations that you have for their book sale taking place next week, on World Book Day. The sale will take place in the junior hall from 3.20pm.

The *Jungle Nook*
in Key Stage One



The *Cosy Corner* in
Key Stage Two



Starbooks
outside Year Six

Reading is the single most important skill children develop in primary school. It is the gateway to the entire curriculum and has a direct impact on confidence, independence and long-term academic success.

Children who read regularly at home make significantly stronger progress in vocabulary, comprehension and writing. More importantly, they develop curiosity, imagination and a lifelong love of learning.

In school, we teach reading through structured phonics, guided reading sessions and rich class texts. However, the greatest progress happens when school and home work together. Just 10–15 minutes of daily reading makes a measurable difference.

You can support your child by:

- Listening to them read regularly and encouraging them to sound out unfamiliar words
- Asking questions about what they have read (Who? Why? What might happen next?)
- Reading aloud to them, even as they grow older
- Making reading part of your daily routine
- Celebrating effort and progress, not just accuracy

For younger children, decoding and fluency are key. For older children, discussion and deeper understanding become increasingly important. Regardless of age, children benefit enormously from seeing adults read and hearing adults talk positively about books.

If you have any questions about supporting reading at home, please speak to your child's teacher. Together, we can ensure every child becomes a confident, capable reader.



Our School Values: *We are respectful, ambitious, creative, inclusive, independent and we persevere.*

Parents' Evening



Our re-scheduled Parents' Evening will be held on 4th March; unless you have requested a different time from your child's class teacher, your appointment times will remain the same as previously agreed.

Swimming

Year Four's and Year Five's swimming lessons will take place every day for two weeks commencing Monday 9th March 2026.

Please ensure that your child has their swimming costume and towel in school each day.



Coming Soon



Mr Higgins is currently working on our new website. If there is anything missing from our current website which you feel you would like included on the new one, please e-mail your suggestions to him via the school e-mail address:

enquiry@woodcockhillprimaryschool.co.uk

Year Four's Class Assembly

Our Year Four Parents are invited to attend their child's class assembly next week; it will be on the theme of Two Super Powers: Reading and Writing.

The assembly will take place at 9.10am on 4th March 2026 in the junior hall.



HSBC Smart Money

This week we have been very fortunate to have Victoria Jenkins visit our school from HSBC Bank to teach the children about money through Smart Monet financial education workshops. At the end of the sessions, we were awarded a HSBC UK Smart Money Award.

An Olympic Athlete

We're pleased to announce that Mr Whitcombe has partnered with the organisation Great British Athletes on behalf of our school and we are therefore extremely excited to be welcoming **Olympic sprinter and bobsledder** Joel Fearon to our school on 11th March. We are hoping that this event will help us to raise, through sponsorship, some money for our school. A letter and sponsorship form has been given to your child today.



JOEL FEARON

Olympic Bobsledder and Sprinter

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Dear Parent or Guardian,

We're very excited to be welcoming **Olympic sprinter and bobsledder** Joel Fearon to the school on 11th March 2026.

Joel will be leading a **sponsored fitness circuit** with all pupils, followed by a **motivational assembly**, and **Q&A** session. The aim of the event is to **inspire the pupils** to be more physically active, but just as importantly, encourage them to discover and pursue their **passion in life**.

The event will both connect the pupils to an extraordinary athlete role model and **raise money for new sports equipment** in our school, as well as supporting both athletes and para-athletes, so that they can continue to inspire the next generation.



You, your family and friends can also sponsor your child by visiting: **www.greatathletes.org** and clicking on the button "**Set up a Fundraiser Page**". Alternatively, you can scan the QR code to go directly to the online sponsorship page.

As a thank you, children will receive the following thank-you gifts for meeting these milestones:

- **Raise any money:** an A5 sheet of motivational stickers
- **Raise £10 or more:** a blue Great Athletes wristband
- **Raise £25 or more:** a blue wristband, and a red wristband with Joel Fearon's signature
- **Raise £50 or more:** all of the above, plus a signed Joel Fearon poster

Please ensure that all online payments (via your child's fundraiser – see above) are made by 20th March 2026.

Please also make sure that your children come to school on the event day (11th March) wearing their PE Kits!

We know that this will be a terrific and memorable event.



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