

NEWSLETTER



Thursday 8th January 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

A warm welcome back to school for the Spring term. I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas break with family and friends. The children have been extremely enthusiastic in sharing details of their Christmas celebrations, and the many gifts Santa had left for them.

Our first week back has not been warm as far as the weather is concerned! Thank you for bearing with us as we have endeavoured to make the school pathways as safe as possible.

As you may be aware, storm Goretta with high winds and heavy snowfall is due to arrive this evening. Any decision made to close the school will be taken after consulting with our Chair of Governors, weather reports, guidance from Birmingham City Council, as well as an in-person inspection of the school site and surrounding roads and pathways. Any decision will be made as soon as is practicably possible please check the school website regularly from 7am for updates. During periods when there is a high volume of school closures texts can be delayed and our access to update the website can be slowed.

With very best wishes for the year ahead,

Mr Higgins

DIARY

w/c 12th January Lunch Menu:
Week One

5th January 2026
Spring Term¹ starts for children

14th January 2026 – 9.10am
Year Four Parent Workshop: MTC

19th-23rd January 2026
Careers Week

4th February 2026 – 9.10am
Year Three Parent Workshop

4th February 2026
Parents' Evening

9th-13th February 2026
Children's Mental Health Week

11th February 2026 – 9.10am
Year Five Parent Workshop

12th February 2026
2.30pm – 3.15pm
PTA Valentine's Disco for EYFS/KS1

12th February 2026
3.30pm – 4.15pm
PTA Valentine's Disco for KS2

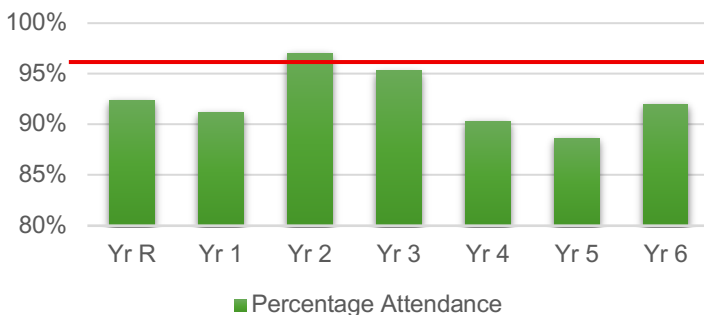
13th February 2026
PTA Non-Uniform Day Fundraiser

16th – 20th February 2026
Half Term week

23rd February 2026
Spring Term² starts for children

Attendance

w/c 15th December 2025



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

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

This year's attendance, to date, is

92%



Woodcock Hill Primary School

Far Wood Road
Birmingham B31 1BS

enquiry@woodcockhillprimaryschool.co.uk

www.woodcockhillprimaryschool.co.uk

0121 675 4130



Snowy Days



In the event of heavy overnight snow, we will endeavour to make any decision about school closures as early as possible. Sometimes, this early morning decision has to be made while the weather conditions are worsening or easing. It is always a difficult decision due to the unpredictability of our British weather. In cases of extreme weather Birmingham City Council may take the decision to close all schools.

If there has been overnight snow, please check:

- **our school website** for details of any closure. Any closure notice will be in the form of a 'pop up'; you will not have to search the website for the information.
- **your mobile phone**; we will send you a text message.
- **local radio stations** as they will broadcast a list of school closures.

Any closures that take place during the school day will be communicated to you in the same way as those listed above.

On days where school is closed, **there is an expectation that children complete school work at home**. To access this work, you should go to the school's webpage click on the **Pupils** tab followed by the **Class Pages** tab and then on your child's class page. Once you are on your child's class page – please scroll right down to the bottom and click on the **home learning grid** for this term (Spring 1).



Staff Update

This week we welcomed Mr Roy as our teaching assistant for Year Four. Mr Roy has previously worked at our school and is well known to all the children.

On Monday 12th, Miss Campbell will join our teaching team to support in our Year Five class. She will be working closely with Mrs Keating, Mrs Falaschi and Miss Narey until the end of this academic year.

Brigade Clothing Discount

Brigade Clothing, our uniform supplier, is running a Winter Warmer promotion this weekend. They are offering a discount of **15%** off school uniform orders. This offer is valid on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th January. To receive this discount, place your orders online at www.brigade.uk.com, select Woodcock Hill Primary School in the drop-down menu, and enter the code **WW15** at the checkout.

Year Four Parent Workshop 14th January 9.10am

Children in Year Four sit a statutory test called the Multiplication Tables Check. Next week, Mrs Clarkson and the Year Four children will be hosting a workshop for parents to explain explore how they can support their children in working towards this assessment.

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

A Message from WM Fire Service

Message from WMFS to Parents and Carers

'Don't enter or venture' - Stay away from frozen open water as cold snap continues

West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) is urging the public to stay well away from lakes, ponds, rivers, canals and reservoirs as freezing temperatures hit the West Midlands.

Frozen water can look harmless, but it's one of the most dangerous winter hazards we face.

Surface ice can look deceptively solid, but is often thin, fragile and unpredictable. It can give way suddenly – plunging people or pets into freezing cold water and serious danger.

Cold water shock can affect anyone, regardless of age or swimming ability, and can quickly lead to loss of control, exhaustion and drowning.

WMFS is particularly concerned about the risks to children, who may be tempted to play near or on frozen water, and dog walkers who may instinctively venture on to ice or into the water if a pet gets into difficulty. Parents and carers are urged to speak to children about the dangers, to ensure they understand that no ice is ever safe. Dog walkers are advised to keep pets on leads near water during icy conditions. Never step onto ice, and - crucially – don't enter water or venture on to ice if a person or animal gets into difficulty. Call 999 immediately and ask for the fire service."

What to do if YOU fall through ice:

- stay calm and shout for help
- spread your arms out across the surface of the ice in front of you
- first check if the ice is strong enough. If it is, then kick your legs to propel yourself forward
- lie flat and use your arms to pull yourself over the ice towards the shore
- if the ice on the water breaks, try to make your way to the bank or shore, breaking ice in front of you as you go
- if you find yourself stuck and unable to escape, wait for help. Stay as still as possible to conserve your energy. Bring your arms close to your sides and keep your legs together, while keeping your head out of the water.

What to do if you see SOMEONE ELSE fall through the ice:

- shout for help, call 999 or 112 and – if the incident involves inland water – ask for the fire service
- do not go on to ice to attempt a rescue
- call out to the casualty and encourage them to stay calm
- to try to reach the person from the bank, use a rope, pole, tree branch, clothes tied together or anything else that can extend your reach
- lie down flat on the bank, to avoid slipping or being pulled in
- if you can't reach them, try sliding something that floats – like a football or large plastic bottle – to them, to help them float
- if the casualty is too far away, DO NOT try to rescue them yourself
- wait for the emergency services to arrive. Continue to calm and reassure the person.

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