

NEWSLETTER

Friday 11th September 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

It has been a busy first full week in school for the children; they have settled well into their new learning environments with their class teachers and teaching assistants. As I have visited classrooms, the children have been fully engaged in their lessons and the new topics that they are exploring.

You will recall that our school has been awarded £60,000 over three years to spend on the children. The children made lots of suggestions and made their decisions at the end of last term. With this in mind, I am pleased to announce that this year all children will be visiting the Pantomime at Christmas! The trip will be completely **free of charge**; the theatre tickets, coach travel and ice cream has all been funded by INEOS. As this is a school trip the date will not appear on the newsletter. Please look out for permission slips next half term.

Finally, this newsletter contains all the key dates, from our PTA, for the year ahead so please keep it safe.

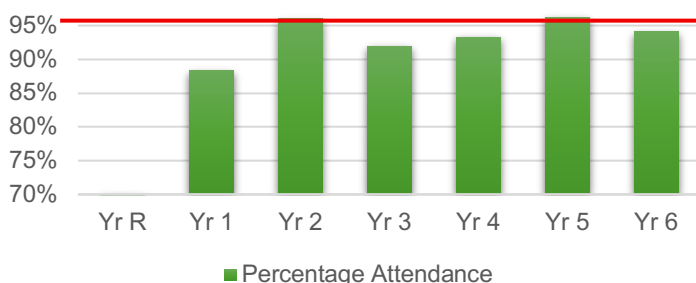
With very best wishes

Mr Higgins



Attendance

w/c 31st August 2026



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

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

This year's attendance, to date, is

94.2%

DIARY

w/c 14th September Lunch Menu:
Week Two

23rd September 2026 – 9.10am
Year Six Parent Workshop:
KS2 SATs

25th September 2026
Bikeability – Year Three and Year Four

**30th September –
2nd October 2026**
Year Six Residential

October 2026
Black History Month

7th October 2026 – 9.10am
Year One Parent Workshop:
Phonics

8th October 2026 – 9.10am
Reception Parent Workshop

12th – 16th October 2026
Harvest Food Collection

19th October 2026
PTA: Pumpkin Patch Party
EYFS/KS1 2.30pm – 3.15pm
KS2 3.30pm – 4.15pm

21st October 2026 – 9.10am
Coffee Morning in support of
Cancer Charities

22nd October 2026
Parents' Evening

22nd – 23rd September 2026
Bikeability for Year Three
and Year Four



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Vision, Ethos and Strategic Direction

In July, our Governors met with our senior leadership team to set the strategic direction of the school for the academic year 2026/27. Last year, they reviewed our overall vision, values and ethos which we call The Woodcock Way!

Our Governors meet regularly throughout the school year; one of their responsibilities is to review the school's progress towards its priorities.

The Woodcock Way

VISION

Woodcock Hill Primary School will create a happy and nurturing environment where ambitions are unlimited.

VALUES

We are
RESPECTFUL
AMBITIOUS
CREATIVE
INCLUSIVE
INDEPENDENT
and we
PERSEVERE.

MISSION

Together we
EDUCATE and
MOTIVATE
each other to
ACHIEVE,
regardless of
background, in a
modern, diverse
United Kingdom.

EXPECTATIONS

Here
Everyday
Ready,
On time and
Engaged to
Strive for Success.



A Polite Reminder

We would like to respectfully remind all parents that smoking and vaping are not permitted anywhere in the school grounds. This is a policy of **Birmingham City Council** for all of its sites including schools.

We would also respectfully ask you not to smoke or vape around the school entrance as children do not like the smell of cigarette smoke and having to walk through it.

Birmingham City Council also prohibits dogs from school sites, and they will issue a **£100 fixed penalty notice** to anyone who brings a dog onto our school site.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION for Year Six Parents

Applications opened on 1st September 2026 for secondary school places for entry in September 2027. **The closing date is 31st October 2026 at 11:59pm.**

It is important that you apply on time. If you apply late, you are less likely to get offered a place at any of your preferred schools.

Applications received after the 31st October 2026 will be classed as late applications and will not be processed until after the offer of places on 1st March 2027.

Remember to list six different secondary schools. To make your online application go to:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

When does my child have PE?

Day	Year Group
Monday	Year Six
Tuesday	Reception and Year Three
Wednesday	Year One and Year Five
Thursday	Year Two
Friday	Year Four



For health and safety reasons, pupils are not permitted to wear earrings for P.E. Parents and Carers should note the day of their child's P.E. lesson so that earrings can be removed before the start of the school day.

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

PTA DIARY

The Friends of Woodcock Hill
Primary School

19th October 2026

Pumpkin Patch Party
EYFS/KS1 **2.30pm – 3.15pm**
KS2 **3.30pm – 4.15pm**

4th November 2026

Outdoor Movie Night

26th November 2026

Enchanted Grotto

27th November 2026 – 2.30pm

Christmas Fair
Craft Fair

4th December 2026

Christmas Discos
EYFS/KS1 **2.30pm – 3.15pm**
KS2 **3.30pm – 4.15pm**

22nd January 2027

Rainbow Riches
Competition

12th February 2027

Valentine's Discos
EYFS/KS1 **2.30pm – 3.15pm**
KS2 **3.30pm – 4.15pm**

24th March 2027

Easter Raffle Draw
Cake Sale

25th March 2027

Easter Egg Hunt

28th May 2027

Summer BBQ and
Talent Show

2nd July 2027

Summer Fair

20th July 2027

Year Six Prom

Parent Workshops

Each year we run a series of parent workshops. In these sessions teachers and teaching assistants explain and demonstrate ways in which you can support your child's learning and development at home. These are fun sessions and you will have time to work with your own child and remember how fun school days were!

Please look at our whole year diary (last week's newsletter) and make a note of when your child's class workshop will be taking place. We'd encourage you to make every effort possible to be there as children love to share these sessions with their parents.

Our first parent workshop will be on 23rd September for our Year Six parents – this workshop will help you to navigate the end of year tests that all year six children undertake.



House Groups

In school every child is part of a House Group: Emerald, Sapphire or Ruby. Each House Group competes to be the best each week – with scores announced in our Friday Assembly.

Every child is in the same House Group as their brother and/or sister.

Once every term we have a House Group meeting where each group meets to explore our school values for that term.

This is a wonderful opportunity for siblings to work together in school.



Pupil Voice

Each class will shortly elect two school councillors. Our School Council meets regularly, with each school councillor representing the views and opinions of their classmates.

Our School Council gives our pupils a voice in decisions about school life. Members of the School Council learn leadership, teamwork and communication skills while contributing to a positive school environment.

Our School Council is led by Mrs Clarson.

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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorly and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like Polyline and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

9 RECONNECT

There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website



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