



Newsletter 15

Thursday, 15th January 2026

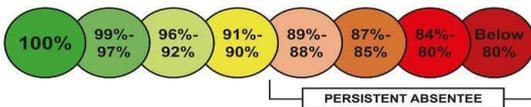
Dear Parents and Carers,

Attendance Update

We want every child to attend school every day.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



DFE research states:

'Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, wider development. Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results. Our research found that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and sec. school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well.'

High attendance continues to be a priority for our school and we will always try and offer support where issues exist around a child obtaining strong attendance. The Department of Education has published statutory documentation 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' for schools which came into force from August 2024. The guidance makes it very clear that schools will very rarely be able to grant leave of absence for a child and that no holidays at all can be authorised within the school term. There is also a new framework for Fixed Penalty Notices and all unauthorised holidays will have to be fined. We will always try to work with our families and children to support attendance and any wider issues which is preventing a child securing strong attendance. We really do want to work with you to ensure a comprehensive approach so that that your child has the opportunity to benefit fully from their education. Please do not hesitate to contact the school at admin@woodlands.wilts.sch.uk or 01722 335849 if you need any clarification or support on attendance. Thank you for your continued support and many of our children have had excellent attendance this year.

On a positive note, at the end of last term we were able to award **41** attendance medals, to children who had attended school every school day from 3rd September to 18th December. We will be issuing medals again at Easter for any children who have come to school every school day from 5th January to 27th March.

On top of this, we are still holding the monthly duck races, where any child who has 100% attendance that month is given a duck in the race to win a shopping voucher. The children love the thrill of the race and it gives children that may not achieve a full term attendance medal, due to sickness, another chance to be recognised.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Don't miss out on the education you deserve.



Spotlight on the curriculum – PE - Martial Arts – Y4

The children in Willow were buzzing with excitement as they took part in a mixed martial arts session on Tuesday, throwing themselves into every activity with excellent focus. They listened carefully, practised their movements with determination, and encouraged one another as they learned new skills. The coach leading the session was highly skilled and full of enthusiasm, breaking techniques down clearly and making sure every child felt confident and included. With positive energy, clear demonstrations, and constant encouragement, Coach Adam inspired the children to push themselves while having fun, making the session both active and memorable for everyone involved.



Safeguarding – Online Safety

As part of our commitment to help you keep your child(ren) safe online please look under the Safeguarding tab in our Online Safety section - <https://woodlands.wilts.sch.uk/safeguarding/online-safety/>

Please click here for the latest **Online Safety Newsletter – January 2026** -> [Woodlands Primary School and Oak Tree Nursery](#). The January 2026 issue looks at how to stay safe when playing games online. It includes specific guidance on the following topics when playing games online:

- ➔ Chatting to strangers / risk of inappropriate language;
- ➔ Cyberbullying;
- ➔ In app purchases;
- ➔ Setting up parental controls.

After-School Club

Sessions run from 3.00pm to 5.15pm (Mon-Thurs). Many thanks to Mrs Stokes, Mrs Collis and Mrs Swindlehurst for organising a range of exciting activities. **Please make sure you book in advance so that we can make sure all of the sessions are staffed. **We do not run sessions if nobody is booked on by 3pm the day before****

Breakfast Club

All sessions run from 7.15am to 8.40am. All the children who have attended have enjoyed a healthy breakfast and a variety of exciting activities. Spaces are still available for next week so please book as soon as possible to secure a place for your child(ren). Many thanks to Mrs Giles and Mrs Upshall for making sure the children have great fun!

As well as the normal activities on offer during Breakfast Club sessions Mrs Giles and Mrs Upshall have been planning some extra special activities that will take place during this term. ***It is important to note that some of the activities require us to buy ingredients and materials in advance so pre-booking is essential to ensure that your child will be able to take part.***

Special Activities in Breakfast Club sessions during Term 3

Date	Activity
Wednesday 21 st January	Gymnastics 
Tuesday 21 st January	Painting 
Thursday 29 th January	Board Games Tournament 
Tuesday 3 rd February	Outside Crafts and Den Building 
Thursday 5 th February	Grassheads 
Tuesday 10 th February	Switch Champions! Who will be crowned Mario Kart Champion? 
Thursday 12 th February	Biscuit Decorating 

Dates for the Diary

Y6 Visit to the Milestones Museum of Living History	Friday 16 th January	All day
Non-Uniform Day - £1 Donation per child	Friday 30 th January	All day
Last Day of Term 3 2026	Friday 13 th February	Normal finish time
Spring Half-Term	Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February	School Closed to all pupils
World Book Day – come into school dressed as a character from a book	Thursday 5 th March	All day
Osmington Bay Residential for Year 6 (Maple Class)	Wednesday 26 th March	am Departure to Osmington Bay
Pupils return from Osmington Bay	Friday 28 th March	pm Pupils return to Woodlands
Last Day of Term 4 2026	Friday 28 th March	Normal finish time
Easter Holiday	Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April	School Closed to all pupils
Teacher Training day	Wednesday 22 nd July	School Closed to all pupils

Kind regards,

M Kitley

Matthew Kitley

Headteacher