

☀️ Headteacher's Blog – Week Beginning 7th July 2025 ☀️

As we approach the final stretch of the academic year, the school continues to buzz with purpose, community spirit and summer cheer. This week has been another packed one, rich with transition events, family engagement, and enrichment opportunities across all year groups – not to mention it has been REDDERS and we have all been struggling in the heat!

🧸 Teddy Bear Picnics and New Beginnings

Our Acorns and 1KS classes enjoyed a wonderful Teddy Bear Picnic on Monday - a lovely way to celebrate friendships and community in these final weeks of term. Meanwhile, our youngest children took part in "Stay & Play" sessions as part of their transition to Reception. It was a pleasure to welcome parents into school to begin this exciting journey with us.

We also had the delight of welcoming new faces to our school community throughout the week, including visits for future Acorns pupils and transition meetings with families of our new nursery, Hedgehogs. It's heartening to see the careful preparation going into ensuring a confident start for our newest learners, albeit with the added and unnecessary stress of waiting for Ofsted to give us the registration we need to actually open ...

🧠 Supporting Every Child

A range of Annual Reviews took place this week, reflecting our ongoing commitment to personalised support for children and their families. Our staff worked closely with parents, speech and language therapists, and external agencies to ensure that every pupil is well-supported. A special thanks to all those involved in this collaborative process, headed up by Mrs Morphet and Miss Gittins, our SENDCO's. Our SEND and pastoral teams are always hard at work behind the scenes - attending safeguarding supervision, child protection meetings, and cross-school training to further enhance our inclusive provision.

🎨 Enrichment and Sporting Events

After-school clubs continued in full swing this week, with pupils taking part in Y4 Netball, Y5/6 Cricket, Y5/6 Rounders, and a lively Y3/4 Long Rope Skipping Club. Midweek brought excitement and pride as our Y5/6 Football Team took on Vauxhall Motors in a friendly fixture, resulting in a 3-3 draw! Well done to all who participated - you represented Woodlands brilliantly on and off the pitch! Music continued to play its part too, with plenty of joyful singing across KS2 and LKS2 assemblies. We have 3 pianos in school at the moment that we are looking to rehome – contact Mrs Moss in the Junior Office for more details should you be interested.

👤 Engagement and Leadership

We were pleased to host our Safeguarding Governor, Kelli Hutton, on Monday morning for an update and strategic discussion. Across the week, several members of the senior team attended important meetings and supervision sessions - ranging from Emotion Coaching to Attendance Panels, ensuring our strategic vision continues to evolve with care and evidence-informed practice. Meanwhile, our Governing Body met for the final FGB meeting of the year - our thanks to all governors for their time, expertise, and support throughout the year. In September, as a result of the term of one of our parent governors being up, we will be recruiting for a new parent governor – watch this space and spend some time this summer considering if you'd like to volunteer for this role.

Celebration and Reflection

Year 2 delighted their families with a wonderful assembly performance midweek - always a highlight for staff and parents alike. And as this morning arrived, so did our celebration assemblies for LKS2 and UKS2, where we recognised the achievements and efforts of pupils right across the week. Year 2 even joined in the LKS2 celebrations - a special treat for everyone, even in the heat!

A Community That Shines

Before I close the blog this week, I want to give a huge shoutout to our amazing PTA and all the volunteers who made last weekend's Summer Fayre such a roaring success! From the colourful stalls to the joyful atmosphere and community spirit, it was everything we hoped for and more (and the weather held!). These events take time, heart, and effort to bring to life - thank you for going above and beyond once again.

On a personal note, as you all know, I'm currently working my way through the end-of-year reports - always a time to pause and celebrate the progress each child has made. As many of you know, my own son is facing a difficult journey. He had his operation on Wednesday, which marks the first step in his fight against cancer – it has been a whirlwind 3 weeks, from noticing a symptom whilst in America, to surgery here at home. For now, my focus is on helping him to recover, and I know I can count on the strength and kindness of our school community during this time – to those who have reached out, once again, I thank you.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our staff who, at this time of year, are tired, often have tired children of their own at home, and whole classes full of tired children to take to the very end of term as happy as they can be.

Dr Carr