

## Weekly Blog - Friday 18th July 2025

As we approach the final days of this academic year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the many special moments we've shared this week at Woodlands.



### Year 6 Leavers' Assemblies

Yesterday was filled with emotion, celebration, and pride as we held three wonderful assemblies to say farewell to our Year 6 pupils. Whether you joined us in the morning, afternoon, or evening, I know you'll agree that the children spoke, sang, and performed with such heart. We are incredibly proud of every one of them and wish them all the best as they take their next big step into high school. They leave Woodlands with memories, friendships, experiences and values that will last a lifetime. I hope they seize every opportunity presented to them in high school and never stop pursuing excellence. For me, as I said to the children, the quote of the day was 'Find a job you love to do and you will be paid to do something you love' – as teachers, we do this every day, whether we have ups or downs, challenges or successes, we do things with passion for and dedication to children and the society they will go on to contribute to in adulthood. All of our decisions here have children at the heart of them, and we are proud of this, although it can cause us headaches at times! My own children call it 'tough love', when I make decisions for their greater good, rather than take the easy option, and I suppose they are right. I was reminded of this after my son's recent surgery when I would not let him have McDonald's for dinner, but insisted he ate a healthy meal and nourished his body (#worstmumever).

### End of Year Sing-Songs

Today's 'KS1 Sing Song' and 'KS2 Sing Song' with Jonny brought a joyful energy to our Friday. He is transformed on the stage or when performing and Gentle Jonny that we know becomes Rock Star Jonny, King of the Stage! These events are always a highlight - a chance to come together in song and celebrate the end of term in true Woodlands' style. Thank you to Jonny for leading us with such enthusiasm and being prepared to share your talent so freely!

### Summer Reading Challenge - We're a Top School, in more ways than one!

I'm delighted to share that Woodlands is currently one of the top seven primary schools in Ellesmere Port for children joining the Summer Reading Challenge so far! Huge congratulations to all the pupils who have already signed up - your enthusiasm for reading is inspiring. Let's keep going! The school with the most participants by the end of August will win a trophy and a £20 book voucher for a child of their choice. So let's rally together... pick up a book, visit the library, and enjoy some summer reading adventures.  

### Annual Reports

After much work from your child's teacher, and a proofread from Mrs Liversey, I enjoyed reading and commenting on all of the annual reports, which are now complete and will be coming home this afternoon (at any moment, in fact). One of our parents, a new staff member, was surprised this week when she realised that I actually do read every single one and comment on it! These reports are a wonderful celebration of your child's year, full of achievements and personal growth and they are the highlight for me – the answer to the occasionally asked question when we are all tired or under pressure, 'why do we do it?' I hope you enjoy reading them together (and you don't get fleeced too badly for a reward when you read about the fabulous achievements of your child!).

### Thank You and Final Week Ahead

Next week brings our final couple of days of the term and the year, a time for goodbyes, good-lucks, laughter, tears, cheers and celebration. I want to thank all families for your support throughout the year. We say cheerio to the inimitable Mrs Gresty, who has been with us for 20 years and is a simply wonderful

human being, and we wish her a restful and enjoyable, well-earned retirement! We also bid farewell to Carol Yarney, our midday of an incredible 24 years as she also leaves us to enjoy a well-deserved retirement. Annalise, our apprentice TA has completed her apprenticeship and we wish her lots of luck as she leaves to undertake her teacher training. We also say a temporary cheerio to Paul, our maths guru, who will be back when Miss Tyrer leaves to have her baby! Finally, a heartfelt thank you and goodbye to Chris Marchant, who is stepping down after eight incredible years as a governor - many of those spent as our dedicated co-chair. Chris has been instrumental in shaping the journey of Woodlands, not least because he appointed me as Headteacher! He has been by the school's side through some of its most challenging times - from a period of serious improvement and leadership need, through a global pandemic, and into a period of real transformation and huge growth. His unwavering commitment to our children, staff and wider community has made a huge impact. Chris has been a tireless champion of maths, science and leadership, always bringing clarity, wisdom and kindness to the role. We will feel his absence deeply, but we are so grateful for everything he has given. Chris leaves behind a school that is stronger and more ambitious because of his influence - and for that, we owe him a huge thank you.

Whether it's been attending events, cheering from the side lines, or simply being there every morning with a smile, your partnership makes all the difference, more of the same for the majority of you next year and we won't go wrong! For now, have a lovely (and cooler) weekend and let's make the final 'week' one to remember.

Warm wishes,  
Dr Carr  
Headteacher