

Washacre Primary Academy Newsletter

Friday 13th February 2026



KINDNESS HONESTY
CURIOSITY RESILIENCE RESPONSIBILITY

Dates for your Diary

Monday 23rd February

8:30am – School gates open

Tuesday 24th February

Wednesday 4th March

All Day – Holi Festival

Thursday 5th March

All Day – World Book Day (PJ's / comfortable clothes)

Friday 13th March

All Day – Comic relief (non-uniform for a donation)

Communication Update

From **TODAY**, we'll be using **MCAS** for all parent and carer communications and will no longer be using Ping after the February half term.

Please take a moment to check your **email address and mobile number** are up to date on MCAS and download the **MCAS app** from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store if you haven't already.



Message from the Head Teacher

After many weeks of thoughtful consultation with pupils, families, staff and governors, we are delighted to share some very exciting news... **Washacre Primary Academy will soon be known as Woodland Primary Academy from September 2026.**

To build excitement across the school, we revealed **one letter of our new name each day** during the week beginning Monday 9th February. The full name was proudly unveiled in our Celebration Assembly this morning, creating a real buzz across our school community and marking the start of a very special new chapter.



The name *Woodland* reflects our renewed mission, vision and values, and our strong commitment to nurturing curiosity, growth and a deep connection with the natural environment. These are values already central to our ethos, our Forest School provision and the direction we are taking as a school.

This change marks an exciting new era for the school and its community. The letter-a-day reveal brought a real sense of anticipation and joy across school, and the level of engagement from families and pupils throughout the consultation process has been wonderful to see.

As part of our wider rebrand over the coming months, children will play an important role in **designing new signage around school**, linking closely to the school values that were refreshed at the start of this academic year. This will help ensure our environment truly reflects who we are and what we stand for.

We will also begin consultation with families regarding **school uniform** as part of the transition. Any new uniform items will be **phased in gradually**, ensuring the approach remains affordable and manageable for all. We are incredibly proud of this moment in our school's journey and excited to move forward together as **Woodland Primary Academy**.

Safer Internet Day

This week we marked **Safer Internet Day 2026**, a global event celebrated on **10th February** to help children think about how to stay safe, responsible and confident online. This year's theme was **"Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI"**, encouraging pupils to learn about how technology and artificial intelligence are part of our lives and how we can use them positively and thoughtfully.

Across school, we've been exploring activities and discussions to help children make good choices online and understand how to use digital tools safely.

Y6 Imperial War Museum Trip



A huge thank you to Westhoughton Town Council for generously funding our Year 6 trip to the IWM North.

We're also incredibly grateful to Sarita and Rishi from Rishi's for kindly donating a delicious lunch for all the children and staff. The amazing selection of sandwiches, snacks, drinks and treats was thoughtfully prepared and very much enjoyed by everyone. Your generosity and community spirit made the day extra special for our pupils and families—thank you so much!

Children's Mental Health Week

This week we have been celebrating Children's Mental Health Week, a UK-wide awareness week organised by the charity Place2Be to support children's emotional wellbeing and give young people a voice.



The theme "This Is My Place" encourages everyone to think about where they feel they belong and how we can create a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils. Across the school, children are taking part in activities that help them express themselves, explore their feelings and strengthen their sense of belonging in school and beyond.



We are proud of the thoughtful contributions our pupils are making throughout the week and look forward to continuing these important conversations about wellbeing.

Assembly Awards

Ultimate Honesty Awards

In our celebration assembly this term, we presented our **Ultimate Honesty Awards** (we're still working on the name) to children who consistently demonstrate integrity and live out our school values each day. These pupils show honesty by telling the truth, taking responsibility for their actions, sharing their thoughts openly and asking for help when they need it. Their everyday actions help to build trust and create a culture where everyone feels safe to be themselves.

As we move into Spring Term 2, our focus will turn to the value of **Curiosity**. We will be looking out for children who ask thoughtful questions, explore new ideas and show a genuine love of learning as we work towards our **Ultimate Curiosity Awards**.

Class 8

Oliver Gordan

Year 1

Skylar Crompton

Year 2/3

Nia Withington

Year 3/4

Nathan Ng

Year 5

Ruby Malloy

Year 6

Olivia Nicholson

Times Tables Rockstar

No publicity (Y6)

Lunchtime Award – Year 6

Attendance Award – Class 8

Class Attendance		
Rc	Y1	Y2/Y3
85.2%	88.9%	88.6%
Y3/4	Y5	Y6
91.5%	91.3%	94.4%
School target for attendance is 96%		

Empowering Every Child to Flourish