



Whitley Lodge First School

Newsletter 8 – Autumn 2025



Curriculum News



Christmas Message from Mrs Palmer



On this final day of school and almost the end of 2025, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all our families for their continued support. We are very lucky to be in the heart of such a wonderful community. Every day, the children impress me with their kindness, resilience and positivity. They are an absolute delight. As the Autumn term closes, I would like to share some of the highlights with you: **Beach Trips and Outdoor Learning** have been a key focus and every class from Reception to Year 4 has had the opportunity to learn outside in the local environment. During these trips, we have covered many aspects of the broad curriculum and had lots of fun too.

Nursery children have been making new friends, sharing nursery rhymes, and developing their communication and language skills through active learning. It was wonderful to share our songs with parents/carers during the Stay and Play sessions this term.

Both classes in **Reception** are thriving. STEM challenges have been a highlight within the Winter Wonderland topic. It is always a pleasure to pop into the Reception classrooms and chat with the children about their wonderful ideas. Reading and writing are a key focus in **Key Stage One**. The children have had a great time reading both fiction and nonfiction texts as a stimulus for their own writing. I am so impressed with the quality of their work. A particular highlight for everyone was writing fact files after the visit from Kielder Wildlife Centre when the children got to see, hold and learn first hand about different birds of prey.

Key Stage Two have particularly loved the World War II topic and brought this to life with their 'evacuation' to Beamish Museum. Inspired by a the story of a young boy being evacuated from London to the countryside, the children were able to write from the perspective of a child who was their age during the War. It was wonderful to read the emotive pieces that the children produced after being immersed in this engaging topic.

Last week, the children were incredible in all the Christmas productions. We were so proud of everyone. It was lovely to welcome so many parents/carers to see the performances too. Thank you.

Whitley Lodge Wonder League continues to celebrate and reward our children every day. A total of 12,564 Wonder Points have been given out since September. We are already collecting for next term and the tubes are filling up fast.

Finally, on behalf of all the Whitley Lodge First School staff, I would like to wish our families a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Many thanks and best wishes, Mrs Palmer.

Diary Dates 2026

5.1.26 Training Day

30.1.26 Blue Class
Assembly @9am

**12.2.26 Y4 Robinwood
Parent Information
Meeting @ 9am**

13.2.26 Orange Class
Assembly @9am

16.2.26-20.2.26 Half Term

30.3.26 Parent Evening (1)

31.3.26 Parent Evening (2)

3.4.26-17.4.26 Easter Break

8.5.26 Purple Class
Assembly @9am

25.5.26-29.5.26 Half Term

18.6.26 Yellow Class
Assembly @9am

19.06.26 Training Day

10.7.26 Reception
Assembly @9am

16.7.26 Y4 Leaver's
Assembly @9am

17.7.26 Last day of term

Online Safety Guides for Parents and Carers

It seems timely to direct you to our school website where there are links to extensive support and advice regarding online safety at home, including:

[Setting up new devices for children.](#)

[Setting up parental controls](#)

[Using and reviewing parental controls](#)

WLFS PTA raises a record £3,744 for school.

Thank you to the PTA volunteers and everyone who helped to make the Christmas Fair such a wonderful event. Thank you to everyone who came to enjoy it too. We are so very grateful to the PTA for their support across the year. The work of a relatively small group of volunteers makes such a difference for every child in school.

Year 4 Robinwood Parent Information meeting: Thursday 12 February @ 9am

The next newsletter is out on
Friday 9 January 2026