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Headteacher
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Thursday 7th May 2026

Parish Council Meeting – May 2026

I am pleased to provide the following update from Whitley Village School:

School Numbers and Admissions

The school currently has approximately 77 pupils on roll following recent in-year admissions. We can report that our Early Years Foundation Stage provision, judged Outstanding, has a small number of Reception places still available for September, alongside some limited availability in other year groups. We continue to actively promote the school and encourage prospective families to visit. We would very much appreciate the Parish Council's support in sharing this information locally, ensuring families are aware of the high-quality provision available within the area.

Curriculum Enrichment and Astra Programme

We continue to deliver a full and well-rounded programme of enrichment through our curriculum, ensuring that children benefit from a wide range of opportunities that extend beyond the classroom and support their wider development. Recent highlights from our wider curriculum include participation in inter-school sporting events, such as a dodgeball competition at Weaverham High School, where pupils demonstrated excellent teamwork and resilience. Pupils have also taken part in a fencing enrichment tournament, which introduced them to a new and

engaging sport. Within the classroom, pupils have benefited from creative and hands-on learning opportunities, including designing and constructing lighthouses, which supported both their design technology skills and creativity. Alongside this, whole-school initiatives promoting physical activity, wellbeing and healthy lifestyles continue to play an important role in school life. These opportunities are a key part of our commitment to ensuring all pupils develop confidence, independence and a love of learning.

Public Speaking Initiative

We are particularly proud of our public speaking initiative, which has been a growing strength within the school and was recently featured in the Northwich Guardian. This initiative focuses on developing pupils' confidence, articulation and ability to communicate effectively in a range of settings. Pupils are given regular opportunities to speak in front of their peers, present their ideas, and take part in structured speaking activities that build both confidence and resilience. The impact of this work is already evident across the school, with pupils demonstrating increased self-belief, improved vocabulary, and a greater willingness to express their ideas clearly. The recognition from the local press highlights the importance of this work and reflects our commitment to developing key life skills alongside academic achievement.

Educational Visits and Wider Experiences

A particular highlight this year has been the Year 4 residential visit to London, which provided pupils with an exceptionally rich cultural and educational experience. During the visit, pupils took part in a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament, which brought their learning about democracy and British values to life. They also visited a range of key London landmarks, helping to broaden their understanding of the country's history and culture. A visit to the Horizon 22 viewing platform gave pupils an opportunity to experience London from above, while attending a West End performance of Matilda the Musical provided a memorable and inspiring cultural experience. The pupils represented Whitley Village School exceptionally well and gained a great deal from this valuable opportunity to learn beyond the classroom.

Year 6 Residential – Min Y Don

We are also looking forward to our upcoming Year 6 residential visit to Min Y Don, which is always a key milestone in pupils' final year at primary school. This residential provides pupils with a valuable opportunity to develop independence, resilience and teamwork skills in a supportive and outdoor-focused environment. Activities typically include a range of adventurous and outdoor pursuits such as coastal exploration, team-building challenges and problem-solving tasks, all designed to push pupils out of their comfort zones and build confidence. In addition to the personal development benefits, the residential plays an important role in strengthening relationships between pupils as they prepare for transition to secondary school. It is always a highly anticipated experience and one which creates lasting memories for our children.

Playground Development Initiative

We are currently progressing a playground development initiative, aimed at enhancing outdoor provision and improving play opportunities for all pupils. The project focuses on creating a more stimulating and inclusive environment, with improved equipment and better use of space to support a range of activities. This includes opportunities for physical activity, imaginative play and quieter social interaction. This development reflects our

ongoing commitment to improving the school environment and ensuring that all pupils have access to high-quality outdoor spaces that support both their wellbeing and development.

Partnership with Whitley Pre-School

We continue to maintain strong and positive links with Whitley Pre-School, which are an important part of our role within the local community. Many preschool children regularly attend our Breakfast Club and After School provision, making use of our walking bus service. This supports working families and helps to ensure continuity of care. This partnership also supports a smooth transition into Reception, with many children already familiar with the school environment, routines and staff before they begin their full-time education.

Attendance

Attendance remains strong and continues to compare favourably with national averages. We are grateful to parents and carers for their continued support in ensuring children attend regularly and punctually, enabling them to fully benefit from all aspects of school life



Mr R David
Headteacher
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