



**Woodlands**  
ACADEMY

# Spring Term Newsletter 2026

Spring has been a short but busy term with lots going on. Pupils have been busy with World Book Day and Science week, going on lots of off-site visits and engaging in careers education. Life skills lessons this term have focussed on domestic skills and health/medicine. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the standout activities our pupils have been engaged with. Mr. Morgan

## Sycamore's Visits to Coca-Cola in Nottingham and Wakefield

As part of their careers education, pupils in Sycamore had the exciting opportunity to visit both the Coca-Cola headquarters in Nottingham and the Coca-Cola manufacturing site in Wakefield, gaining valuable insight into two very different sides of a major global business.

At the Nottingham office, pupils learned how Coca-Cola manages its busy logistics operations, from organising deliveries to supporting customers and prioritising what matters most each day. The visit helped pupils understand how communication, organisation, and strategic decision-making play a vital role in keeping a large company running smoothly.

In Wakefield, pupils explored one of the largest soft-drink factories in the world. They were able to see the full production process in action—watching how drinks are made on a massive scale, the quality-control checks that keep products safe, and the advanced technology that powers modern manufacturing. This hands-on experience helped pupils connect classroom learning with real-life industrial practice, showing how teamwork, efficiency, and precision support successful production.



### Supported Insight Programme

A group of pupils are currently engaged in a supported insight programme. They began by learning what makes a railway station accessible for all, including a visit to Derby Station and hands-on activities to understand inclusive design. They then completed practical tasks at Atkins Réalis, such as litter picking and a car park audit, gaining experience of real workplace responsibilities. A visit to the HS2 site in Birmingham gave pupils an exciting look at large-scale engineering and modern construction in action. They even had time for a quick photo with Ozzy the Bull!

In week four, pupils mapped out their own designs for an inclusive future train station and continued supporting the site team with maintenance tasks, strengthening their understanding of real working environments. This project will continue into the Summer Term. The scheme was partially funded through a successful grant application the pupils made to Nottingham Education Trust and some money raised during the Christmas Fair.





# BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK



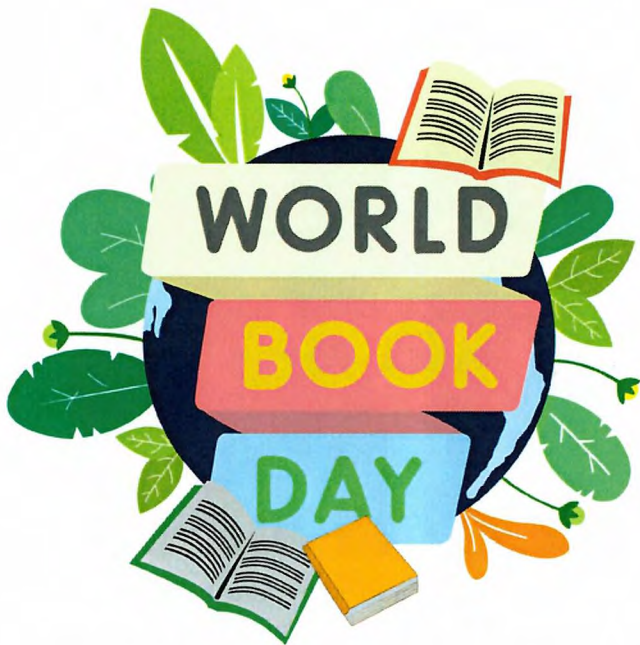
The Dino Dome

This March, Woodlands hosted an exciting programme of events for British Science Week, bringing together SEND learners from across the Trust, city and county for hands-on STEM experiences. The week began with the Dino Dome, an immersive 3D journey into the prehistoric world. Pupils were captivated by the roaring dinosaurs and interactive visuals.

Later in the week, a new pre-formal science carousel offered sensory-focused activities, including giant bubbles, rainbow foam, remote-controlled cars and weighing scales providing highly accessible experiences for pupils with complex needs. A highlight was the visit from Boffin Rita who led an engaging assembly and workshops featuring fire, polymers, plasma balls and the ever-popular elephant's toothpaste. Pupils from several schools took part, linking exciting demonstrations to curriculum learning. Across two days, more than 200 pupils attended the main Science Activity Carousel, exploring paper aeroplane launchers, sound experiments, giant balance scales, radio-controlled cars, Oobleck slime/"quicksand" and more. Pupils particularly enjoyed investigating scientific concepts such as non-Newtonian fluids, mass vs. size and sound. Ambleside concluded the week with a Forensic Science Day, where pupils learned to analyse fingerprints, footprints and DNA evidence before putting their learning into practice to solve a mock crime.



Boffin Rita blowing fire



We had an incredible World Book Day celebrating stories, imagination and the joy of reading across the whole school. The excitement started with storytelling workshops from the amazing Story Steve from Ash Lea School, who had pupils (and staff!) completely captivated. Our pupils had been busy all week baking cakes and biscuits for a reading-themed bake sale, featuring treats like Violet Beauregarde Blueberry Muffins, Room on the Broom Magic Stars, and Over the Rainbow M&M Cookies. We raised more than £80 for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. A huge highlight was welcoming so many families to our reading-focused coffee afternoon. Parents joined their children for shared reading, and lots of fun literacy activities. It was wonderful to see everyone enjoying stories together. Of course, we couldn't forget our Where's Wally? dress-up theme. Colleagues and pupils looked fantastic in their stripes, bobble hats and glasses. Pupils loved taking part in our Wally Hunt Quiz, spotting Wallys with different accessories and sharing Where's Wally? books with friends. It was a joyful, creative, book-filled day. Thank you to everyone who joined in and helped make World Book Day at Woodlands truly unforgettable!



### Creative activities

Our recent themed creative week, Here and Beyond, was a fantastic celebration of imagination and expression across the school. Pupils immersed themselves in a range of art and creative writing tasks, exploring ideas that stretched from the familiar to the extraordinary. Their efforts have contributed to entries for the Taste of Woodlands, which will take place during the last week of term, and Young Creative Awards, showcasing creativity and confidence. It has been wonderful to see clear progression in skills and confidence across school, alongside a strong sense of cohesion in the themes and quality of work produced.

The Woodlands Pupil Council is pleased to announce the date for this year's **A Taste Of Woodlands**, our annual showcase of our pupils' amazing creative talents. It will take place on **Thursday March 26th from 1 pm - 2.30 pm** and will feature an exciting mix of music, singing, drama, performance, art, food and drink from across the school. Tickets are free to parents, carers and close family members but spaces are limited.

Painting by La' Daisha Davis, Willow class

## Nottingham Forest v Fulham



A mixed group of pupils selected from the midday football club went to watch a Premier League football match as Forest played Fulham at the City Ground. The group benefited from the social and culturally enriching experience of watching a game at one of Nottingham's leading sporting institutions and at an internationally famous sporting arena. For some, it was their first time attending a football match.

## Pupil Council visit to IKEA



The Pupil Council visited IKEA as part of its project to improve the Life Skills Room, they explored the different showcase rooms with a particular emphasis on the kitchen, bedroom and living room spaces. Some councillors hadn't been to IKEA before and found it a really engaging experience.

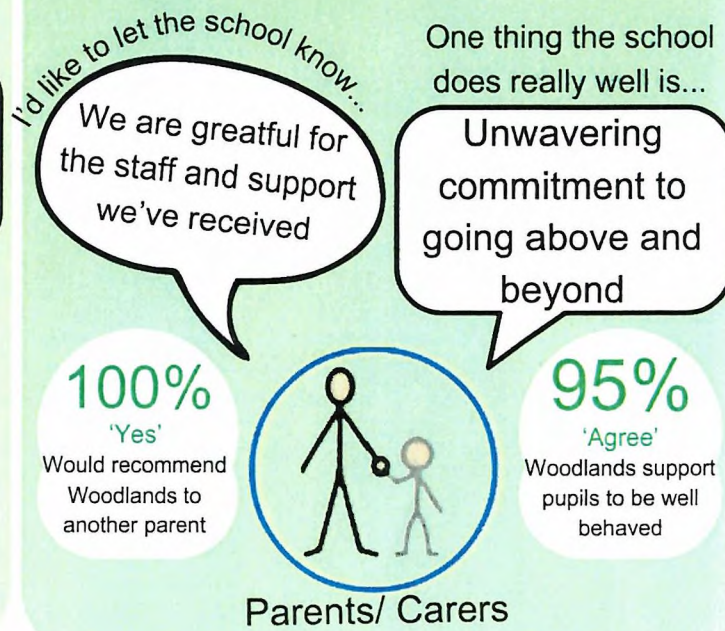
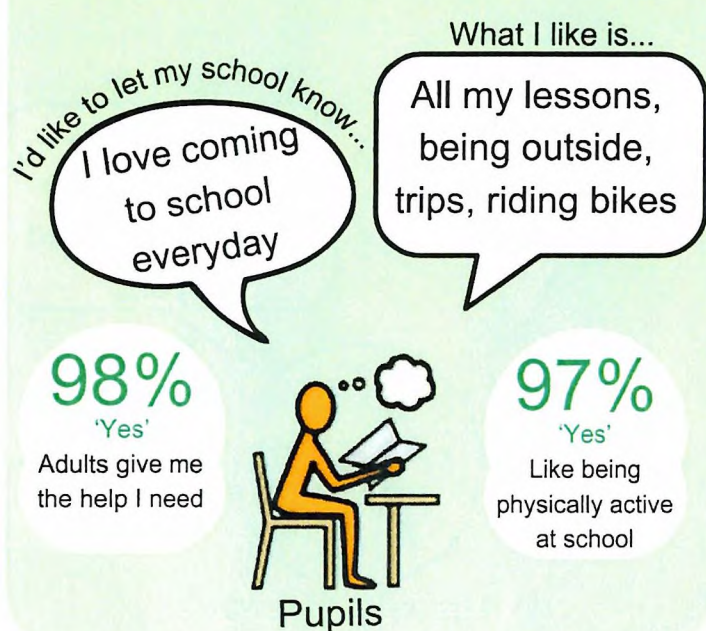
There were so many well put together rooms, it really demonstrated what can be achieved with a bit of planning and how we have the opportunity with our Life Skills Room to create three distinct spaces. The pupil council have a budget of £500 which was raised from generous contributions from families at the Christmas Fair to make improvements to the Life Skills room and will work on this in the summer term.

## Attendance

Attendance continues to improve year on year. We currently have an average of **92.8%**, which is well above the national average for special schools and is something we are very proud of. This shows that our pupils are happy and value coming to school. Thank you for your continued support to improve attendance.

# Thank you for sharing your views

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM YOUR FEEDBACK



## YOU SAID... WE LISTENED

Here's how your feedback is already shaping real developments at Woodlands Academy:

- Rolling out OPAL to boost outdoor play and learning
- Launching tech-guidance sessions for parents and carers
- Working together to keep the PPA room clean and organised

# Your voice shapes our future