Ysgol Gynradd Wood Memorial
Wood Memorial C.P. School

'From little acorns, mighty Oaks grow'

Learners Way, Off Boundary Lane, Saltney, Flintshire, CH4 8LN
01244 671807
Headteacher/Pennaeth: Mr Andrew Johnson
wmmail@hwbmail.net
@WoodyCPSaltney
www.woodmemorial.co.uk



Governors' Report to Parents & Carers

Academic Year 2025-2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to our 2025-26 Governor's Annual Report. As Vice Chairperson (and acting Chair of Governors), I am privileged to be able to be part of this process whilst we await the appointment of a new Chair of Governors at Wood Memorial. I hope you find the information throughout the report interesting and of use as we look back over the successes of the previous academic year. The Annual Report is a legal requirement but most importantly it should give you an insight into the education and involvements experienced by the children here at Wood Memorial, or as many affectionally refer to us as – Woody.

The staffing changes outlined in a previous report are fully embedded in the school and we have been lucky enough to continue with a strong leadership team in place, and fantastic group of staff who lead by example, instilling enthusiasm and drive within each other, and indeed all pupils. If any prospective parents are reading this annual report, I would encourage you to visit the school and you will be warmly welcomed and shown around. Since my last report to you, there have been some staffing changes. We are extremely pleased to welcome Mr Whatmough and Mr Broderick to the Woody team where they will be working full time in Dosbarth Rowan and Dosbarth Aspen respectively. Throughout the year we were joined by a number of new support staff including Mrs Brown, Ms Heyes and Ms Barnett. We said a fond farewell to Ms Tess Baldock who has left for a new role outside of Flintshire, and we are grateful for her years of service here at Woody. We send our congratulations and best wishes to Mrs Williams who started her maternity leave part way through the year – we look forward to welcoming her back to school during the early part of 2027.

We have had even more improvements made to the school - the new outdoor learning spaces on the junior yard, and extension zones built around the Learning Hub have offered more opportunities for children to access the outdoors (an incredible feat given the budgetary pressures we, as with all schools in Flintshire, faced last year). We faced significant challenges to avoid entering a deficit budget - with intelligent financial planning and amazing fundraising support of families and the local community (and some restructuring around internal arrangements), we continue to ensure the level of provision and enrichment opportunities, inside and outside of the school, for your children has remained.

Our 'Coed Woody' Forest School curriculum is embedded, with parents and carers also being invited to take part which the children have fully embraced. Mrs Ridge, as our Family and Community Engagement Officer, has organised many 'cafes and family learning courses whereby parents and carers have been invited to school to take part in various activities with their children from reading, playing games and as mentioned, Forest School. We also introduced our Woody Shop to support children developing their numeracy and financial literacy skills.

Our learners have had the wonderful opportunity to attend residential trips which as always, are a huge success and really enjoyed by all of those who took part. These residential trips included, Year 3/4 visiting Nant BH and Years 5/6 heading to Glan Llyn. Other activities enjoyed by the children have been day trips and many sporting opportunities which are listed in the body of the report. We had fantastic performances at Christmas and a very different Leavers play this year which was hosted as a celebration afternoon (with food and refreshments kindly hosted by NEWydd). A huge well done to everybody involved, including those behind the scenes.

As ever, I would like to thank parents and carers for all of your fundraising support throughout the school year. It is essential for us as it enables us to ensure your children are given the right tools for learning, particularly in relation to technology to support and enhance digital skills. We faced a challenging time following the effects of a lightning strike and the ongoing modernisation plans for schools within the Saltney area, and would like to thank you for your support throughout what continues to be an emotive and challenging time for everyone within the community.

Mr Marc Edwards, Vice Chair of Governors

General Overview

The Governors' Report to Parents is an opportunity to reflect on the previous academic year. Our previous School Prospectus contains information regarding the members of our Governing Body, staffing structure, school session times, uniform, curriculum offer and much more. To read the current prospectus, please click here:
https://www.woodmemorial.co.uk/_files/ugd/ade6bc_4b107d437a124904becdd3aae20ffa00.pdf

Term Dates 2025-2026

Autumn Term 2025	
1st September 2025 – 24th October 2025	3rd November 2025 – 19th December 2025
Spring Term 2026	
5th January 2026 – 13th February 2026	23rd February 2026 – 27th March 2026
Summer Term 2026	
13th April 2026 – 22nd May 2026	1st June 2026 – 20th July 2026
INSET Days	
1st and 2nd September 2025, 24th October 2025, 19th December 2025, 17th and 20th July 2026	

Numbers on Roll & Year 6 Leavers

Pupil Numbers on PLASC Day 20th January 2026

Nursery/EE	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
20	26	22	22	21	20	25	14
Total on PLASC day: **170**							

Of the 13 pupils in Year 6, 9 moved to St David's High School in Saltney. 4 children moved to Bishop's Blue Coat, Catholic High, Caldy Grange Grammar and Queens Park High School.

Attendance Information

We have first day of absence calls to ensure all pupils who can be in school are attending. We work closely with our Education Welfare Officer and Flintshire Inclusion Services to monitor attendance and challenge poor attendance where appropriate. We send out regular letters to all parents and carers about the importance of good attendance and how it directly impacts on academic progress and wellbeing. Average attendance percentages have fallen due to the impact of the Covid pandemic, however, we continue to work with learners and their families to raise attendance levels year on year. Our attendance during the last academic year was 90.5%.

School Development Plan (SDP)

Our main priorities on the School Development Plan were as follows:

- Priority 1: Introduce a specialised and progressive outdoor learning offer with the aim of improving the confidence, skills, self-esteem and well-being of learners, staff and the wider community.
- Priority 2: Provide opportunities to progressively apply the five connected and interdependent proficiencies, raising standards in numeracy across the curriculum.
- Priority 3: Develop our 'Culture Cymraeg' to promote and encourage everyday Welsh, and Welsh speaking skills of all school stakeholders, improving progress and raising standards.

- Priority 4: To enhance the quality and purpose of learners' extended writing skills across all AoLEs, enabling them to express their knowledge and understanding, effectively, coherently and creatively

A more detailed version of our SDP can be found by clicking the following link:
www.woodmemorial.co.uk/_files/ugd/ade6bc_2471b968b70d4bacadb38f62d56326c6.pdf

Curriculum

Our curriculum offer for Wood Memorial can be found on the school website. We created a Charter of Experiences that we will offer all children during their journey at Wood Memorial. These were constructed with all stakeholders. Pupils are fully involved in the design, development, direction and evolution of our curriculum. The children will decide which direction their learning takes. We provide rich tasks which children can fully immerse themselves in, offering blended curricular and enrichment opportunities wherever possible. We have explored the way in which we teach and implement a range of pedagogical principles. You will find our Curriculum Rationale by clicking on the following link:
https://www.woodmemorial.co.uk/_files/ugd/ade6bc_2f6380e3219d431f9183a506a0f69bf5.pdf

School Trips, Extra-Curricular Activities and Enrichment

Following the Covid pandemic, many events and enrichment opportunities returned to school life last year. Our enrichment programme has always been diverse and below are some examples of the projects and trips we engaged with and organised in the last academic year.

- Extra-Curricular programme including Football, Cymraeg, Rugby, Hockey, Handball, Homework, Singing, Socks & Slippers, Athletics, Running, Cricket, Digital/Minecraft, Art.
- Chester Races/Manor House Stables Numeracy Project trips
- Nant BH and Glan Llyn residential trips
- Part of the All Wales Police Liaison programme and Anti-Social Behaviour project.
- Bikeability, Fire Service, First Aid, Welsh Water and BSL workshops
- Full Forest School curriculum (all year groups)
- Dragon Sports and Consortium sports tournaments: Athletics, Football, Cross Country, Triathlon, Cricket, Hockey
- Charity/Fundraising events: Santa Dash Litter Pick, PJ day, Children in Need, Show Racism the Red Card, Comic relief, Rupert's Rainbow and others
- AoLE/St David's High School enrichment days (Years 4, 5 & 6)
- Enhamced trainstion project In partnership with Commuity Focused Schools
- Christmas and Leavers performances
- Woody Cafés, Family Learning sessions, Wellies in the Woods and Wild in the Woods

Flintshire Healthy Schools Scheme

We are part of the Flintshire Healthy Schools Scheme, which is part of the Welsh Network of Health and Well-being Promoting Schools (WHNPS) - we have achieved the highest recognition possible, the National Quality Award. We work hard to ensure children are made aware of how to stay healthy and safe. Children are encouraged to bring in healthy snacks and NEWydd (catering provider) ensure that all food provided meets strict nutritional guidelines. We have a water cooler in school and all pupils are encouraged to drink water throughout the day. Fresh milk is offered daily to children in Nursery-Year 2.

The Healthy Schools programme is currently undergoing significant change and we have offered to pilot the new approach when it is ready to launch shortly.

Family Engagement and Learning

Building strong links with parents, carers, families and the wider community is integral to all we do. Our Family Engagement Coordinator leads in this area and last year, we were able to offer a range of Woody Cafes focusing on board games, Christmas craft, reading, digital skills and the forest area. Further parent/carer forest school sessions took place and we delivered the 'Wellies in the Woods' and 'Wild in the Woods' programmes. We visited different parts of our local community and supported a range of community projects inlcuing donating to the Foodbank at Harvest. The 'Come and Cook – Cooking in the Community' programme ran alongside other parent/carer learning sessions. Easter Bingo and Woody Cafes ran throughout the year, each with a different focus and theme. We also have a recycling uniform shop to support families where needed.

Policies

We have a range of policies at school (both statutory and recommended), available upon request and on our school website. Whilst we attempt to have all policies ready at the start of the academic year, some undergo changes due to updated information, and national changes, shared throughout the academic year. All policies are ratified by the Governing Body and we have a meeting schedule to discuss school policy and practice. Governing Body agreed to adopt all model Flintshire Local Authority policies in the first meeting of the school year.

Grounds, Maintenance and Health and Safety

The Local Authority and Compliance Health and Safety work the school audits in school, Governors looked at areas of the school that needed general repairs and maintenance;

- New security gates installed by Nursery/Reception and the Junior yard.
- New safety fob doors installed by the kitchen and main hall.
- Outdoor sheltered spaces have been further developed.
- Drain work and plumbing improvements to toilets has been undertaken.
- Electrical and gas work has been carried out in some sections of the school.
- Following the lightning strike next to the school we have had new phone, alarm and fire systems installed. Wi-Fi switches, PCs and CleverTouch boards have been replaced throughout the school. We are awaiting the installation of two new boilers following the damage caused to the boiler room.
- The Learning Hub soft play area has been cleaned and patch repaired.
- New sheltered area installed behing the Learning Hub

Additional Learning Needs

Additional Learning Needs (ALN), is the term used for supporting children and young people in Wales who require specific and specialised support. We are determined to deliver a fully inclusive education offer for our learners in Wales, a system where needs are identified early and addressed quickly, and where all learners are supported to reach their potential.

It is the responsibility of the school to do all it can to maximise learning and progression for every child. We are constantly exploring new and innovative ways to improve our ALN offer, resources, interventions, environment, teaching and learning strategies to allow all children to fulfil their potential.

This year we have continued to draw up and maintain relevant Individual Education Plans for learners. This involved regular meetings and reviews taking place between class teachers,

parents, pupils and external agencies. We have worked in partnership with the Local Authority Additional Learning Needs team, Behaviour Support, Educational Psychologists, School Nurse team and the Inclusion Welfare Officer.

Mrs Topham is our full time ALNCO and is supported in school by Mrs Dorbin and Mrs Nowak. A number of other staff are trained to deliver specific interventions including Talkboost, ELSA and Lego Therapy.

Language Development

The first language of the majority of our pupils is English. For those pupils whose first language is one other than English we access support through the EAL team (English as an Additional Language). We work with the EAL team to support pupils and staff. We are also part of the Language Development Project and were provided with a Language Development Assistant to support pupils in school, providing intensive support for EAL learners.

We are a school in Wales and Welsh forms a significant part of our Languages, Literacy and Communication area of learning. We have a well-established Criw Cymraeg as part of our Student Senedd and are part of the 'Cymraeg Campus' initiative. Staff and learners are encouraged to use everyday Welsh around the school and, where possible, signs will be bilingual.

Community Links

We continue to maintain strong links in the community and are involved in many aspects of life within our local area. We have close links with Saltney Town FC, Airbus, Douglas Place, Chester FC, Chester University, St David's High School, Saltney Ferry CP School, Tesco Broughton, Morrisons Saltney, and other local businesses. We took part in the annual Remembrance Service at Hawarden Memorial and supported a number of charities this year. PC Woodworth visited us as part of the School Police Liaison programme to work with pupils on topics such as e-safety, road safety, discrimination, stranger danger and substance misuse.

Disability Access

We work closely with children and families to ensure school meets the needs of all stakeholders. We work with external partners and over recent years we have had ramps fitted to all exit doors and have had the fire alarm upgraded to light up (as required for pupils with hearing loss). We have had doors widened within the school so that they are accessible for all.

Toilets & Sanitary Waste

Toilets are allocated to leaners groups by age/class. Nursery and Reception pupils have their own set of toilets. Year 1/2 pupils have a shared set of girl and boy toilets available which has been partitioned. Year 3-6 children have one set of girl and boy toilets located along the Junior corridor. We have sanitary bins in the Junior girl's toilets, staff toilets and the changing area in Year 1/2. We also have nappy bins situated in school which are maintained and collected by an external company. All toilets are cleaned at the end of every school day, and during should the need arise. All toilet facilities are subject to a regular daily check by the Caretaker and an annual Health & Safety check is carried out by Compliance Health and Safety.

Finance and Personnel

School Budget was shared three times during the school year and the LA finance officer attended. We approved small purchases and staffing changes as well as looking at budget forecasts and current spends. The overall budget is becoming tighter year upon year with reductions in core budgets meaning we need to ensure we are making necessary efficiencies. School used the Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) to deliver Universal Provision initiatives such as ELSA, offer enhanced family engagement experiences, and deliver a Forest School curriculum. We share a plan which demonstrates our grant spend each year and this can be viewed on the school website. Below, you will see our final financial outturn for 2025/2026.

Saltney Wood Memorial (383)

Financial Outturn 2025/2026

BUDGET HEADING	FORMULA BUDGET 2025/2026	SCHOOLS PLANNED BUDGET 2025/2026	EXPENDITURE 2025/2026	DIFF + OR (-)
BALANCE FROM 2024/2025	**34,923**	**38,454**		**38,454**
EMPLOYEES	**733,139**	**929,640**	**1,002,246**	**-72,606**
PREMISES	**72,485**	**60,562**	**65,273**	**-4,711**
SUPPLIES	**23,492**	**30,826**	**39,439**	**-8,613**
ADULT MEALS	**-**		**122**	**-122**
SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS	**45,758**	**47,500**	**45,905**	**1,595**
INCOME	**-**	**-197,185**	**-259,249**	**62,064**
TOTAL 2025/2026	**909,797**	**909,797**	**893,736**	**16,061**