



**White Ash Primary School**  
**Headteacher's Report to the Governing Board**  
**Autumn Term 2025**



## Introduction

Welcome to my first Headteacher's Report of this academic year. As a school we continue to be totally committed to improving the outcomes for our pupils and further developing our outstanding provision.

We have been very busy with events such as Macmillan Coffee Morning, Parent's Evening, MFL day, Black History month, Diwali, Remembrance Day and a Wellbeing day. The pupils have all settled into school extremely well since September including our 18 new starters.

Occasionally throughout this report you will see the following box:

### Governor Questions:

Whilst reading my report please note down any questions you have relating to the information provided and I will be happy to answer them during our Governing Board Meeting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 12.30pm in school.

## School Improvement Plan Priorities (2025 – 2026)

The School Improvement Plan focuses on our school that continues to grow and aims to accommodate more pupils compared to previous years. We wish to build on our 'outstanding' provision and aim to do so by implementing this plan. The **key priorities** for improvement for the coming year are:

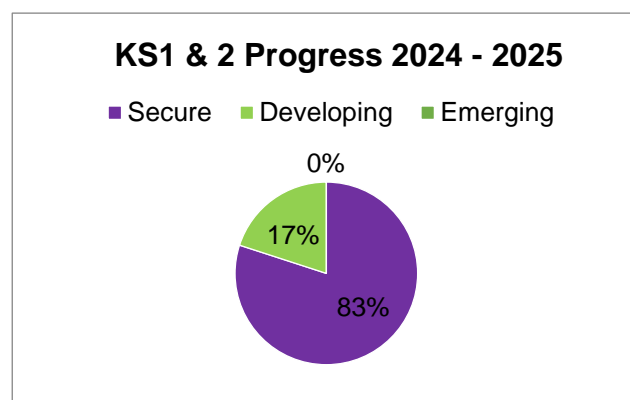
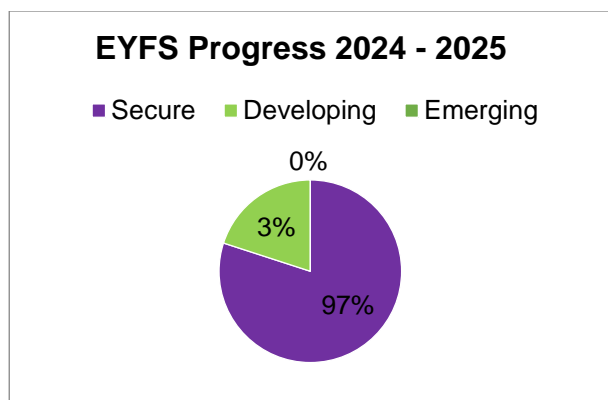


I will discuss these priorities and progress towards them in more detail during this our Full Governors Meeting ([Appendix 1](#)).

## Quality of Education

### Summer Term Pupil Progress (Reports from Angela Hill & Kirsty Bryan)

Overall, the data analysis clearly demonstrates that the vast majority of pupils, 91%, have achieved their Autumn Term ILP targets.



The full reports are attached ([Appendix 2 a & b](#))

### Monitoring and Evaluation of Teaching and Learning Summer Term 2025

Ofsted reported that:

*There is no ceiling placed on what pupils can achieve at Oswaldtwistle White Ash. The school truly lives out its motto 'Together, anything is possible.' It ensures that from pupils' very first day in school, they receive a curriculum which is broad, ambitious and allows them to develop important knowledge and skills. Throughout the different learning Inspection report: Oswaldtwistle White Ash School 23 and 24 April 2025 2 pathways, the school dovetails the different subjects and topics that pupils learn. There remains a clear focus on pupils achieving the targets set out in their education, health and care (EHC) plan. Staff are skilled at ensuring that the small targets which they set are exactly right for each pupil.*

This term we have carried out 'drop ins' to monitor teaching and learning across school. Class cohorts are becoming increasingly challenging due to the increasing complex nature of the children. Teachers have adapted their curriculum and the children are making good progress so far.

### EYFS & Lower School (Report by Kirsty Bryan)

**What a fantastic first half-term it has been for EYFS!**

Our children have thoroughly enjoyed settling into their new environment and building relationships with their peers. This term, our topic has been 'All About Me', through which we've explored themes such as our bodies, the five senses, growing up, and our families. In addition to classroom learning, we've made the most of our outdoor spaces and participated in P.E., mobility sessions, and rebound therapy on the trampoline—all of which have supported the children's physical development and confidence.

We also embarked on our first educational visits. Duckling Class had a wonderful time at the Sensation Gym, while Gosling Class enjoyed exploring the enriching environment at All Thrive. Both outings provided valuable opportunities for the children to engage with new settings alongside their friends.



### Lower school

All our children have settled into their new classroom this term and have been exploring the school environment. They have engaged well in a variety of multi-sensory activities including Intensive Interaction, Rebound/Hydrotherapy, and Learning Outside the Classroom. The children in Kingfisher have really enjoyed exploring the woodland area and were involved in 'campfire cooking!!' Our story this half term was 'The Three Little Pigs' and they have listened to the sensory story, engaged and interacted with props and made a variety of creative pieces. The children have also enjoyed musical activities -they have listened to different pieces of music and explored and played different instruments together. In Science we have been exploring materials and testing which materials are the most waterproof, which the children thoroughly enjoyed!! In Life Skills/RE we have been using utensils to cut our fruit and taste the fruit as part of our Harvest activities



Eagle class have been exploring Houses and Homes in Autumn 1. We have been reading The 3 little pigs each week and exploring the different types of homes (straw, sticks, bricks). We have loved this story especially blowing the houses down! We have created lots of artwork using different techniques linking to homes and also homes around the world e.g. igloo or lighthouses. In Science, we have been exploring materials. We have explored items made of plastic, wood and

metal then moved onto waterproofing using wax crayons. We have also watched materials change e.g. melting chocolate. In PE we have been developing our fundamental movement skills, we have focused on jumping, balance, throwing and kicking. It has been a very busy but fun first half term.



In Falcon class, we have had a very busy start to the school year. Our topic is houses and homes. We have enjoyed learning about the different type of houses that people might live in. Our class story has been 'The Three Little Pigs'. This children have really enjoyed anticipating the characters and plot, especially The Big Bad Wolf! In Maths we have explored lots of opposite: big and small, long and short and heavy and light. We also attended our first class trip to the Sensation gym which was very much enjoyed by all pupils.



## Upper School (Report by Darren Houghton)

This term in Finch class, we have been reading Emma Jane's Aeroplane in English, and in Maths we have been focusing on heavy/light, long/short and subtraction.

We have been exploring Autumn, both indoors and outside, and discovering all about famous explorers and inventors. But we have also had some super-fun days including Diwali, Kandinsky and Halloween for our wellbeing day.



Since September, Dove Class have been learning all about inventors and explorers. We began by discovering the journeys of Christopher Columbus, exploring the places he visited such as Cuba and South America. During outdoor learning, we built our own ship and created a sail trail from Spain to Cuba, bringing history to life through hands-on exploration.

Next, we learned about the Wright brothers, the inventors of the aeroplane. Inspired by their innovation, we set up our own classroom airport and designed and built our very own wooden aeroplanes!

In English, we read the story *Stick Man*, which linked beautifully with our topic. Just like Columbus, *Stick Man* goes on an exciting adventure, helping us explore themes of travel and discovery.

In Maths, we've covered a range of topics including addition, subtraction, length, and weight. The children have enjoyed applying their maths skills in practical and engaging ways.



This half term Owl class have enjoyed learning about Myths and Legends for our class topic. We have focused on a different Myth/Legend each week; Dragon, Medusa, Rainbow Snake, Vampire and Mermaids. Within science, we have explored light, dark and colours in a variety of ways by making shadows, exploring colours on a light box and taking part in colour-themed experiments. Pupils have enjoyed working towards their Autumn term ILPs and are making good progress well done Owl class.



The children in Robin Class have all settled really well into their new class and have had lots of fun. Our topic has been 'Myths and Legends' and our story has been 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff.' In Science, the children have been learning all about 'Light,' exploring switch toys, light boxes and shadows. In PE, we have been working hard on our fundamental movement skills and our movement and communication skills in Jabadao. Robin Class even enjoyed 3 sessions of Forest Schools with Sporting NRG where we tried out hammocks, made playdough and had a campfire with S'mores.

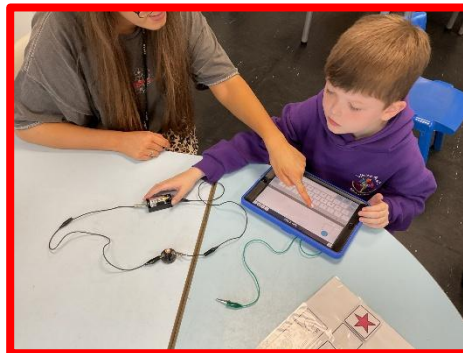


Sparrow class have had a busy start to the year with their 'Marvellous Me!' topic. We have been exploring what makes us so fantastic through lessons that stretch what our bodies and brains can do. In ICT everyone has been making progress in controlling devices in their environment. In MOVE 2 Music and sensory massage, we have been developing body awareness and learning about ways in which we can keep our bodies clean. Sparrow class enjoyed poetry in their literacy sessions and used their senses to explore and make choices.

Sparrow class also enjoyed a morning out to Townley Park in addition to LOTC sessions in the school woodland. Sparrow have also worked hard in weekly rebound therapy sessions, hydrotherapy and interventions.



This half term in class Puffin we have enjoyed settling into our new classroom and making the space our own. Our topic has been Myths and Legends where we have been learning all about mythical creatures such as Medusa, dragons and the rainbow snake. We have worked hard on our ILPs forming our letters and including verbs in our sentences, plus exploring circuits in Science. We have enjoyed all the special visitors, where we amazed Natasha with our fantastic questions to the paediatric nurse and Cooper the guinea pig and then eating cake with our family.



Wren class have enjoyed their topic on Myths and Legends. We found out about different mythical creatures including unicorns, dragons and the kraken. We created lots of pieces of artwork using a variety of skills e.g painting, drawing and printing. In our learning outside the classroom sessions, we have had lots of fun making a campfire and toasting marshmallows, building dens and lounging in the hammocks. We have also explored food and where it comes from in our science and DT sessions.



What a fantastic start to the 2025-26 school year, full of imagination, exploration, and learning!

## Interventions (Report by Angela Hill)

### Sensation- The Sensory Gym

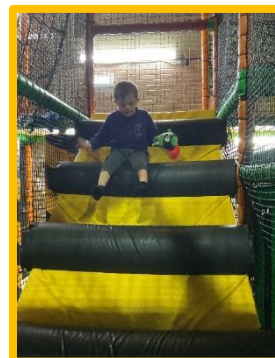
10 children attend the weekly sessions at The Sensory Gym. Throughout these sessions children engage in meaningful play, movement and sensory experiences in order for them to become more regulated to learn. The children also work on their personalised targets linked to communication, behaviour and life skills which supporting staff are aware of and gather evidence towards.



### Adventure City-Mobility

Adventure City, located within Hyndburn Sports Centre, provides a stimulating soft play environment equipped with a wide range of apparatus designed to support the development of core strength and mobility in a safe and engaging setting.

A group of pupils attend weekly sessions, where they work towards their individual physical development and mobility targets. These sessions are not only highly beneficial for their physical progress but also offer an enjoyable and motivating experience for the children.



### Weekly Interventions- Communication/PHSE/Maths

Interventions are now delivered in our newly developed “Nurture Nest” room, a dedicated space designed to support children's emotional and developmental needs. The environment has been warmly received by pupils, who show great enthusiasm and engagement during sessions.

Each intervention is carefully planned to address the individual needs of the child, ensuring personalised support. Sessions consist of structured activities aligned with specific developmental goals, followed by a more flexible period that allows for open-ended play, discussion, and observational assessment. This balanced approach supports both progress monitoring and the development of social and emotional skills.



## ***Behaviour and attitudes***

### **Exclusions**

There have been 0 permanent and 0 fixed period exclusions during this term to date.

### **Racist or Child on Child Incidents**

There have been 0 incidents during this term to date. The full Behaviour Report will be shared in the meeting.

### **Attendance (Report by Julie Nolan)**

<b>Termly Pupil Attendance</b>	<b>Overall Attendance</b>	<b>Overall Attendance exc complex medical needs</b>
<b>Autumn Term 2024</b>	88%	88%
<b>Spring Term 2025</b>	89%	91%
<b>Summer Term 2025</b>	91%	92%

The school's target for attendance is 90%. At the beginning of the academic year all pupils are given this attendance target to work towards. For those pupils with significant and complex medical needs (3 pupils), we create a separate cohort which we monitor separately. We fully understand how health issues can impact their attendance. We have one part time pupil following almost a full year of ill health with multiple hospital admissions. He is provided with home learning activities and the class teacher is in regular contact to offer support and guidance. At the beginning of this term we have had 1 pupil who was absent for a few weeks due to an arm fracture (brittle bones).

We are committed to improving pupil attendance here at White Ash and highlighting to the whole community how regular attendance improves pupil progress. The introduction of the DfE Working Together to Improve Attendance in 2024 has highlighted the issue of holidays in term time. All holidays have been previously granted as we understand the difficulties associated with busy holiday destinations. However, we have seen a big increase in the number of requests by individual families and also the length of time they are requesting. This is resulting in a significant amount of missed education and has had a major impact on their development.

Each request is carefully considered and, where approval is granted, it is with the premise that they provide some learning opportunities and/ or complete the activities offered by school.

From September, there has been 2 cases of an extended holiday taken without good reason therefore I have issued penalty notices. I am hoping that families understand the reasons for this and consider future requests more carefully to reduce the impact on their child's education.

Attendance continues to be monitored daily by the school Attendance Champion, Julie N, Attendance lead/ Headteacher and Family Liaison Officer, Catherine. Any concerns and subsequent actions are recorded on the Child Protection Online Monitoring System (CPOMS). Attendance is also a key part of the DSLs role and therefore discussed as part of their daily monitoring and half termly team meetings.

We also attend the School Safeguarding Team Designated Senior Lead drop in sessions, LA HT Briefings and annual Safeguarding Conference which cover key aspects of attendance.

Termly monitoring meetings are held with the Headteacher, Attendance Champion and our allocated LA School Attendance Consultant, Riz Yousf, where we share our data and discuss any issues such as any persistent absentees.

We liaise regularly with parents regarding attendance and offer support and guidance around aspects such as good routines, sleep and make referrals to health professionals via the school nurse. We also liaise very closely with LCC transport team to resolve any issues that are preventing transport. Parents/carers are informed via letter if their child's

**Governor Questions:**

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attendance had fallen below 90% and no improvement seen during the monitoring period. Within this letter we also offer support to these families as there may be barriers unknown to us. If no improvement is made, we meet with parents and, where necessary, the LCC Attendance Consultant.

## ***Personal Development***

### **British Values**

We were awarded the SEND Inclusion Award in July. This is a national recognition of the high-quality education it provides for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

The award highlights the school's commitment to removing barriers to learning, delivering inclusive teaching, and demonstrating strong leadership. As part of the process, the school evaluated the impact of its SEND provision to further improve classroom practice and outcomes for pupils.

The successful application was led by Deputy Headteacher and SEND Co-ordinator, Angela Hill, who guided the school through the rigorous assessment.

To achieve the award, the school had to provide evidence that it met high standards across a number of areas, including:

- ensuring effective, everyday teaching and learning for pupils with SEND,
- demonstrating strong leadership and management of SEND provision, and
- showing a clear commitment to involving both pupils and parents in decisions about SEND support.

This award is a significant achievement for White Ash Primary School and reflects the dedication of staff, pupils, and families in fostering a truly inclusive learning environment.



### **Pupil Parliament (Jess Singleton) & Rota Kids (Keara Crabtree)**

We are proud to announce our new Head boy, Cooper, and Head girl, Isla. Both have already been busy in their duties.

Our first Pupil Parliament meeting of this year was held on Wednesday 15th October. Although only a few members of the Pupil Parliament attended the meeting, lots of things were discussed. We have decided to continue with the White Ash school newspaper which will come out each term.

The pupils would like to start an enterprise project. Next half term, they will be making bookmarks and Christmas baubles to sell. These will be available for both staff and parents to purchase and more information about this is to follow. Monies raised will go towards Year 6 residential.

The team also mentioned that they felt very happy in school and they like things such as friendship rules, certificates and WOW moments.

We look forward to meeting up again after the half term to begin our enterprise project and to put our first newspaper of the year together.

Our Rota Kids loved the railway project and concluded this in June by having an assembly to see the artwork 'unveiled'. Parents of those involved attended alongside the professionals and artists to celebrate the achievements of our children. The artwork is now up on the greenway from Oswaldtwistle station to Accrington station.



The next project for our Rota Kids will be participating within the Derian House tree decorating for the Christmas tree. The Rotary Club have sponsored a tree as part of the 'Trees of Light' project, where the pupils will make a decoration to hang on our tree. Our initial thoughts are that we will create a 'Kindness Tree' and each child will write on their decoration a 'Thank You' to someone who has shown them kindness. We will then hang each decoration on our Kindness Tree at Derian House. This will start in November-December.

## Physical Development

Our Physical Development Team, led by our Subject Leader for PE, Danielle Jolley has been working hard this term to ensure all physical programmes and levels of activity are restored. This encompasses all aspects of Physical Development and aims to provide a holistic approach for our pupils.

EYFS lead and teachers, Kirsty Bryan and Beth Lamoury, are leading a Research based project this year, specifically *'What is the impact of outdoor play on children's overall development and well-being?'*

## MOVE/ Mobility (Report by Jude Rothwell)

MOVE/mobility is continuing to work well. Summer was the time for all KS1 and KS2 pupils to showcase what physical skills they had been working on all year, in the annual MATP special Olympics! Pupils demonstrated all forms of movement; from walking, rolling, striking to hand eye coordination skills in various games, races and activities. Parents were invited and were really proud of all the progress pupils had made over the year. The morning event was filled with the opening ceremony, warm up, races and activities before closing with the presentation of certificates detailing what particular skill each pupil had been working on all year.



Sparrow class were invited to participate in Holly Grove's MATP special Olympics in June after they had paid us a visit the year prior. It was lovely to meet so many new friends and participate in a little healthy competition! All pupils received a medal and huge round of applause and even some Holly Grove pupils stayed to cheer us all on!



For the first year, early years hosted their own MATP special Olympics event!

There was a terrific turn out from the parents who enjoyed cheering on and helping their child to participate in rolling, switching, walking and fine and gross motor games. The event was a great success and we will repeat it again in summer 2026!



## PE (Report by Subject Leader Danielle Jolley)

Within lessons this term, the focus has been on Fundamental Movement skills and gymnastics. This helps children settle into their new classes and allows teachers and teaching staff to gain a good awareness of the pupil's abilities and how to progress their skills with PE throughout the academic year. Our Rebound after-school club re-starts again in Autumn 2 for a 5-week block, where pupils are working towards Winstrada scheme awards. We are fortunate to have the SEND Lancashire Cricket Team coach Max returning to school in November to take part in a lunchtime activity club every Friday before supporting in EYFS in the afternoon to give them the opportunity to try soft ball cricket. We have also a variety of sporting activities and opportunities booked in for the Spring and Summer terms for pupils in most classes to experience and attend e.g. dance workshops, MATP, Hothersall lodge and Bike ability.

### Hydrotherapy and Swimming

The sessions at both Holly Grove and Pendle community High are going really well. There are 16 children who attend on a rota basis. They are working hard on their individual physiotherapy programmes.

In addition to their physio targets, every child is also working towards a personalised Duckling swimming award. These sessions provide significant developmental benefits, supporting both physical progress and overall wellbeing.



Swimming sessions have continued this term at Accrington Academy Swimming Pool. Pupils are attending half-term block of swimming 3 times a year, working on both ILP targets and those within the swimming frameworks, including a focus on water safety with links to PSHE. Intervention swimming continues weekly where pupils have focused targeted work including communication, life skills and physical development targets as well as supporting their sensory regulation and working towards personalised targets from the Duckling and Swimming stage frameworks where good progress has been made so far in both groups.

The Tuesday intervention swimming sessions at Accrington Academy are progressing very well. All children have shown marked improvement, with several now confidently swimming in the deep end without the use of arm bands.

Each child works towards individual swimming targets, ranging from Duckling Awards to Stage 2 Swimming Awards, ensuring that progress is both measurable and tailored to their current ability level.

## Sports Premium

This year, our focus for our Sports Premium is still to continue making sure all staff within the school are upskilled and feel confident in delivering PE lessons and physical interventions as well as giving our pupils extra opportunities to experience sporting activities. We have placed a new class Teacher on a dance workshop in January to upskill and increase confidence in PE with a focus on dance, re-training members of staff to update their knowledge in National Rescue Award for Swimming Teachers and Coaches (NRASTC) and rebound therapy as well as buying new resources to support all our pupils.

As a school, we have continued again with our weekly forest school activities in the school grounds through the Autumn term and this will continue into the Spring term, followed by weekly canoeing for KS2 pupils, utilising a local outdoor education specialist in the Spring and Summer Terms. We have also included a variety of opportunities for our pupils, including our annual Bendrigg Lodge residential visit, Hothersall Lodge Day Visit and weekly visits to participate in Canoeing through NRTG.

[See website for a full breakdown of spending.](#)

## Pupil Premium

[See website for a full breakdown of planned spending.](#)

## Educational Visits

Educational visits continue to be a very valuable addition to the curriculum to extend and embed pupils' learning. Both EVCs have recently attended refresher training and attend regular Network meetings for updates and to share good practice. There is an updated EVC Policy and Form 5 Risk Assessment which has been shared with all staff.

In the Summer, Classes were very busy exploring existing favourites and some new places linked to their topics.

Venue	Class Group	Date
GLD Athletics	Owl	07/05/2025
Oakhill School	Finch	09/05/2025
Thompson Park	Eagle	12/05/2025
Oswaldrtwistle Mills	Kingfisher	14/05/2025
Ormskirk West End Primary School Link Project	Puffin	19/05/2025
Maths is fun morning – Pear Tree School	Puffin	21/05/2025
Townley Park	Sparrow	02/06/2025
St Annes Splash Park	Dove	03/06/2025
GLD Football Tournament	Puffin	06/06/2025
St Annes	Falcon	09/06/2025

West End Park	Dove	09/06/2025
Summer Trip	Robin	11/06/2025
Spar Walk	Finch	16/06/2025
MATP Special Olympics at Holly Grove	Sparrow	16/06/2025
Library and Tesco Walk	Owl	17/06/2025
Hothersall Lodge	Mixed	18/06/2025
Art Unveiling at Church & Oswaldtwistle Station	Puffin	18/06/2025
Ark Education Barn	Kingfisher	23/06/2025
Foxhill Nature Reserve	Puffin	25/06/2025
Blackpool Zoo	EYFS	30/06/2025
Blackpool Zoo Leavers Trip	Year 6	07/07/2025
Ridgewood Transition	Year 6	08/07/2025
St Annes & Blackpool	Wren	09/07/2025
Lytham	Owl	11/07/2025
Worden Park	Eagle	14/07/2025
Roe Grove Road Park	EYFS	16/07/2025
All Thrive, Leyland	Duckling	15/09/2025
Accrington Stanley Football Club	Finch	23/09/2025
Townley Park	Eagle	01/10/2025
Sensory Gym	Falcon	06/10/2025
Sensation Gym	EYFS	08/10/2025
All Thrive, Leyland	Gosling	15/10/2025
Townley Park	Sparrow	20/10/2025

<b>WEEKLY ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Day</b>
Tesco Walk, Oswaldtwistle	Owl	Thursday PM
Stanhill Pre School	EYFS	Friday AM
Canoeing	Mixed	Wednesday AM
LoTC	Falcon	Wednesday AM

St Andrews - Link	Puffin	Thursday PM
Local Area Walk	Mixed	Monday PM
Library Walk	Eagle & Falcon	Monday PM
LoTC	Owl	Monday PM
Sensation Gym	Mixed	Monday AM
Swimming	Mixed	Tuesday AM
Adventure City	Mixed	Monday PM
Walk to Tesco	Falcon	Wednesday AM
Hydro at Holly Grove	Mixed	Thursday PM
Hydro at Pendle View	Mixed	Friday AM
West End School Link	Mixed	Friday AM
Regulation Intervention Walk	Falcon	Tuesday AM
Phonics Walk	Mixed	Friday AM
Park Walk	Mixed	Friday PM
LoTC	Wren	Thursday PM
Habitation Training	Puffin	Thursday PM

Following a recent incident during an Educational Visit, combined with the changing complexity and risk our pupils display, we have implemented these measures:

- Educational Visits will no longer take place in the Autumn Term. This will allow staff to get to know the children better and reduce risk.
- Full day visits will no longer take place, Half day morning visits, returning to school for lunch, will reduce risk. Spring and Summer 2026 visit dates remain the same but mornings only.
- New Form 5 2025-28 to be used from now on. These should not be submitted for a full term, half term only.
- Intervention visits such as Phonics walks, library visits, science walks etc will be limited to 5 pupils or less.
- We need to think carefully about venues with reduced risks as we don't feel park play areas are secure enough.

The agreed venues so far are:

Adventure City

Sensation Gym

Arc Barn

New venues which will require a pre site visit to risk assess including:

Thrive Leyland

Free Sensory room at Copperhouse Children's Centre 01200 420460

Charter House Burnley Sensory Room

Fundaland – Nelson

Early Start – little village

The LA EVC team advisor, Nikki Scott, has also re-iterated that in the event of an investigation the Form 5/ risk assessment will form a key part of evidencing your planning was suitable and sufficient and that duty of care was maintained. This is to protect the staff and children. She also highlighted that any changes to the Form 5 should be made clear and communicated to the LA before the visit commences.

## **Extended School Clubs**

Our 1 week summer holiday club was very well attended. We wanted to increase this offer to 2 or 3 weeks but unfortunately could not staff this. Catherine and SLT continue to review ways school can encourage staff to work our break time sessions. Catherine worked closely with the EYFS team in getting our Septembers starters registered, these children can now attend sessions with us from January 2026. We unfortunately have had to stop our break time plus sessions due to staffing, we are liaising with relevant social workers in finding alternatives for the children this has impacted. Catherine has completed a recent contract meeting with break time to share this information. Saturday sessions restarted in October and we've had a lot of interest from parents and staff to work. Catherine is currently will be evaluating the effectiveness of the afterschool short break session and if this possibly may need to be adapted to suit family's needs. Break time registration for 2026/27 is now open, Catherine will be encouraging and supporting families to get their children registered.

### **Governor Questions:**

- 1.
- 2.

## ***Leadership and Management***

### **Governors**

The Governors are committed to improving outcomes for our pupils and the school. All members are now registered with Governor Hub where they can see agendas, minutes, book training, view policies, data reports etc that school have shared. This will hopefully reduce overload when it comes to governor meetings. We can even track visits to demonstrate governor involvement with the school.

Training has including Safeguarding, Prevent, Online Safety and new Governor training. We currently have 3 vacancies.

Governors with key School Improvement Priorities, Resources or Health and Safety responsibilities have strengthened their knowledge during the past year through regular drop ins and focused learning walks. Our Chair of Governors keeps in regular contact with school and visits termly to meet with the HT and DHT/ Assessment lead.

## Finance

All finance reports will be discussed within the meeting.

## Health & Safety

RPA training

Both Carol and I are due to attend a RPA workshop on Accident Investigation and Near Misses and I am due to attend a Health & safety Mock Trial training which look really useful.

## Online Safety

HT/ DSL, Sarah Holt has responsibility alongside the Governors to ensure their school has appropriate Filtering and Monitoring systems in place and regularly review their effectiveness. We have introduced Netsweeper On Guard which is a tool to filter these reports, grade them by severity and notify a DSL of those which are Grade 1, a serious safeguarding matter. So far, this is working well.

A Cyber Security Response Plan has been completed as part of the RPA Cyber Insurance conditions. [See Appendix 5](#)

Following our last OSG meeting, the SLT have now stopped using portable drives and access everything securely by remote drives or cloud based storage.

We have recently purchased SLT AI which is a toolkit to support the SLT and SMT in aspects such as Policy writing, reports, Consultation responses and Tribunal witness statements. Teachers, HLTAs and TAs have access to Microsoft Co-Pilot to support them with lesson ideas. This is aimed at reducing workload for all staff. This will be communicated to all stakeholders via an AI Acceptable Use Policy and website.

AI has not been used to create this report.

Staff, Governors and parents continue to receive regular updates and training via Safety Pro (<https://onlinesafetypro.com/staff-parents/>) Last month it was a focus on an emerging risk known as a Com Network which is related to CSE/A, as well as talking to children who have made a disclosure.

## Building and Grounds

4 new external aluminium doors were fitted over Easter to replace the old PVC and wooden doors. These all have fobbed entry/exit therefore more secure.

Hargreaves House – following ongoing discussions with LCC we hope to be able to go ahead with the installation of a modular building on the lower school field during the summer term. This will allow us to fully vacate Hargreaves House and re-site the 2 KS2 class groups in the modular classrooms in September.

The demolition has been put on hold for now but we are liaising weekly with LCC in the hope this can still go ahead during the summer holidays.

## **Safeguarding and Child Protection Update**

We currently have no pupil's with an open Early Help Assessment (EHA), 7 pupils who are supported by the SEND Children and Family Wellbeing Team with short break reviews, 12 pupils who are supported through Child in Need (CIN) Assessments and Catherine continues to support many families whom receive family support at Level 1 when needed.

School has built a strong relationship with the School Liaison Social Worker Daniel Cross. This has enabled families to receive support they may have not prior to the advice sought from him.

We have 2 who are designated as Children Looked After (CLA) and we work closely with the Lancashire Virtual School and our designated area lead. The pupils' are making very good progress in relation to their individual targets and Personal Education Plans (PEPs) have been completed for the Autumn Term in conjunction with their Social Workers and guardians. We also have 2 previously looked after children.

All 5 DSLs meet for a catch up every 2 weeks on a Monday morning to allow discussions following any recent incidents or issues. They also meet formally every half term to discuss individual cases, share updates and moderate records of incidents on CPOMs.

Safeguarding School Nurse, Nicola Vause, is going to join us which will allow us to address any medical safeguarding issues.

We have welcomed a new DSL, Kirsty Bryan, to the team. She is our Early Years and Lower school lead therefore able to further support our new and younger children's families.

The DSLs also take turns to attend the monthly DSL Drop ins to update knowledge and share good practice which they have found invaluable.

All new staff have completed Safeguarding, CPOMs and Team Teach training.

## **Staffing**

Staff attendance remains a priority and all absences are monitored very carefully. The Autumn Term has been extremely challenging with high number of staff absence. There have been 6 members of staff, teaching and TAs, on long term sickness as well as multiple staff absences on a day to day basis. As a result of this, we have had to introduce part time timetables for pupils in 2 classes to ensure the safety of pupils and staff. This has had an impact on the mental health and wellbeing of staff who remain in school. We have recruited **2 new TA3s**, 3 Welfare/TA1s and a further **???** TA1s.

We successfully recruited a new class teacher, Nicola, who is based in lower school. She has settled really well and enjoying her role. **Jacqueline and now Phoebe**

Both Kirsty and Darren are settling into their new roles as EYFS/ Lower School and Behaviour/ Upper School leaders. The 2 new HLTAs are also settling in and had a very busy start to the year.

Teacher, Danielle, is due to start her Maternity leave very soon. We were unable to recruit a teacher to cover this despite 2 adverts. Instead, we have a very enthusiastic and skilled HLTA, Lily, who will work as an Unqualified Teacher to cover this. Lily knows the pupils and is familiar with the school curriculum, policies and practice therefore we feel this would work well. We are hoping she may decide she wants to be a teacher which we would fully support. Experienced teacher, Hannah, will act as her Mentor.

Class teacher, Natasha Sergeant, will be leaving us at Christmas to take a position within a new SEND Unit provision closer to home.

### Staff Attendance report (Carol Hardy)

Staff Attendance	Summer Term 2024 (01.04.24 to 31.08.24)		Autumn Term 2024 (01.09.24 to 31.12.24)		Spring Term 2025 (01.01.25 to 06.04.25)	
	Attendance	Special Leave	Attendance	Special Leave	Attendance	Special Leave
Teachers	97.8% (36 days)	8 days	98.5% (22 days)	9.5 days	93.9% (57 ½ days)	7.25 days
Teaching Assistants	95.2% (278 days)	75.5 days	98.5% (70 days)	94 days	84.8% (353 days)	70.5 days
Welfare Assistants	85% (46 days)	14 days	94.7% (17 days)	3 days	92.7% (18 days)	6 days
Premises Staff	100%	0 days	88.8% (19 days)	0 days	81.4% (29 days)	0 days
Admin & FLO	99.8% (1 day)	1.5 days	96.7% (14 days)	3 days	98% (6 days)	2.5 days
Catering			85.9% (24 days)	0 days	100%	0.5 days

### Parent Partnership

Catherine's welcome meeting in the summer term went well and was able to provide lots of information to the families prior to them starting at White Ash, this was in connection with White Ash's Community Senior Family Support Worker from the Children and Family Wellbeing service. Since September, Catherine has been busy visiting the new families into White Ash who have all reported how well their children have settled in.

The parent Trip to the Autism Show in the summer term was a great success with lovely feedback from parents about being able to talk to other parents that understand. Catherine has already been asked several times about the next parent trip so will be planning a Christmas Trafford centre trip for December.

Catherine continues to provide Early Help support for parents. This includes:

- Providing information and signposting to other services in your local area. -

- Liaising with external services e.g. Children Social Care.
- Attendance and support at school.
- Support during appointments and in meetings.
- Help to complete paperwork and forms e.g. housing, school letters, grant applications and benefits.
- Advice and support to promote good attendance.
- Referrals to outside agencies e.g. Learning Disability Team and Speech and Language Therapists.
- Guidance with access to training and parent workshops in school.
- Emotional support for parents
- Lead on EHA and TAF's.
- Give parents access to Disability events and training events.
- Parent Days out.
- Support for transitioning pupils.
- Sleep Support - Qualified Sleep Practitioner
- Uniform - Our ECO Club are busy trying to save our planet, with their help please find a range of our preloved Uniform on Uniformly.

Catherine offers home or in school visits at a time that suits parents and carers. Any advice and support that Catherine offers will be confidential, although concerns relating to the safeguarding of children will always be dealt with in accordance with school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. Catherine will always try her best to support the families at White Ash but will also work alongside other agencies that may be better suited to the family.

Catherine continues to liaise with the Paediatric Learning Disability Team, although Riding the Rapids behaviour course didn't go ahead in September, they are hoping to be able to offer this in April 2026.

We would like to thank all of our parents and carers so much for all of your continued support.

#### **Governor Questions:**

- 1.
- 2.

## **Conclusion**

Thank you for taking the time to read my Headteacher's Report and I look forward to answering your questions during our next Governors Meeting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 12.30pm in school.

Prepared by the Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Holt, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025

## **Appendices**

[\*Appendix 1 – SIP 2023-2024 Autumn Term Impact report\*](#)

[\*Appendix 2a & b – Autumn Term Pupil Progress Reports\*](#)

[\*Appendix 3 – Ofsted Report\*](#)

*Appendix 4 – Behaviour Regulation Report*

*Appendix 5 – Cyber Security Response Plan*

*Appendix 6 – Courses and Events*