

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## Woodpecker – One of the Best Schools Nationally

Secretary of State for Education- Bridgit Philipson

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share some wonderful news with our whole school community.

Woodpecker Hall Academy has received national recognition from the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson, as one of the very best schools in the country. This acknowledgement highlights the exceptional quality of education, care and ambition that our school provides every day.

In her message, the Secretary of State praised the high standards achieved at Woodpecker Hall Academy and the commitment shown by staff in ensuring that every pupil is supported to succeed. She specifically recognised the strong outcomes achieved by disadvantaged children, reflecting the school's determination to promote equity, raise aspirations and ensure that all pupils, regardless of background, are able to thrive.

### Extract from the Letter

### A message from Bridget Phillipson

Dear Nicky,

“Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Woodpecker Hall Primary Academy achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school’s performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school’s achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader - sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.”



This achievement is something we can all be incredibly proud of. It reflects the hard work, professionalism and passion of our staff, the enthusiasm and determination of our pupils and the ongoing support from parents, carers, governors and trustees. Together, we make Woodpecker Hall Academy a truly special place to learn and grow.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the success of our school. We look forward to building on this success and continuing to aim high for the future.

Kind regards,



Nicky Ross  
Headteacher [Woodpecker Hall Academy](#)  
[NSCT](#) Leader of Primary Education