



## Reception News

This week we have been learning all about the fire service and fire safety. We have talked about fire fighters jobs, uniform and vehicles and used our phonics to write labels and captions as well as make our own models and pictures. This week we have also completed activities based on 'Internet Safety Day' and 'Children's Mental Health Day' which you will see on Tapestry. In maths we have working on practical and recorded addition sums.

Next week all of our work will be based around the theme of 'Chinese New Year'.

Please remember to keep sharing your photos on Tapestry—the children absolutely love sharing their life outside of school on the big board and this is really good for their speaking and listening skills as well as their self esteem and confidence. Please also remember to give us a thumbs up to images that we share so that we know you are getting our notifications.

### Challenges!

**Homework folders:** Each Friday your child will come home with some homework sheets to support their learning.

**Reading:** Please read at home each night and record this in your child's reading record. Your child's reading book will be changed weekly. You can record any story that you read or share together at home.

**Bedtime story:** Please log on to Tapestry every Friday for a bedtime story read by one of our team for you and your child to enjoy together. This can be recorded as a 'read' in your child's reading record.

**Phonics video:** Each week we will send home a phonics video for your child to watch and join in with at home recorded by our Phase leader Mrs Templar.

### Weekly Routines

**PE** is now indoors on a Thursday. Children should come to school in their PE kits with all jewellery removed.

**Reading books**—reading books will be changed weekly. Other books can also be recorded in your child's reading record.

**Library books**—Our library circle time takes place each Friday. Please make sure your child returns their book each week in order to choose a new one.

**Water bottles**—Please make sure your child has a named water bottle with them in school every day.

**Gloves, scarves and hats**—Please send your child to school with gloves, scarfs as the temperature continues to drop. Please make sure these are labelled. Please support your child to learn how to do up their coat—this is a skill we are working on in class.

**Toys**—Please do not bring any toys into school from home as we have had a lot of children very upset lately that they have brought a toy in and it has got lost or damaged. We cannot accept responsibility for toys from home.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE PACK UP FOR HALF TERM NEXT FRIDAY (16TH FEBRUARY)

### Certificate winner

**School value:** Lorenzo, Kareem, Jiya **Superstar reader:** Millie, Mila, Olivia **Superstar writer:** Jenson, George, Leo

### Reading winners

**The winning class this week are ..... RTR with 98 reads!**

Well done for collectively achieving the most reads at home this week. Your class will be caring for our special reading bear this week as a reward :-)

## Nursery news

The Nursery have been celebrating Chinese New Year this week which officially begins on Saturday. The children have been talking and learning all about this special time of year and the importance of the colour red which is said to bring good luck! The story of the Zodiac plays an important part in this New Year and how the Emperor decided to hold a competition to choose which animal to give to which year. As 2024 is the year of the dragon the children have been using their creative skills to make paper dragons and have been decorating their classroom with Chinese lanterns. They have also been practising writing their names in the style of Chinese writing using black paint and red paper.

Happy Chinese New Year everyone!! 🎉

### Tapestry & Class Charts

Thank you to everyone who has already uploaded photos of their child and their news. It really is appreciated and helps with communication during carpet time. Please keep them coming! If you have yet to access either Tapestry and/or Class Charts, then please let one of the Nursery Team know.

### Dates for the diary

**Friday 16th February—Pack up for half term**

**Monday 25th February—Return to school after half term**

**Friday 1st March—St David's Day**

**Week of 4th March—Book Week**

**Thursday 7th March—World Book Day - dress up day**

**Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th March—Parents' Evening**

**Week of 10th March—British Science Week**

### NHS Speech drop in

If your child is under 5 years old and you have any concerns about your child's speech, language, communication or interaction skills please contact NELFT at Great Oaks for an appointment to support your child on the contact details below.

Email: [drop-in@nelft.nhs.uk](mailto:drop-in@nelft.nhs.uk)

Telephone: 0300 300 1544

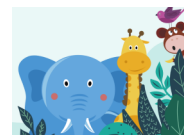


### Talk, Listen, Cuddle—TLC

TLC is an Essex campaign helping parents, carers and families give their young children the best start to life, developing their communication skills through playful learning at home.

On the website there is information about milestones for different age groups, tips, activities and resources to use at home.

For more information visit: [www.tlc-essex.info](http://www.tlc-essex.info)



### Reporting absences

**Please make sure to report your child's absences each day that they are off using PA Connect.**

**This should be reported by 8.30am each day.**

## Additional advice and support available for parents

### GOOD BEGINNINGS COURSE

Good beginnings is a 10 week course run for parents by Essex county council. It is aimed at parents of children who have Autism (ASD) and social communication needs and are aged 5 and under (no diagnosis necessary).

Spring term sessions:

Wickford on Tuesday mornings 9.30 –11.30 am Or

Online Tuesday mornings 9-10am.

For further information and to book a place please visit the Essex SEND website at [www.send.essex.gov.uk](http://www.send.essex.gov.uk)

### BOSP TOTS

BOSP run groups for children and parents with additional needs or disabilities age 4 and under.

They currently run sessions at Wat Tyler country park (by the RSPB building) on a Tuesday from 10am-11am.

For more information check out the web address below:

<https://www.bosp.co.uk/community/bosp-brighter-opportunities-for-special-people-13333/news/new-baby-toddler-group-25543>

### CHILDRENS CENTRES

We have a few children's centres local to us who are able to offer a great deal of support to families. They run lots of sessions and groups for different aged children as well as parents. Please check out time website below—there is a timetable of events available on this page.

<https://essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk/hubs/northlands-park-family-hub/>



Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service

### SNAP

SNAP is a charity based in Brentwood which offers advice and support for families with children with additional needs or disabilities.

They always have a great range of groups and events for children and siblings are welcome.

More information can be found at the web address

below:

<https://www.snapcharity.org/>

### Health visitor and Family wellbeing team contact details (hcrq care group)

For support and advice with a range of issues including toileting, sleep, diet and behaviour please contact 0300 247 0013 and ask for Katy Taylor who is based in Fryerns family hub and has links with our school.

### Who can I speak to at school?

As well as your child's class teacher there are other people in Early Years who can support you with concerns about your child.

**Mrs S Templar**—EYFS Phase leader (curriculum/ behaviour/ class worries)

Contact details: [admin@willows.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@willows.essex.sch.uk) (please mark FOA Mrs Templar)

**Mrs K Rumball**—EYFS SENDCO (support and advice for children with any additional needs or disabilities)

Contact details: [sendmailbox@willows.essex.sch.uk](mailto:sendmailbox@willows.essex.sch.uk)

**Mrs T Clay**—Sensory Nurture lead/ Autism Champion

Contact details: [tracey.clay@willows.essex.sch.uk](mailto:tracey.clay@willows.essex.sch.uk)

**Mrs J Smith**— Family support worker/ Parent liaison/ Senior mental health lead/ Antbullying ambassador

Contact details: 01268 470880 Ext.208 Email: [jacqui.smith@willows.essex.sch.uk](mailto:jacqui.smith@willows.essex.sch.uk)