



THE WILLOWS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Friday 28th November 2025



Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

Another week has flown by and the mild weather has returned! Next week will see the start of December; where has this year gone? I hope that you have all had a good week.

This week has been our attendance week. Schools are under pressure to improve attendance and you may see lots of things happen over the course of this year as we try and increase ours. Today I welcomed over 525 children for hot chocolate and biscuits as a reward for coming to school every day this week and on time - I think I want a break until I see another cup of hot chocolate!

There is a stronger message here though, going to school on time every day helps set a routine that will ensure that as your child gets older they can access education and work. If your child struggles in school, being here more means that they can access all the support that they need. Attendance matters; missing just 10 school days a year means that your child will be below 95%!

Thanks for your support this week and look out for more projects and special events to boost attendance!

Have a great weekend everyone,

Mr T Robinson

Headteacher

The Willows Primary School

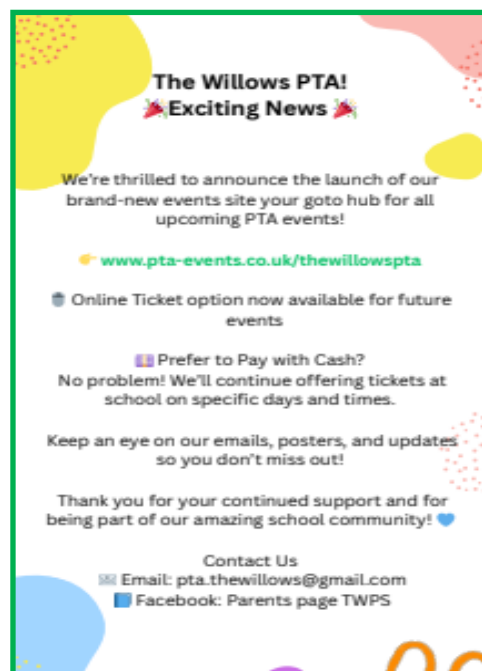


BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

CHERRY TREE – EYFS CLASS TEACHER closing date 10th December
FAIRHOUSE – SEND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 9th December
MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 10th December
WHITMORE – CLASS TEACHER (FIXED TERM) closing date 1st December
WHITMORE – FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICER closing date 2nd December
WILLOWS – MEDICAL OFFICER closing date 12th December

For more information and to apply for any of these exciting opportunities, please follow the link to our website [Vacancies - Berlesduna Academy Trust](#)





The Willows Primary PTA

You can now find information on any of our events under the 'PTA Events' section on the contents page of the PA connect app.

For more information, or to register your support please email:
pta.thewillows@gmail.com.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Festive Fun Disco**—Wednesday 3rd December (See individual times for each year group)
- **Reception reading café** - Thursday 4th December 2.30pm-3pm
- **1P Christmas Performance**—Monday 8th December 9.30am-10.30am
- **1R Christmas Performance**—Tuesday 9th December 9.30am-10.30am
- **1C Christmas Performance**—Wednesday 10th December 9.30am-10.30am
- **Christmas Jumper Day**—Thursday 11th December



<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school>

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell. There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about health protection and managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK. These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason. Any sickness or diarrhoea present, your child will need to be kept home for **48 hours** from the last episode.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.

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WHITMORE
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CRAYS HILL
PRIMARY SCHOOL



FELMORE
PRIMARY SCHOOL



CHERRY TREE
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



FAIRHOUSE
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



ST MARY'S CofE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

OPAL

Laundry basket	Suitcase	Wooden spoons	Action figures	Plastic crates
Dress up items	Cars	Dinosaurs	Pans	Plastic dolls
Lego	Small balls	Scooter	Plastic tubes	Tarpaulin
Beach spades	Buckets	Trowels	Skateboard	Cardboard tubes
Guttering	Wooden planks	Helmet	Aprons	Chalk

Please try to keep these items in mind as these are the kinds of donations that our school needs as part of our Outdoor Play and Learning initiative. These items will make playtimes outside much more exciting, engaging and fun! Please give your child's class teacher any donations and these can then be passed on. Thank you for your ongoing support. Kind regards,

Miss Hudson and Miss Dorrington - OPAL Leads



Attendance percentages

for this week.

Yearly - 93.8% Weekly - 93.7%

KS1 – 92.7% KS2 - 94.1%



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Reporting Absence

Please report your child's absence to the office by emailing admin@willows.essex.sch.uk or by leaving a message on the office telephone by calling 01268 470880.



The school must be informed **EVERY school day** that the child is absent.

Please ensure that you have reported your child's absence by **9.20am**.

Lateness

We are recently noticing a large number of children arriving late to school without an agreed arrival time.

This will impact your child's overall percentage of attendance.

Persistent lateness to school can significantly disrupt academic performance, social dynamics, and overall students well-being, leading to long term, negative consequences.

Whilst we understand that there are certain situations where this cannot be helped, it is important that you keep communicating with us. This is to help us better understand, or to be able to help with the improvement of late arrivals, addressing any barriers that may be contributing to this. If your child arrives to school after the gates have closed, or if they have an agreed later start time, you must accompany them to enter school via the office. You must sign them & support them in using our InVentry console in the reception area. You will be asked to give a reason for their lateness, please make sure you complete this accurately, **as it is recorded on your child's attendance.**

If a later arrival time has not been agreed, should your child arrive after 9am, they will be marked as 'L' on the register. Any arrivals after 9.25am are marked as 'U', which goes down as a missed/unauthorised mark!

PLEASE BE REMINDED THE SCHOOL GATES CLOSE 9AM PROMPTLY!

If you or your child have an appointment, or know that you will be arriving to school late for any other reason, please inform the office via email your child's lunch choice for that day. This is so the kitchen can be provided with the correct number of lunches. Should we not receive your lunch choice, we cannot guarantee your child will be able to have their preferred option.

Should your child's choice be baguette, please state which filling they would like to have.

Thank you for your understanding.



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ST MARY'S C of E
PRIMARY SCHOOL



St Nicholas
Primary



Canewdon
Primary School

WELL DONE!

1R Luna for always trying your best and never giving up.

1P Oliver for showing great resilience in all your work and always trying your best.

1C Ezmae for showing great resilience in all your work and always trying your best.

2D Aaliyah has an excellent attitude to school and always tries her best. Well done Aaliyah— keep it up :)

2H Elena for always showing resilience through all areas of your learning. You always work hard and never give up, even in the face of difficulty. Well done!

2T Eden is a resilient learner who is not afraid to make mistakes. She is very independent and takes charge of her own learning. Well done Eden-Rose!

3SB Delilah for always trying her best in all her lessons, and showing great resilience when challenges become tricky.

3D Arda for never giving up and always trying his best, even when it can be rather challenging.

3S Herkus for always trying to improve himself across the curriculum and finding ways to support himself with peers or equipment.

4I Millie for showing wonderful resilience—trying again, staying positive, and always giving her best. Well done Millie!

4E Aaron for showing great resilience and never giving up when things are hard. Aaron always tries his best with a smile.

4RH Danny for his remarkable resilience, always trying his best and tackling challenges with a positive attitude. Keep it up!

5F Brogan for a short but sweet time with us in year 5. The effort you have put into all of your subjects has been fantastic. Good luck in your new school. We will miss you!

5J Macie for showing excellent resilience and work ethic this week, particularly in Maths!

5W Jorgie for showing fantastic resilience in your learning, never letting a challenge get you stuck!

6B Ayo for his creative use of water-colours when recreating an image of 'The Blitz'.

6H Jasmine for demonstrating brilliant resilience, tackling difficulties with courage, and always giving your best effort.

6F Brook for being a creative and abstract learner. Brook always finds a way to put her unique spin on to things.

Star Readers of the Week

Yr1— Darius, Rosalyn, Kyrie

Yr2 — Alora, Eva, Scarlett

Yr3 — Anaya, Katrielle, David

Yr4 — Mia, Rosie, Jacob

Yr5 — Kamal, Reggie, Daniel

Yr 6— Bella, Esme, Mayowa

Superstar Writers of the Week

Yr1— Finley, Lorelai, Oliver

Yr2— Oliver, Ava, Sophia

Yr3 — Aubree, Lillie, Cameron

Yr4 — Alfie, Oscar, Harrison

Yr5 — Joshua, Lillie, Annabelle

Yr 6— Oscar, Matilda, Tillie

This weeks OPAL Certificate

Scarlett for working hard to tidy up equipment and encouraging others to tidy.

Whole Class Superstar Readers of the Week

Key Stage 1: 2T –94 **Lower Key Stage 2:** 4I-81 **Upper Key Stage 2:** 5J-98

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Reception—September 2026

With the September 2026 school application process fast approaching, here are some useful steps to follow when applying;

- Application Period: Applications for primary school places in Essex are open from **10 November 2025** to **15 January 2026**.
- Application Method: You can apply online through your local council or use the application form provided by the council.
- Preparation: Ensure you are prepared for the application process, as starting primary school is a significant milestone for your child.
- Check Preferences: Make sure to use all four of your preferences to increase your chances of securing a place at your preferred school.
- Offers: Offers will be sent to **online applicants by email on 16 April 2026**.

Good luck with your applications, please do not hesitate to ask any questions you may have.

Senior School Admissions—September 2026

Applications for the 2026 school year are now closed.

If you wish to make a late application for a secondary (year 7) school place, use the [online late application form](#) on the Essex admissions website: www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions

All applications received after 31 October 2025 will be treated as late and will only be processed after all on-time applications.

You are less likely to get a place at one of your preferred schools if you apply late.



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