



Reception News

This week we have been focusing on the Christmas story. We have been learning about the different characters in the story and the roles that they have. For English this week we have been sequencing the story. The children really enjoyed this activity. We have also been looking at the story “A Christmas Pine” for our drawing club focus this week. Children have been creating their own Christmas trees, as well as designing their own forests and decorations.

In maths this week we have been continuing with number and quantities. We have been working on matching the correct amount of objects to the correct numbers. We then moved onto ordering numbers to 10 and thinking about how we add one each time.

We have been being creative in class this week following on from our festive craft session this week.

One more week to go!

Challenges!

Reading: Children need to be reading at least 5 times at home. Please record all reading in their reading books. We count reads on a Thursday.

Bedtime story: Every Friday a recorded bedtime story will be published on Tapestry, 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: Each week we will send home a phonics video for your child to watch and join in with at home recorded by one of the EYFS team. Please complete the activities and share your work on Tapestry.

Tapestry: Don't forget to add your adventures to Tapestry—the children love sharing their photos on the big board and this really helps to support their speaking and listening skills.

Weekly Routines

PE will be inside on Monday afternoons—Please send your child to school in their PE kit every Monday.

Reading books—Reading books will be changed weekly. Reading books and diaries should be brought into school everyday. Other books can be recorded in you child's reading record.

Library books—Our library slot has now changed to a Monday. Please ensure you have your library book in school on a Monday to be changed.

Water bottles— Please ensure your child has a water bottle, which has been filled each day.

Winter Coats and Accessories— As the weather is getting much cooler now, please ensure your child has a named coat in school each day. Could we please ask that all hats, gloves and scarfs are clearly named to ensure they are returned to the correct children.

Certificate Winners

Our certificates this week are awarded to:

RR— Teddy, Violet, Dawud

RC— Delilah, Andi-Rose, Valeria

RP— Isla, Oscar, William



Nursery News

It has been another week of festive fun in Nursery. This week we have been reading the story "The Stickman" The children were fantastic at remembering all the things that the Stickman was used for on his journey and were able to talk about how he felt when he couldn't get home to his family. The children had lots of fun painting wonderful pictures of the Stickman and his family and making stickmen from playdough.

The children have enjoyed lots of festive activities such as making paper chains to decorate the home corner and making beautiful handprint Christmas trees.

In maths we have been focusing on shapes again. We have been looking at differences and similarities between shapes and encouraging the children to describe the shapes they see using language such as round, curved, pointy and flat. The children were all very good at this.

A huge thank you to everyone who made it to our Carols and Crafts day, it was lovely to see you all and the children all had a great time.

Reminders

Please can reading books and records be returned daily. Library books should be returned on a Thursday and P.E is on Fridays. Please can children come to Nursery in their P.E kits and with earrings removed. Where possible, please can gloves and hats be labelled with your child's name.

We hope you all have a great weekend.

The Nursery Team.

Dates for the Diary

17th December – Christmas Dinner Day

19th December– Non-uniform Day

19th December– Last day of term

5th January– Back to school



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.

If your child has an appointment to attend please add this to the PA Connect app, along with supporting evidence.

Children's 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/>

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

Telephone: 0300 300 1544



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.

The Willows

The Willows PTA! Exciting News 🎉

We're thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new events site your goto hub for all upcoming PTA events!

👉 www.pta-events.co.uk/thewillowspta

🎫 Online Ticket option now available for future events

💷 Prefer to Pay with Cash?

No problem! We'll continue offering tickets at school on specific days and times.

Keep an eye on our emails, posters, and updates so you don't miss out!

Thank you for your continued support and for being part of our amazing school community! 💙

Contact Us

✉ Email: pta.thewillows@gmail.com

📘 Facebook: Parents page TWPS