



Reception News

This week we have had some exciting activities that we have all enjoyed. We had fun making our Christingles in class and then we had a visit from the church. We learn about the meaning of Christingle and what the celebration represents.

Throughout the week we have been busy doing lots of arts and crafts in class. We have all been busy painting, sticking, gluing and being creative.

We have been working hard on our phonics this week, consolidating all our phase 2 learning as well as focusing on remembering our tricky words.

In maths this week we have been consolidating our learning of shapes. We have been looking at shapes that have 4 sides and how we can use shapes to make pictures.

We would like to all wish you a wonderful break and we look forward to hearing all about your time off when you return in January.

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 your 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– Lailah-May

RC– Mikail

RP– Florence



Nursery News

It has been a very festive week in Nursery this week. The children have enjoyed making beautiful decorations to bring home and party hats and paper chains for our class party.

This week the children have been learning about Christingle and the meaning behind it. They made their very own Christingles and enjoyed a visit from Reverend Trudi. We also learnt the Christmas story, the children were very good at remembering how Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem and who visited the baby Jesus.

We have had lots of fun in phonics, playing Christmas I spy, which the children are becoming very good at! When we return in January we will be starting our phase 2 phonics, starting with the sound "S".

We have had a fantastic First term at Nursery and are very proud of how well all the children have settled into the Nursery routine.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone in January.

Merry Christmas!

The Nursery Team.

Dates for the Diary

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

Reception



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

