



## Reception News

**Welcome back and a very happy new year to you all! We hope you had a lovely break.**

This half term we are focusing our learning on “People who help us”. This week we have been focusing on people who help us in school. We spoke about the jobs of teachers, teaching assistants, caretakers, head teachers, deputy head teachers, first aiders, kitchen chefs, cleaners, lunch time assistances, lollipop workers and many other jobs in schools. We also spoke about what each role in a school in tales and how each person helps to make a school work. The children were all so enthusiastic at talking about each role and how each member of staff helps keep us all healthy, safe and happy in school.

In maths this week we have been focusing on the numbers 6, 7 and 8. We have been practicing our counting, our representation of these numbers as well as addition to 6, 7 and 8. The children have been working hard to ensure they are representing the numbers effectively and matching numbers to quantities.

In Phonics this week we have now moved on to phase 3 Phonics. We will still recap phase 2 daily and this will be including in our writing sessions also. The phase 3 focus sounds this week have been j and v.

### Weekly Challenges!

**Reading:** We are looking for all children to be reading at least 5 times at home. This can be a few pages of their reading book. Please ensure each time your child has read at home, it is recorded in their reading diary.

**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 bought 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**— The weather is much colder 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– Ezra, Violet , Lily G

RC– Jayden, Brooklyn, Cienna

RP– Louie, Erin, Daisy



## Nursery News

A huge welcome back to you all. It has been lovely to see all the children returning from the Christmas break with big smiles and eager to learn and play.

This half term our topic is "Hello Winter" We have been looking at the signs of Winter, taking about how the weather changes, the clothes we need to wear in Winter and how some animals hibernate during the Winter months. We were very excited for the snow and had lots of fun playing outside in it catching snowflakes. We read the story "One snowy night" the children were able to talk about why the animals wanted to come inside to sleep and how the animals might try to keep warm.

This week we have begun our phase 2 Phonics. This weeks sounds were S and A. The children were very good at remembering the sounds the letters make and thinking of things that begin with these sounds. Please encourage you child to look for items at home that start with these sounds and upload a picture to Tapestry for us to share in class.

In maths we have been subitising 1, 2 and 3. The children have been super at representing these numbers, matching number to quantity and recognising amounts to 3 around the Nursery.

### Reminders

Please can reading books and reading records be in children's bags everyday. Please can children bring their Library books to school on a Thursday so we can change them at the school library.

P.E is on a Friday, please can children come to Nursery dressed in their P.E kit with earrings removed.

Please can all clothing be labelled with your child's name.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend,

The Nursery Team.

### Dates for the Diary

**20th January**– Communication and Language Parents Meeting– In hall at 3:30pm

**21st January**– Smile Dental Educational Session

**27th & 28th January**– Reception Health Screening

**6th February**– Fire Service Education Visit

**9th February**– Children's Mental Health Week

**10th February**- Safer Internet Day

**Friday 13th February**– Last Day of Half Term



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

Telephone: 0300 300 1544

# Winter Reading Challenge

10 January to 22 February

Join at your local library!



10 January  
to 22 February  
2026

# Winter Reading Challenge

Children across Essex are being challenged to read and get creative at their local library this winter!

Explore our Pawfessionals' amazing careers as you progress through the challenge.

Choose from twelve fun activities to complete. For each one, you'll get a sticker! Complete six, and you'll receive a certificate and get to enter our prize draw for the chance to win some incredible goodies!

Plus, you can join in with themed events and activities at the library!



Find out more about how to take part in this free activity on our website: [libraries.essex.gov.uk](https://libraries.essex.gov.uk)



<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.

## 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](https://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](mailto:pta.thewillows@gmail.com)

📘 Facebook: Parents page TWPS