



Reception News

This week we have been continuing our focus of people who help us, to focus on “Doctors and Nurses”.

We have been looking at the job role and how they help people in the community. We also looked at medical equipment and what a doctor or a nurse may use to help them with their jobs. We looked into the different settings that doctors and nurses may work in and how the different settings come with different types of jobs. We looked at the role and importance of a pharmacy. We ended the week speaking about how paramedics help us, and what their job role is. The children always worked hard to use their phonics to write some captions about doctors and nurses, for example “I had a pill.” “I am sick”.

In maths this week we have been continuing to look at 6, 7 and 8. We have been developing our skills further by practicing our representations of the numbers as well as how we can add to numbers together to make 6, 7 and 8.

In drawing club this week, we had a focus on Zog and the flying doctors. We used our imagination to change parts of the story as well as characters.

We have also looked at body parts and bones this week, looking at how our bones support our bodies. We worked as a class to make our own skeletons.

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 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— The weather is much colder now, please ensure your child has a named coat in school each day.

Certificate Winners

Our certificates this week are awarded to:

RR– Leighton, Lucas, Imama

RC– David, Florrie, Dusty

RP– Sadie, Natalie, Oliver



Nursery News

This week in Nursery we have been reading the story "Lost and found". The children were very good at discussing why the penguin was feeling sad and how the penguin and the little boy became friends. We spoke about how the little boy needed to wrap up warm and what he needed to wear to visit the South Pole with the penguin. The children used paint and collage to create their own wonderful penguin pictures.

In math's we have continued to explore numbers 1, 2 and 3. The children are very good at looking for groups of 1, 2 and 3 objects around the classroom and in the nursery garden and were able to represent each number correctly using their fingers.

This weeks phonics sounds were T and P. the children were able to think of objects that begin with these sounds and have been working very hard to form the letters. Please encourage your children to look for objects that start with T and P at home.

Don't forget to upload any learning your child does at home or special events or achievements to Tapestry, we love celebrating the children and sharing their news and learning with their friends.

Reminders

Please record any reading your child completes at home in their reading record. This can included watching the bedtime story on Tapestry. Please can reading books and reading records be in children's bags everyday. Library books will be changed on a Thursday.

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 ha 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

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



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

CHERRY TREE – EYFS TEACHER closing date 29th January
CHERRY TREE – CLASS TEACHER closing date 5th February
MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 26th January
WHITMORE – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 23rd January
WILLOWS – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 21st January

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

HERO

Here, every day, ready and on time

Minutes lost per day



Five minutes late per day adds up to three learning days lost in a school year

If 15 minutes late each day you will miss two full weeks of school in one year

Poor timekeeping means less chance of success!

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