



Reception News

This week we have been focusing on vets and learning about how they help animals in our community. We explored the different types of animals that vets care for and discussed the habitats in which these animals live.

The children enjoyed sharing information about their own pets at home, as well as pets that relatives or friends may have. We talked about the importance of caring for animals and identified the different items pets need to stay healthy and safe in our homes, such as food, water, shelter, and exercise.

We have also been focusing on name writing this week, with an emphasis on improving letter formation. As the week progressed, the children practised writing words and captions to describe animal pictures, developing their confidence in early writing skills.

In maths, we have been using the Rekenrek as a resource to help us understand and work out doubles. The children explored how this tool can support counting and number recognition.

We finished the week by learning about X-rays and bones. We discussed what an X-ray is and how a vet might use one to help an animal. The children looked closely at X-ray images of bones and compared them to the bones we explored during our doctors week, helping them to make links between their learning.

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 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.

Certificate Winners

Our certificates this week are awarded to:

RR– Lailah-May, Matteo, Arabella

RC– Amari, Brooklyn, Reegan

RP– Erin, Vallie, Kamdi



Nursery News

This week at Nursery we have been reading the story "Here Comes Winter" The children were very good at talking about the signs of Winter that we can notice all around and how Winter is different from other seasons. We looked at each season and then thought about the season we liked best. The children were very good at explaining what their favourite season was and why.

In math's the children have been super shape detectives! The children have been exploring shapes around the Nursery class and garden. They were very good at talking about the properties of the shapes they found, being able to recognise how many corners and sides each shape had.

Our phonics sounds this week were M and D. The children have been amazing in phonics and are enjoying thinking of words with the sounds in each week. We have seen some fantastic writing with the children working very hard to form the letters of the week. Please continue to encourage this at home and share any home learning to Tapestry so we can share this in Nursery.

The children have been trying very hard to put their coats on by themselves and we are so proud of how well they are doing, please continue to support this at home. Next we will be working on zips!

Reminders

Where possible we would like the children to be reading at home at least 5 times a week. Please record any reading your child completes at home in their reading record. This can include 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.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend,

The Nursery Team.

Talking At Home Activity

Can you talk to your child about what animals a vet would look after, and how they help animals to stay healthy?

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.

Dates for the Diary

6th February– Fire Service Education Visit

9th February– Children's Mental Health Week

13th February– Last day to bring sponsorship money into school

10th February- Safer Internet Day

Friday 13th February– Last Day of Half Term



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

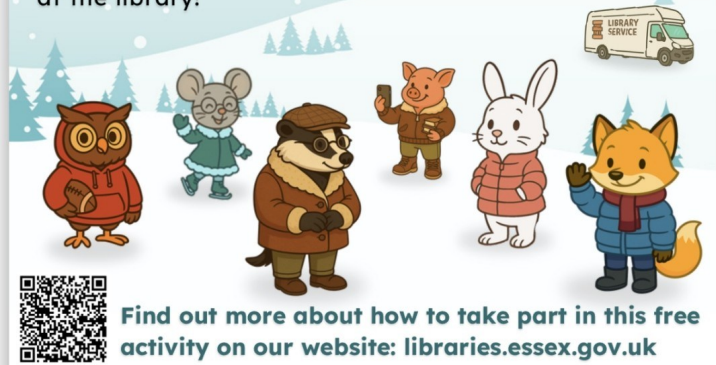
Winter Reading Challenge

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

HERO

Here, every day, ready and on time

Minutes lost per day

5 minutes 10 minutes 15 minutes 20 minutes 25 minutes

equates to a yearly loss of:



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!

Class attendance this week

RC- %

RR-%

RP -%

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