



Friday 9th January 2026



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to a lovely bright, warm and sunny Spring Term! I hope that you all had a good break and managed to spend time with your families and friends.

Spring Term is always a shorter, sharper term, starting with the cold and ice and ending with sun and the promise of warmer days to come (though they can feel a long way off). For staff in the school, it is also the term after all the hard slog of Autumn, where teachers know pupils and where they begin to settle and you see real progress.

The past couple of days we have had the Essex Road Safety workshop in working with Year 5 in preparation for when they start to walk to school. Remember, for everyone road safety is key, particularly on the main roads around the school and on Church Road at peak times. For the first time in 2026, can I just remind everyone that it is all our responsibility to ensure that Church Road is kept as clear as possible for everyone to use safely. Please park and drive responsibly.

Just a last thought on the weather. Please ensure your child is equipped for whatever weather is thrown at us this term! Warm clothing, appropriate shoes and even a change when it is really bad will all help. We will endeavour to get outside as much as possible even when it is cold and wet.

Thank you everyone, have a great weekend,

Mr T Robinson

Headteacher

The Willows Primary School

WELL DONE!

1R Evelyn for showing compassion by being kind, caring, and thoughtful towards others.

1P Amelia for being a kind and friendly member of the class. You are always polite and helpful to everyone you meet.

1C Albert for trying his hardest when working on his phonics even when it gets tricky. Super resilience Albert! :)

2D Jenson is always kind to adults and his friends and uses lovely manners wherever he goes in school. Fantastic Jenson! :)

2H Lillie for showing a responsible and mature attitude to your learning in class by listening, focusing and working hard. Well done!

2T Victoria is new to our school this week. She has settled in well and has impressed me with her work ethic. Victoria is motivated, hard working and has produced some lovely pieces of work.

3SB Hope for always trying her best in every lesson, and for being a kind member of the class.

3D Evie for showing resilience in all aspects of her work and always trying her best.

3S Julia for joining our school community with courage, responsibility and resilience. Welcome to The Willows!

4I Sienna for showing excellent responsibility. Sienna can always be trusted to make the right choices, take care of your work and set a wonderful example to others.

4E Abigail for being kind, patient and understanding with her peers and always helping when someone needs it.

4RH Amiya for showing great responsibility by always trying their best, making sensible choices, and being a positive role model in class !

5F Lennon for a great start back to the Spring term. I can see you are trying really hard to be the best version of yourself and applying yourself in learning.

5J Jack for always showing clear respect for others and being an incredibly responsible and caring member of our class.

5W Feyisola for your excellent sense of humour and attempts at keeping a straight face!

6B Felix for demonstrating the ability to tackle every given task with confidence and optimism.

6H Ernie for showing excellent resilience in all subjects. You tackle challenges with determination, keep going even when work is tricky, and always strive to do your best. Your perseverance is truly inspiring!

6F Florence for making an excellent start to 2026! Keep up the good work.

Star Readers of the Week

Yr1— Eleezah, Theo, Oakley

Yr2 — Albie, Oliver, Mila

Yr3 — Chimamanda, Cassidy, Isla

Yr4 — Isabelle, Ismachiah, Oscar

Yr5 — Liana, Daisy, Aiden

Yr 6— Pippa, Emmanuel, Freddie

Superstar Writers of the Week

Yr1— Amy, Kody, Eleeza

Yr2— Dolcie, Theo, Elza

Yr3 — Scarlett, Enoch, Riley

Yr4 — Louie, Amelia, Emily

Yr5 — Brendon, Tina, Oscar

Yr 6— William, Holly, Vlad



Whole Class Superstar Readers of the Week

Key Stage 1: 2T—112 Lower Key Stage 2: 4I—134 Upper Key Stage 2: 5W—128

Our Core Values: Respect, Responsibility, Courage, Hope, Justice, Compassion, Integrity, Wisdom

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OPAL

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Laundry basket  | Suitcase  | Wooden spoons  | Action figures  | Plastic crates  |
| Dress up items  | Cars  | Dinosaurs  | Pans  | Plastic dolls  |
| Lego  | Small balls  | Scooter  | Plastic tubes  | Tarpaulin  |
| Beach spades  | Buckets  | Trowels  | Skateboard  | Cardboard tubes  |
| Guttering  | Wooden planks  | Helmet  | Aprons  | Chalk  |

Please try to keep these items in mind as these are the kinds of donations that our school needs as part of our Outdoor Play and Learning initiative. These items will make playtimes outside much more exciting, engaging and fun! Please give your child's class teacher any donations and these can then be passed on. Thank you for your ongoing support. Kind regards,

Miss Hudson and Miss Dorrington - OPAL Leads



OPAL Certificate this week

Bobby for working hard to tidy up equipment
and encouraging others to tidy.

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Attendance percentages

for this week.

Yearly - 93.4% Weekly - 91.5%

KS1 – 92.3% KS2 - 93.9%



| Descriptor | Threshold attendance | Actual attendance | Whole days of absence | Learning Hours Lost |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Excellent | 100% | 190 days | 0 | 0 |
| | 99% | 188 days | 2 | 10 |
| Good | 98% | 186 days | 4 | 20 |
| | 97% | 184 days | 6 | 30 |
| | 96% | 182.5 days | 7.5 | 37.5 |
| Cause for Concern | 95% | 180.5 days | 9.5 | 47.5 |
| | 94% | 179 days | 11 | 55 |
| | 93% | 177 days | 13 | 65 |
| | 92% | 175 days | 15 | 75 |
| | 91% | 173 days | 17 | 85 |
| Unsatisfactory | 90% | 171 days | 19 | 95 |
| | 89% | 169 days | 21 | 105 |
| | 88% | 167 days | 23 | 115 |
| | 87% | 165 days | 25 | 125 |
| Serious cause for concern | 86% | 163 days | 27 | 135 |
| Critical | 85% | 161.5 days | 28.5 | 142.5 |
| | 84% | 159.5 days | 30.5 | 152.5 |
| | 83% | 158 days | 32 | 160 |
| | 82% | 156 days | 34 | 170 |
| | 81% | 154 days | 36 | 180 |
| | 80% | 152 days | 38 | 190 |

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Reporting Absence

Please report your child's absence to the office by emailing admin@willows.essex.sch.uk or by leaving a message on the office telephone by calling 01268 470880.



The school must be informed **EVERY school day** that the child is absent.

Please ensure that you have reported your child's absence by **9.20am**.

Lateness



If you or your child have an appointment, or know that you will be arriving to school late for any other reason, please inform the office via email your child's lunch choice for that day. This is so the kitchen can be provided with the correct number of lunches. Should we not receive your lunch choice, we cannot guarantee your child will be able to have their preferred option.

Should your child's choice be baguette, please state which filling they would like to have.

Thank you for your understanding.



Level 1 & 2 Bikeability Training

The first group of Year 5 & 6 pupils will be starting their 2 day Bikeability training next week. These pupils have already had their information letters sent home. Group 2's training will take place during the first week of February and Group 3's will take place the last week of February. Group 2 & 3 will be receiving their information letters the week before their training. We hope all of the pupils taking part enjoy their training.

Please email Jacqui.smith@willows.essex.sch.uk if you have any queries regarding this training.



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St Nicholas
Primary



Canewdon
Primary School

We are fast approaching the final week for Reception 2026 school applications.

Please note that the closing date is January 15th.

All online applicants will be contacted with offers via email on 16th April.

Please do not hesitate to ask should you need support in completing the application process.



Reception—September 2026

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 **10th November 2025** to **15th 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.

Should you know anyone who may like to apply for a place at The Willows, please tell them to contact the main office to arrange a tour of the school. We will be more than happy to show you around :)

The Willows Primary PTA

You can now find information on any of our events under the 'PTA Events' section on the contents page of the **PA connect app**.



For more information, or to register your support please email: **pta.thewillows@gmail.com**.

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Communication at The Willows

At The Willows, we pride ourselves on the multiple lines of communication that we offer. Here is a simple guide on how to best use them!

The Willows Parents App (PA Connect)

The place where you can find everything!

You can use the app to:

- Check menus
- Check upcoming dates
- Look at calendar events & term dates
- Notify us of an absence, a medical appointment or to request a holiday
- Pay for trips/events



Class Charts

This is to communicate directly with your child's teacher for all non-urgent things. You can use this to:

- Notify your child's teacher directly of something that is not urgent (lost items etc)
 - Ask a non-urgent question (e.g. Ask about a trip that is the future)
- Inform the teacher of something about your child that may help support them (e.g. A pet passed away and they may be upset)

The School Admin Email- admin@willows.essex.sch.uk

How to get a message to the right person.

This is to be used for all urgent and confidential enquiries! For example:

- To notify us of anything urgent (e.g. Late pick ups, changes to adults picking up, absences if you cannot use the app)
 - Notify us of anything confidential (safeguarding, personal information)
 - Ask to speak with SLT or the Inclusion Team about your child
- Ask a question about something wider than your child's class (e.g. Staffing, Health & Safety etc)
 - Speak with someone about a concern that you have
 - Talk to us about anything financial



Using the correct method of communicating with us will hugely improve the speed in which we can deal with your issue as it will go the right person at the right time!

Thank you for your cooperation.

The Willows

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