



Reception News

This week we have been looking at the police service. We have been talking about how the police service help the community and their job roles. This then led into talking about rules, boundaries and the expectations of behaviours at school. We also looked at police stations and police transport.

This week has also been Mental Health Week, we have spoken about resilience and how we can help to grow resilience and grow and develop. We have spoken about ways to be positive thoughts and ideas.

We also had Safer Internet Day on Tuesday. We were looking at the use of AI and voice activities devices such as Alexa. We spoke about the similarity and difference between voice controlled devices and humans.

In maths this week we have been looking at number bonds to 10. We have been discovering different ways we can add two numbers together to make 10.

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.

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— Lily G, Vlad, Tim

RC— Reegan, Dusty, Brooklyn

RP— Shylah, Florence, Roxie



Nursery News

This week at Nursery we have been very busy! Tying in with Childrens Mental Health Week we read the story “The Penguin Who Wanted To Fly”. We discussed how the penguin might be feeling each time he tried a new idea that did not work and looked at how his bear friend helped him feel better and how the penguin kept trying. We spoke about the penguin discovering he was a very good swimmer instead. In key worker groups, we discussed what we are good at and the things that make us happy.

During Safer Internet Day we discussed the use of AI and that voice activated devices are not real people and what we should do if they say something that makes us sad or frightened, the children were all very good at telling us they would speak to a grown up straight away.

In math’s we have continued to explore patterns. The children have been fantastic at creating their own patterns and spotting mistakes in patterns, looking at how they can correct them. Please continue to encourage this at home over the half term and upload any pictures to Tapestry for us to share in Nursery.

Our phonics sounds this week were C and K. The children have been amazing in phonics and are enjoying thinking of words with the sounds in each week. The children are enjoying practicing writing the letters in our writing area and are wowing us every day with how well they are doing. Please continue to encourage this at home and share any home learning to Tapestry so we can share this in Nursery.

It has been a fantastic half term and the children have wowed us everyday with their determination to succeed in everything they do.

We hope you all have a wonderful half term.

The Nursery Team

Talking At Home Activity

How many trees can you see on your way home from school?

Which is taller a giraffe or a mouse?

Why does a giraffe need to be tall?

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.

Dates for the Diary

Friday 13th February– Last Day of Half Term

Monday 23rd February– Back to School

Wednesday 4th March– Open Evening

Thursday 5th March– Open Evening

Thursday 5th March– World Book Day– Dress up as a book character.

Monday 9th March– Science Week



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



We are delighted to share that we currently have spaces available in our Nursery for our September 2026 intake!

If your child is approaching nursery age and you are considering their next steps, this is a wonderful opportunity to join our friendly, nurturing, and engaging early years environment. Our Nursery provides a safe and stimulating setting where children can explore, learn, and grow through play-based activities led by our experienced and caring staff.

We welcome applications from families who would like their child to become part of our school community. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the school office to request an application form.

We look forward to welcoming new families to The Willows Nursery!