



## Reception News

We hope you all had a wonderful half-term break.

We have begun our new topic, The World Around Us. This week, we have been learning about Chinese New Year. We have explored what Chinese New Year is, who celebrates it, when it is celebrated, and how it is celebrated. The children have particularly enjoyed learning about the meanings behind the different colours used during the celebrations.

In Maths, we have been learning about ordinal numbers. We linked this to the story of the Great Race, which tells how the animals were given their years in the Chinese zodiac. The children practised ordering numbers by identifying the positions in which the animals finished the race.

In Phonics this week, we have been learning the sounds *ai*, *ee*, and *igh*. We have been practising how to write these sounds, blend them when reading, and use them in our writing.

Each week, Mrs Ruggles sends home phonics lessons on Tapestry to help support your child's phonics learning at home.

Next week we have our reading session in classrooms on March 3rd at 2:30pm.

## 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— Violet, Mark, Maisie

RC— Ariana, Mohammad, Alex

RP— Noah, Oscar, Ada



# Nursery News

Welcome back! It was lovely to see all the children so happy when they returned after the half term.

This half term our topic is "Spring and new life". We have started our topic by reading the story "Busy Spring, nature wakes up" The children have been fantastic at thinking about the signs of spring that we are already noticing outside and what changes we will see happening soon. We spoke about spring being the time when the garden starts to wake up and baby animals and birds usually start to be born.

On Monday we learnt about Luna new year. The children were very good at remembering the animals from the great race story and were very excited to learn how Luna new year is celebrated, the children particularly enjoyed watching some Chinese lion dancing.

In math's we have been practicing counting object up to 5 accurately from a bigger group, making sure to count each object one at a time to get the right amount.

Our phonics sounds this week have been ck and E. The children have been very good at recognising these sounds in words and practicing forming the letters when in the writing area.

We have been making the most of the lovely weather and have been able to use the top garden area this week. The children have really enjoyed this and are looking forward to being able to plant flowers up there very soon.

**Reminder:** Please can reading books and reading records be in bags everyday. Library day is on Thursday. P.E is on Friday, please can all children come to Nursery in their P.E kit with earrings removed.

Hope you have a lovely weekend.

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 has an appointment to attend please add this to the PA Connect app, along with supporting evidence.

## Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 3rd March– Reception Reading Session

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

Telephone: 0300 300 1544

# 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!

## 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](http://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



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!

# Starting Reception Roadshows



## Is Your Little One Starting Reception in September 2026?

### Come along to our Starting Reception Roadshow!

Get ready for a fun, friendly, and totally **FREE** event designed to help you to support your child feel excited and confident about starting reception.

Essex Early Years has teamed up with local schools plus education, health and care partners to bring you a lively, helpful session packed with top tips and advice.

#### Want to join in?

Ask your child's childminder, preschool, or nursery for details about your nearest event, or visit the Essex Talk, Listen and Cuddle website to find out more about dates and times across Essex.

#### Starting Reception Roadshow near you:

Where: Janet Duke Primary School - 105 Markhams Chase, Basildon SS15 5LS

When: Wednesday 18th March - 6pm - 7.30pm



You can find out information about the event by scanning the QR code or visiting [www.tlc-essex.info](http://www.tlc-essex.info) and searching 'Starting reception'



Follow us on social media to join our **Starting Reception Campaign**



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