



## Reception News

This week we have had an amazing time looking at lots of lovely books. Our focus text this week has been “Jack and The Beanstalk”

We have been thinking about how we can sequence the story and write some words from the tale.

We have been thinking about our language we are using when sequencing the story. We have been thinking about “Next” “Then” “What happens after?” “What happens at the end?”

We have also started to look at adjectives and how we can use adjectives to describe objects. We have been thinking about words such as, tall, big, bright, light, green, massive, gigantic etc.

In Maths this week we have been learning about “Short and Long”, The children had lots of fun searching around the classroom for items that are longer or shorter than other objects. Please continue to use this vocabulary and skills at home.

We really enjoyed seeing all your lovely costumes on Thursday!

## 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– Arabella, Lucas, Elias

RC– Amelia, Sia, Oscar

RP– Theodore, Isla, Bertie



## Nursery News

We have had a lovely week in Nursery joining in with world book week. It has been wonderful to hear the children talk about their favourite books and of course seeing them all look so fantastic in their world book day outfits.

This week we have also continued to explore Spring and new life. We focused on Bees, looking at what they do to help the environment and finding out some facts about them. The children were very impressed to learn that bees have 5 eyes and 4 wings.

We have had lots of fun planting in the Nursery garden this week. The children enjoyed planting different textured grasses into the top garden flower beds and have been looking after the plants by making sure they are watered. The children explored how the grasses felt and looked and spoke about how they can help to look after these and other plants.

In maths we have been exploring how shapes can fit together to build structures such as houses and walls, exploring how we can manipulate the shapes to fit with other shapes to help us construct sturdy buildings. The children worked as teams to build a strong wall for Humpty Dumpty to sit on.

This weeks phonics sounds were U and R, the children have been very good at thinking of words with these sounds in. Please continue to encourage this at home.

Please upload any home learning or pictures of special events to Tapestry as the children love to share with their friends what they have been doing at home.

Please remember to return Library books on Thursdays and that P.E is on Fridays and children should come to Nursery dressed in their P.E kits with earrings removed.

We hope you have a lovely weekend,

The Nursery team.

### Talking At Home Activity

What plants can you see in your environment?

Which is taller a tree or a flower?

Can you see any objects that have an ai or oo sound in the word?

### 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

**Monday 9th March**— Science Week

**17th March**— St Patricks Day

**23rd March**— Autism Acceptance Week

**27th March**— PTA Event— Break the rules day

**27th March**— Last Day of Term

**13th April**— Back to School



### 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



A group of our Young Carers attended the Healthy Schools Festival at The Brentwood Centre on Wednesday this week. During this event they had a chance to take part in various activities including promoting healthy food and nutrition, positive emotional and mental health and encouraging physical activity. We are very proud to announce that our school were presented with the following awards:

A Certificate of Achievement for the successful completion of a health improvement project in 2024/2025 linked to physical activity.

A Best Practice Award for demonstrating outstanding achievement in a Healthy Schools Project linked to physical activity.

**Well done to all our pupils and staff and thank you to Mrs Hughes for her dedication to this project.**



Essex County Council  
Children and Families

# 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'



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