



Reception News

This week, we have continued our learning about Jack and the Beanstalk. We focused on the characters and the adjectives that describe them. We discussed the feelings of the characters, such as how the giant felt and how Jack felt when his mother threw the beans out of the window. We also explored the story Fee! Fi! Fo! Fum!, which was the focus of our drawing club this week.

During our learning time, we examined how to write letters. We talked about why we might write letters and how to structure them. We also discussed the process of sending a letter in the post.

This week has been Science Week. We have been learning about planting and the life cycle of a plant. We also looked at the different parts of a plant. For Science Week, we explored healthy and unhealthy foods, sorting them into different categories.

In Maths this week, we continued to study length. We discussed the concepts of taller and shorter and how we can order objects by their height. We began to compare heights, focusing on how we can differentiate between them.

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 your 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.

Certificate Winners

Our certificates this week are awarded to:

RR– Darius, Lailah-May, Arabella

RC– Oscar, Ariana, Victoria

RP– Jack, William, Natalie B



Nursery News

This week at Nursery we have been Scientists! As part of Science week the children have been thinking about what plants need to grow. The children have been fantastic at remembering that plants need soil, light and water to help them grow. The children planted beans and have been taking good care of them. We have started an experiment to see what happens if we remove one thing that the plant needs. We planted 3 beans and will keep them in different conditions to see which one grows the best!

We have continued to spend time outside, the children have really enjoyed planting lavender in the top garden this week and are busy checking all the plants each time they go outside.

In maths the children have been practicing using positional language to describe where an object is or where they are driving the cars to. The children have been using language such as over, under, around, and through.

Our phonics sounds this week have been H and B, please continue to help your child look for objects with these sounds and upload a picture to Tapestry to share in Nursery.

Reminders

Library day is a Thursday, please can all children bring their library book to school on this day ready to change. Please can reading records and reading books be in bags every day. Please remember to record each time your child reads at home this can include the bedtime story on Tapestry. We aim for children to read 5 times a week at home.

P.E day is a Friday. Please can all children come to school dressed in their P.E kits with earrings removed. Please can we have trainers or plimsols on this day, no boots.

Have a lovely weekend, The Nursery Team.

Talking At Home Activity

Can you sing 5 nursery rhymes together?

How many times can you find the word the in a story book?

What different parts of a plant can you see?

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

17th March– St Patrick's 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

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

🎫 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

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 and searching 'Starting reception'



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



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