



## Reception News

This week, we have been focusing on the story of “The Little Red Hen.” We have been considering how the little red hen might have felt as the animals were unwilling to help her. We also discussed the life cycle of wheat and the stages it goes through before it turns into bread. At the end of the week, we attempted to make our own bread. We used various resources to create our own loaves. The children really enjoyed being part of the bread-making process and watching the dough rise. We then examined the baked loaf and thought about what it smelled like, looked like, and felt like.

In maths this week, we have been studying time. We explored different ways to measure time and the various resources we can use for this purpose. We also considered the days of the week and how we can order events by these days. We reflected on calendars and how we can measure the days of the week, months of the year and how to recognise the years using a calendar.

In drawing club this week we have been focusing on using our imaginations to design our own Little Red Hen characters. We then thought up our own bread recipes using lots of ingredients.

## 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 starting to improve and get warmer, however it can still be chilly in the morning when playing outside. Children are welcome to start bringing a hat into school to wear outside. Children do not need sunglasses in school.

## Certificate Winners

### Our certificates this week are awarded to:

RR– Naya, William, Lily P

RC– Mikail, Zara-Jane, Florrie

RP– Ada, Sadie, Albert



## Nursery News

This week at Nursery we have been reading the story "The Tiny Seed" The children enjoyed seeing the journey the seed took from falling from the sunflower in Autumn to starting to grow into a new flower in Spring and all the places the seed visited along the way. We looked at the life cycle of a sunflower seed. The children noticed that, like the beans we planted last week, the sunflower seed will grow roots down into the soil before a tiny shoot will start to appear. The children were very excited to plant their own sunflowers and are hoping that, just like the tiny seed in the story, they will grow taller than a house!

In maths the children have been exploring subitising again. The children have been very good at using their fingers to represent a given number from 1 to 5 and were super at finding groups of objects around the Nursery and identifying how many is in the group. Our phonics sounds this week have been F and FF, 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

What items can you see in a shop that contain wheat?

How many shapes can you see on your way home?

What does the word combine mean?

### 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

23rd March– Autism Acceptance Week

27th March– PTA Event– Break the rules day

27th March– Nursery spring craft afternoon-1:30pm to 3pm

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



7 ways to develop your child's reading skills at home:

Effective Provision Of Preschool Education (EPPE)

- Reading and sharing books
- Going to the library
- Going on visits
- Playing with letters and numbers
- Singing songs and rhymes
- Drawing and painting
- Playing with friends

### 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](mailto:pta.thewillows@gmail.com).



Good luck to all of the Reception 2026 applicants.

Please remember offers will be sent via email on 16th April 2026.

All **late applications** need to apply via the gov website.

[Admission Common application - Essex County Council](#)

**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 them around :)**