



Reception News

This week, we have been learning all about Easter. We focused on the different traditions from around the world as well as discussing what we do in our own houses.

We have also taken part in the whole school Autism Awareness Day, thinking about how all of our brains are different but we are all kind, thoughtful, successful and intelligent in our own way and that is what makes us all special and unique.

During our learning time, we have continued using our phonics skills to write simple sentences and captions independently.

In Science, we carried out a fantastic experiment about packaging and how to protect an uncooked egg if dropped from a height. This was a fun activity and the children worked really well together, giving good ideas on how to protect their egg.

In Maths this week, we have been learning about 3D shapes and their 2D shape faces. This was quite challenging at first, however the children are becoming 3D shape experts. How many 3D shapes can you find around the house? You will be surprised how many you can find!

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 of white T-shirt, joggers, leggings and school jumper or black zipped jacket.

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.



Certificate Winners

Our certificates this week are awarded to:

RR– Lailah-May, Arthur, William



Nursery News

This week at Nursery we have been learning all about Easter, looking at why Easter is celebrated and how people celebrate. The children were very good at recognising that Easter is in spring and spring brings lots of signs of new life such as the plants waking up and the baby animals being born. The children made Easter cards and painted spring pictures using pastel paints.

We have also take part in Autism awareness week. We read the story "Just the way you are" and talked about all being different and the things that make us super special and amazing! The children enjoyed decorating their Honeycomb puzzles pieces too.

Our phonics sounds this week have been L, ll and ss , please continue to help your child think of words with these sounds and upload a picture to Tapestry, along with any other news your child would like to share in Nursery.

A huge thank you to everyone who came to our spring craft afternoon, it was lovely to see so many of you enjoying the activities with your children.

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.

We hope you all have a wonderful Easter break and look forward to seeing everyone when we return on the 13th April.

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

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



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.



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 :)