



## Reception News

This week, we have moved on to exploring *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. We have learning about the life cycle of the butterfly and explaining how it is a continuous process. We spoke through each stage of the life cycle and how long each stage takes.

We received a special delivery of chick eggs this week. The chicks will be with us until Friday, 24th April. The children are very excited to watch them hatch and move into a larger space to explore. They have been observing their feathers develop and become fluffy. We have also learned about the life cycle of a chick and how they grow into chickens from eggs.

We have been working hard on our handwriting and letter formation, focusing on where the letters should start and finish when writing. Additionally, we have been considering letter sizing and how much of the lines in our books the letters should occupy; for example, capital letters will fill the lines, whereas lowercase letters will not.

This week, we have incorporated pseudo words into our phonics lessons. Pseudo words are terms that we can read using our phonics skills but are not actual words. We use pictures of aliens to engage with the pseudo words.



## 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 bought 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.

**Summer Clothing**— Please ensure children have a hat to wear in school and have had sun cream has been applied before school.

## Certificate Winners

### Our certificates this week are awarded to:

RR— Thomas, Ann-Michelle, Darius

RC— Benicio, Sia, Mohammad

RP— Roman, Noah, Alice



## Nursery News

We have had a lovely first week back at Nursery. This week we have been reading "What the ladybird heard" The children were very good at listening for the sounds the animals made and remembering the route the two bad men had planned on their map.

On Monday we had an extra special delivery of chick eggs. The children were very excited to watch the chicks hatch and are looking forward to seeing how the chicks change during their stay in Nursery. On Tuesday we had another special delivery! This time it was some caterpillars! The children have been super at being careful around both the chicks and the caterpillars and have been excited to check in on them all each day.

This week we have started to introduce words of the week in an aim to help extend the children's vocabulary. Each week we will have 2 object words, 2 describing words and an action word. This weeks words were Chick, Egg, Fluffy, Hard and Jump. The children have been very good at using these words in sentences.

## 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.

Hope you all have a lovely weekend,

The Nursery Team.

### Talking At Home Activity

What do chicks like to eat?

How long does a caterpillar stay in a cocoons for?

What is added to 10 to make 13?

### 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

22nd April– Earth Day

23rd April– St George Day

27th April– DT Week

Tuesday 19th May– Reception Science Workshop



### 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



Contact Us



Login

# Support your Child's Journey into Reception

## FREE Courses for Parents





If you have made an application for September 2026 to The Willows Nursery, please be aware that you will hear from us the week commencing 20th April 2026 regarding allocated places.

We look forward to welcoming existing siblings of those already attending our school and new families to The Willows Nursery!



You should now have all been offered your Reception 2026 places for your chosen primary schools as of 16th April. If we can assist you with anything, please speak to our admissions team at the main reception.

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

**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 :)**