



THE WILLOWS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



Friday 17th April 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the Summer Term, the term of long warm days! I hope that you all had a good break?

This term is about regeneration. We wind up the year and look forward to the future. This week parents have found out their child's Reception placement (I am sure that you remember those anxious times!) and the process of transition has begun. Later in the term our Year 6 children will go to their secondary schools for transition days. It is both an exciting and a nervous time.

We had a visit from BBC Essex on Wednesday. Some of you might have heard me talking on the BBC Essex Breakfast Show before Easter about our campaign to fix the parking outside the school. I must have made an impression because I was invited back to talk about the new government white paper on school dinners. Reassuringly, we have very little to do as our dinners are of a very good quality and we already meet the vast majority of the requirements. One of our children, Emilie (please see the photo) was interviewed and she did a fantastic job. You can listen to the segments on the BBC Sounds app, search for the Sonia Watson show from Wednesday. Our segments are 1:22 and 2:22 in.

As we slide into the warmer days, just a reminder about being sun ready. Remember sun cream, hats and water bottles. After the wet year it is lovely to be outside and it is very easy to catch the sun (trust me, as a man with no hair I know!).

Have a great weekend everyone,

Mr T Robinson

Headteacher



WELL DONE!

1R Amelia for including others and being a great friend.

1P Jayden loves to help his friends and has also been working on forming new friendships with others in the class.

1C Zara is a kind and thoughtful friend who brings a smile to peers' faces. She always includes others and is a great friend.

Well done Zara :)

2D Sienna is a wonderful friend to all of her peers and promotes kindness and sharing.

2H Sophia for always being a good friend to other children in the class. You are always willing to help others and show kindness through your words and actions. Well done!

2T Jamie is a great friend to others. He is kind, caring and always shares with his peers. Jamie always has a smile on his face and loves to make others laugh. Well done Jamie!

3SB Darja for being such a kind and caring friend to others. Well done!

3D Logan for always being such a kind and caring friend to all of his peers.

3S Jayden for always being a good friend, standing up for what he believes in and always supporting them.

4I Sienna for being a great friend by consistently showing kindness, care, and respect to those around her, making others feel included and valued.

4E Ohemaa for being a good friend to everyone and treating others with kindness and respect.

4RH Freddie for being a wonderful friend who always shows kindness, includes others, and makes everyone feel valued and happy. Well done!

5F Meghna for always being a great friend and supporting the people around her! Well done.

5J Eliza for always being a kind, caring and genuine friend to others.

5W Stephen for always being a wonderful friend to everyone in the classroom! You show kindness, thoughtfulness and great care towards your peers.

6B Taylor for welcoming new students to the school by developing trust and showing compassion and friendship to them.

6H Dhanush for always being a kind and supportive friend, making others feel included, and bringing positivity to everyone around them.

6F Smilte for being a hardworking and well-mannered student. Smilte has and continues to make great progress everyday. Well done!



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ST MARY'S CofE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Superstar Readers of the Week

Yr1— Albert, Harley, Eleeza

Yr2 — Finley, Victoria, Freya

Yr3 — Enoch, Riley-Rae, Kyle

Yr4 — Scarlett, Ethan, Dylan

Yr5 — Finley, Galena, Ella

Yr 6— Vinny, Brylie, Ianus



Superstar Writers of the Week

Yr1— Lilly, Matti, Arete

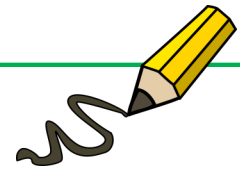
Yr2— Elena, Selena, Bobby

Yr3 — Adele, Emily, Elsie

Yr4 — Rosie, Jacob, Aaida

Yr5 — Harrison, Liana, Freddie

Yr 6— Kye, Krish, Laila-Rae



Whole Class Superstar Readers of the Week

Key Stage 1: 2T - 110 Lower Key Stage 2: 4I—118 Upper Key Stage 2: 5J - 114

OPAL

 Laundry basket	 Suitcase	 Wooden spoons	 Action figures	 Plastic crates
 Dress up items	 Cars	 Dinosaurs	 Pans	 Plastic dolls
 Lego	 Small balls	 Scooter	 Plastic tubes	 Tarpaulin
 Beach spades	 Buckets	 Trowels	 Skateboard	 Cardboard tubes
 Guttering	 Wooden planks	 Helmet	 Aprons	 Chalk

Please try to keep these items in mind as these are the kinds of donations that our school needs as part of our Outdoor Play and Learning initiative. These items will make playtimes outside much more exciting, engaging and fun! Please give your child's class teacher any donations and these can then be passed on. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards,

**Miss Hudson and Miss Dorrington -
OPAL Leads**

OPAL Certificate this week

Lily for working hard to tidy up equipment
and encouraging others to tidy.

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Attendance percentages

for this week.

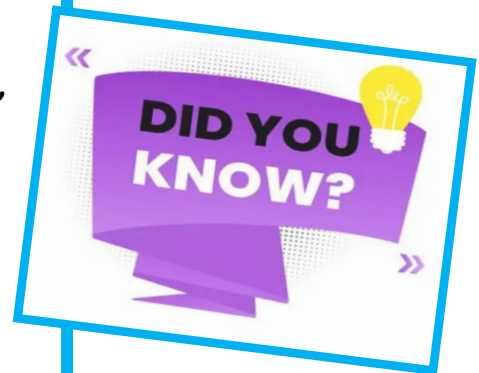
Yearly - 93.3% Weekly - 93.5%

KS1 – 93.8% KS2 - 93.4%

★ Attendance Matters!

- Good attendance helps children build confidence, friendships, and routines.
- Children who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve well in reading, writing, and maths.

Even occasional absences can make it harder for children to keep up with lessons.



Whole class attendance winners this week are

4I

with 98.7%

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Reporting Absence

Please report your child's absence to the office by emailing admin@willows.essex.sch.uk, on your [PA connect app](#), or by leaving a message on the office telephone by calling 01268 470880.

The school must be informed **EVERY school day** that the child is absent.

Please ensure that you have reported your child's absence by **9.20am**.



If you or your child have an appointment, or know that you will be arriving to school late for any other reason, **please inform the office via email your child's lunch choice for that day**. This is so the kitchen can be provided with the correct number of lunches. Should we not receive your lunch choice, we cannot guarantee your child will be able to have their preferred option. Should your child's choice be baguette, please state which filling they would like to have.



Thank you for your understanding.



Attendance Categories

Percentage	Category	Definition	Band
97-100%	Excellent	Attendance is excellent. Recognition given.	A
95-97%	Acceptable	Attendance is acceptable.	B
93-94%	Below Expected	Attendance needs to improve. Form Tutors intervene to motivate pupils to reach their target.	C
90-92%	At risk	Attendance is at risk of falling below 90%. This is when a pupil is classed as persistently absent. The Head of Year will intervene.	D
80-89%	Support	HOY and Pastoral Support will intervene to improve attendance as the pupil is persistently absent from school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents will be notified of concerns. Meetings will be held to identify issues and support needed. Penalty notices may be issued to parents. 	E
51-79%	Intervention	HOY, Pastoral Support and Attendance Enforcement officers will intervene to improve attendance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent meetings will be held Penalty notices may be issued to parents Enforcement Officers may be deployed to improve attendance. 	F
Under 50%	Severely Absent	Attendance is a serious concern and requires individualised plans to improve. Attendance Enforcement will work closely with school and other social care agencies to improve attendance.	G

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THIS WEEK...



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EYFS have welcomed some baby chicks to their classrooms! They are having lots of fun watching them hatch and exploring their new surroundings.

Year 1 this week the children have been learning all about capacity in Maths, writing instructions in English and discovering the different parts of a plant in Science :)

Year 2 have had a fantastic first week back to school after Easter! We have started our new class reading book, 'George's Marvellous Medicine' and we have been writing nonsense poems where we had to come up with lots of silly words which was so much fun! We have started to learn about materials as well as how to measure in cm and m. We have also been thinking about what makes something significant within history and discussed who is significant to us as well as what we think will still be significant in 100 years' time.

Years 3, 4 & 5 have all started their swimming lessons this week, they have enjoyed the walking there and back with their friends and getting back in to the pool! Its great to see so many of them joining in with such an important life-saving skill!

Year 6 children are now in the last 4 weeks before their SATs and have been working incredibly hard completing practise papers and achieving fantastic scores to show all they have learnt since their time at The Willows. The children have also participated in their first swimming lesson of the year and received excellent feedback from the instructors at The Basildon Sporting Village stating not only how engaged and polite they were but also proud of just how far they have come since Year 4 demonstrating their superb swimming skills.



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DATES TO REMEMBER

20th April

Basildon Junior Music Festival

29th April

Year 5 Colchester Zoo

Diary Dates

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.



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

MERRYLANDS – LEAD TEACHER for AUTISM SPECTRUM CONDITIONS closing date 19th April

MERRYLANDS – CATERING ASSISTANT closing date 17th April

WHITMORE – ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER closing date 27th April

WHITMORE – FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICER closing date 29th April

For more information and to apply for any of these exciting opportunities, please follow the link to our website [Vacancies – Berlesduna Academy Trust](#)

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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 :)

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