



**THE WILLOWS**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



**Friday 24th April 2026**

### **Headteacher's Message**

Dear parents and carers,

Another lovely week has passed by; the weeks seem to be flying by!

It has been a very busy week. Parents of children starting school in September have had their offer letters and we are sending welcome packs as we speak! Our nursery places are also finalised, and parents will be finding out as we speak. Budgets and staffing is sorted and placements for next year are all done! The rest of this term will be SATS and getting ready for Phonics and MTC before May half term and then the final term where transitions and final assessments before we all do it again in September! This term is always one of the busiest!

Just a couple of things to mention;

The PTA are running a few fundraising events over the next few weeks to try and hit their target; any support will be much appreciated!

Please try and walk or park and walk more when we have nicer weather, it will really help the traffic and the parking outside! Talks are progressing with all parties about plans to improve congestion and parking outside the school so watch this space!

Remember warm weather protocols. Use sun cream and make sure that your child has a hat and a water bottle.

I think that is it!

Have a great weekend everyone,

Mr T Robinson

Headteacher

The Willows Primary School

# WELL DONE!

**1R Jires** for showing great courage when joining a new class and settling in so well.

**1P Joseph** for always giving learning a go even when you've been finding it difficult.

**1C Elvianna** shows courage when doing challenging work. She is always willing to give it a go even when it is tricky. Well done Elvianna :)

**2D Jenson** shows up to school with a smile on his face everyday and tries his best in everything he does. Keep it up Jenson!

**2H Sonny** for always having the courage to ask lots of questions in class about our current learning as well as about other topics. You are very inquisitive. Well done!

**2T Tilly-Mai** has shown great courage recently. She is practising for her phonics screening and is trying very hard. She has also been very brave by singing to us in our show and tell sessions on a Friday! Well done Tilly-Mai!

**3SB Aubree** for always giving everything a go, even when it gets challenging.

**3D Cassidy** for always trying her best and trying new things.

**3S Dolcee** for always having a smile on her face and tackling challenges head on even when she finds them hard.

**4I Harrison** for showing courage and determination even when tasks feel challenging. His confidence continues to build, and he is beginning to believe in his own abilities, which is wonderful to see.

**4E Alaia** for having the courage to try new things with a smile. Well done Alaia!

**4RH Eden** for showing great courage by always being brave, believing in yourself, and inspiring others to do the same. Well done!

**5F Tyler** for having courage to get stuck back in to his work after some time off. Well done!

**5J William** for always having the courage to try new things!

**5W Albie** for always showing great courage, standing up for yourself and others, for not being afraid to call out others on behaviour that goes against the schools values.

**6B Aleena** for having the courage to undertake any task and ask for help when needed.

**6H Excellent** for showing great courage and confidence when facing new challenges. He always has a positive attitude even when things felt difficult.

**6F Mayowa** for being a hardworking and well-mannered student. Mayowa has and continues to make great progress everyday. Well done! (even though you support Man united).



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**ST MARY'S CofE**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

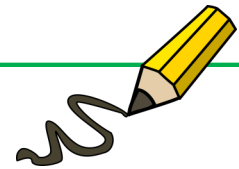
## Superstar Readers of the Week

- Yr1— Rafferty, Roman, Alexandru
- Yr2 — Lily-Rose, Jiya, Elena
- Yr3 — Isla, Olivia, Maria
- Yr4 — Violette, Aryav, Alfie
- Yr5 — Jack, Jack, Ilinca
- Yr 6— Archie, David, Tillie



## Superstar Writers of the Week

- Yr1— Adam, Raine, Rainee,
- Yr2— Alicia, Victoria, Ahmed
- Yr3 — Frankie, Julia, Harrison
- Yr4 — Amarachukwu, Mahi, Jacob
- Yr5 — Leonor, Autumn, Mikolaj
- Yr 6— Alice, Madison, Nichita



## Whole Class Superstar Readers of the Week

Key Stage 1: 2D-82 Lower Key Stage 2: 4I-88 Upper Key Stage 2: 5J-79

# 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

**Gracie** 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 - 94.3%

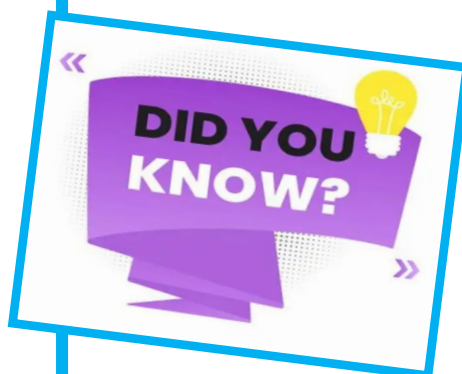
KS1 – 94.4% KS2 - 94.2%

### ★ Attendance Matters!

#### 🕒 Every Minute Counts

- Being **10 minutes late each day** adds up to over **30 hours of lost learning** in a year.

Lessons often start straight away, so lateness means children can **miss key instructions.**



Whole class attendance winners this week are

**2T**

with **97.2%**

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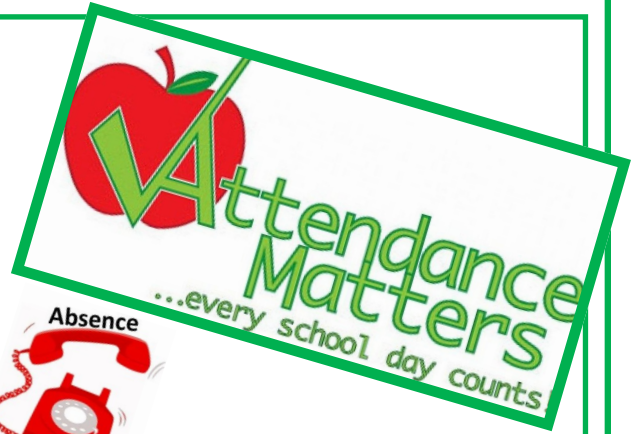
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## Reporting Absence

Please report your child's absence to the office by emailing [admin@willows.essex.sch.uk](mailto: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"> <li>Parents will be notified of concerns.</li> <li>Meetings will be held to identify issues and support needed.</li> <li>Penalty notices may be issued to parents.</li> </ul>	E
51-79%	Intervention	HOY, Pastoral Support and Attendance Enforcement officers will intervene to improve attendance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent meetings will be held</li> <li>Penalty notices may be issued to parents</li> <li>Enforcement Officers may be deployed to improve attendance.</li> </ul>	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...



## THE WILLOWS

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### Year 1

In Year 1 we have been learning all about counting in our 2, 5 and 10's. In English, we have been pretending we are going on a trip to London. We have spoken all about what we might take, what we might hear and what we might see. In phonics, we have been trying to hard to use our robot arms, ask us to show you! In our afternoon lessons, we have been looking at Queen Elizabeth II and why she was significant, different types of trees and team building in PE!

### Year 2

This week Year 2 have been exploring solids and liquids within science and we have been describing Grandma in 'George's Marvellous Medicine' using similes and expanded noun phrases. We have been focusing on our retrieval and vocabulary skills during shared reading lessons, where we have to hunt for the answers to questions in the text and think about the meaning of different words so that we can up level our vocabulary and understand more complex language. We explored why we have Earth Day and the importance of looking after our planet and also commemorated St. George's Day. What a busy week!

### Years 3

This week in Year 3, we have discussed our impact on earth for Earth Day and made bird feeders to support our local environment. We have continued looking at plants in science and become 'Plant Doctors' diagnosing healthy plant needs. In English, we have continued to write our fairytale linked to our text The Magic Faraway Tree. In Maths, we have used our fraction and operation knowledge to look at measuring capacity and volume on scales. We loved Tag Rugby, practising our backward passes! We have identified rainforests around the world and continued to develop our sketching skills. A busy week!

### Year 4

Children have enjoyed the great weather during their PE lesson and had lots of fun during their swimming lessons. They have been concentrating well while writing their good versus evil story and they have let their imaginations loose and run wild! The choir also had a great time performing at the Basildon Music Festival!

### Year 5

In science this week, Year 5 have been looking at botanical illustrations as part of our **All Living Things** topic. Botanical illustrations are scientifically accurate, detailed visual representations of plants, documenting their form, structure, colour and life cycle. To do our drawings, we first drew a flower as a whole, then we took it apart to draw each individual piece.

### Year 6

Year 6 have completed their final SATs practise test week before the SATs begin on the 11<sup>th</sup> May. They have worked really hard to produce their best results yet since the start of the year. This demonstrates that they are not only ready for their SATs but also ready to show off all they have learnt throughout their time in KS1 and KS2 - keep it up Year 6 we are all incredibly proud of you.

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# DATES TO REMEMBER

Yr 5 Colchester Zoo	29 <sup>th</sup> April
Trust Orienteering	30 <sup>th</sup> April
Bank holiday	4 <sup>th</sup> May
Yr 1 Reading café	7 <sup>th</sup> May
Yr 6 SATS	11 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> May
Yr 2 Thorndon Park	11 <sup>th</sup> May
Reception activity afternoon	13 <sup>th</sup> May
Yr 6 Enrichment trip	15 <sup>th</sup> May
Yr 3 Skreens Park	18 <sup>th</sup> May
Reception Intake meeting (our Nursery)	18 <sup>th</sup> May
EYFS Engineering workshop	19 <sup>th</sup> May
Yr 4 reading café	19 <sup>th</sup> May
Reception Intake meeting (new starters)	19 <sup>th</sup> May
Yr 5/6 Quad kids	21 <sup>st</sup> May
Yr 1 Kings & Queens day	21 <sup>st</sup> May
Last day of term dress down/non uniform	21 <sup>st</sup> May
Inset day	22 <sup>nd</sup> May



## 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).

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### **Netball Match Report: The Willows vs Phoenix**

The Willows faced Phoenix in a closely contested netball match, with both teams starting strongly. The first quarter ended goalless at 0–0 as defences dominated and neither side was willing to give anything away.

Phoenix edged ahead in the second quarter, taking a one-goal lead. They continued to build momentum in the third quarter, extending their advantage by holding The Willows scoreless while adding three more goals.

The Willows showed great determination in the final quarter and were rewarded with a well-earned goal, but Phoenix maintained control to see out the match.

The final score was **Phoenix 6 – The Willows 1.**



The 5/6 girls football team played their last league game of the season this week against Kingswood. They battled hard with a strong defence, scoring an amazing goal. However, they were defeated 3-1.

They can't wait to return next season.



#### **BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES**

BERLESDUNA – GOVERNOR/TRUSTEE closing date 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026  
CHERRY TREE – SEMH ASSISTANT closing date 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
MERRYLANDS – HLTA closing date 10<sup>th</sup> May  
MERRYLANDS – PART TIME EYFS TEACHER closing date 10<sup>th</sup> May  
WHITMORE – ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER closing date 27<sup>th</sup> April  
WHITMORE – FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICER closing date 29<sup>th</sup> April  
WHITMORE – FIXED TERM CLASS TEACHER closing date 1<sup>st</sup> May

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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