



THE WILLOWS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Friday 1st May 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

Another week has flown by! This year seems to be flying by quicker than any year I can remember; it is unbelievable to think that SATs week is just a week away.

It has been another busy week here. We have hosted the Trust Orienteering event which went very well. Our school always looks lovely in the sun and the children had a great time tearing around the field searching for orienteering markers in their groups made from all the schools in the Trust.

Our Summer Term swimming continues with Years 4, 5 and 6 taking part in swimming lessons. All the children are making fantastic progress and, as always, the coaches and any members of the public that meet us have commented on how polite, happy and well behaved Willows children are. Swimming is an incredibly important life skill as well as a brilliant way to get active and keep fit. We hope that these lessons encourage some of our children to take up the sport. The Trust Swimming Gala will provide some of our strongest swimmers with an opportunity to test themselves against the best from the other schools!

Today was the warmest day yet of 2026 so just a reminder that we really want everyone to enjoy time outside and we need your help to ensure that your children are sun ready. Hats, cream and a water bottle are the important things to remember!

I hope you all have a great Bank Holiday, see you all next week,

Mr T Robinson
Headteacher
The Willows Primary School



WELL DONE!

1R Oakley for showing great creativity when building the Leaning Tower of Pisa during D&T Week.

1P Oscar came up with a great idea on resources to use to build his leaning Tower of Pisa for DT week.

1C Billy has worked so hard this week during our DT week activities. He has used his super creative skills to make a Tower of Pisa. Well done Billy :)

2D Harrison has been so looking forward to baking baguettes this week for D.T week and has fully involved himself in planning, making and evaluating his creation.

2H Naomi for showing great enthusiasm during our DT lessons this week where we made French baguettes. You worked really hard to make your dough less sticky with the flour and rolled and molded your dough into a fantastic baguette shape. Well done!

2T Oliver A has been working hard in a group this week to make a delicious baguette for DT week! He impressed us with his sharing and taking turns. Well done Oliver!

3SB Maxim for confidently constructing a spring mechanism and testing its performance. Great DT skills, Maxim!

3D Kit for focusing and trying his best during DT lessons this week to produce his best piece of work and then helping his peers.

3S Phoebe for focusing and trying her best in DT lessons this week, persevering when mechanisms were difficult.

4I Violet for demonstrating excellent planning skills during DT week showing great creativity, organisation, and thoughtfulness in developing her ideas.

4E Georgia for showing excellent effort and determination during DT Week.

4RH Ismachiah for his amazing DT ideas and creativity in designing and making a bright, colourful woven basket. What a fantastic result, well done!

5F Louie for having an excellent understanding of the D&T process and for creating a fantastic Chinese lantern. Well done.

5J Denis for showing fantastic enthusiasm and focus in our lessons for DT week this week—particularly in our planning lesson!

5W Harleigh for working really hard on your Chinese lantern, you took great care and showed real skill as well as helping your friends when they were stuck!!

6B Zoe for working exceptionally hard to improve all scores in SATs practice

6H Kian for settling into our class so quickly and confidently, embracing every opportunity, and already showing yourself to be a fantastic ambassador for our school!

6F Jenson for having an excellent personality and showing great resilience when times are tough. Well done!



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BERLESDUNA
ACADEMY TRUST



MERRYLANDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



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PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



CRAYS HILL
PRIMARY SCHOOL



FELMORE
PRIMARY SCHOOL



CHERRY TREE
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



FAIRHOUSE
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



ST MARY'S CofE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Superstar Readers of the Week

Yr1— Roman, Jesse, Kevin

Yr2 — Hannah, Ava, Lucas

Yr3 — Hunter, Arda, Herkus

Yr4 — Millie, Manha, Delilah

Yr5 — Alexandra, Jenson, Amelly

Yr 6— David, Preston, Roman



Superstar Writers of the Week

Yr1— Jasmine, Wafi, Annabelle

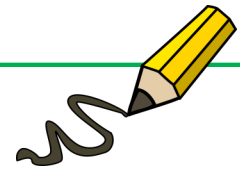
Yr2— Eden, Eva, Emilia

Yr3 — Faye, Reggie, Arya

Yr4 — Ayaan, Teddy, Leo

Yr5 — Scarlett, Daniil, Chime

Yr 6— Armani, Anya, Jasmine



Whole Class Superstar Readers of the Week

Key Stage 1: 1P-86 Lower Key Stage 2: 4I-80 Upper Key Stage 2: 5F-83

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

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

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Attendance percentages

for this week.

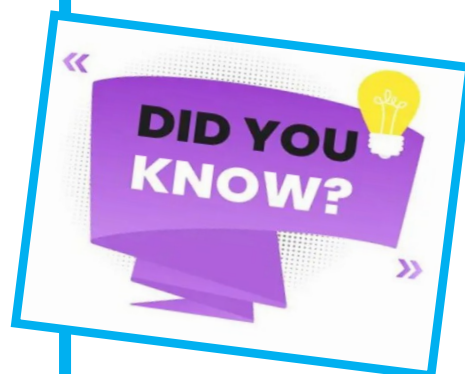
Yearly - 93.5% Weekly - 94.4%

KS1 – 94.1% KS2 - 94.6%

Attendance Matters!

♥ How Families Can Help

- Establish a **consistent morning routine**
 - Encourage an **early bedtime**
 - Book holidays **outside term time**



Talk to the school early if there are **any concerns or difficulties**

Whole class attendance
winners this week are

3D

with 99.4%

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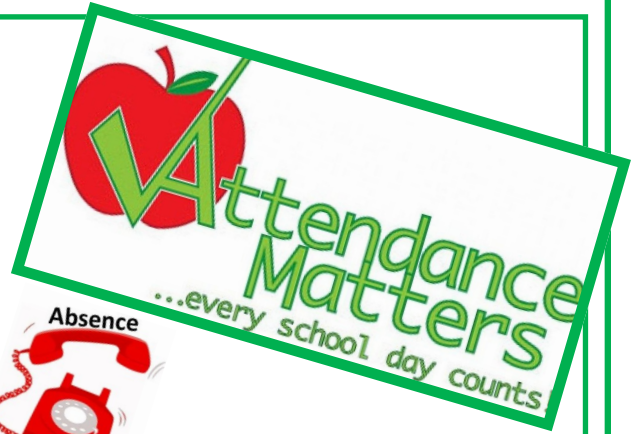
ST MARY'S CofE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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.

PLEASE REMEMBER

WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL



Thank you for your understanding.



ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
read well by the end of third grade



MIDDLE SCHOOLERS
pass important courses



HIGH SCHOOLERS
stay on track for graduation



COLLEGE STUDENTS
earn their degrees



WORKERS
succeed in their jobs

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.



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St Nicholas
Primary



Canewdon
Primary School

THIS WEEK...



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Year 1

This week, Year 1 have enjoyed taking part in our DT week, based on the theme "All Around The World," with a focus on Italy. The children had a fantastic time designing, making, and evaluating their own models of the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

In English, we wrote diary entries imagining a trip to London, and the children impressed us with their creativity. We also explored poetry performance, where the children practised using different tones and volumes in their voices to add expression and bring their poems to life.

In Maths, we have been learning about equal groups and arrays. The children used natural resources and cubes to build their own arrays, helping them to understand rows and columns in a practical and engaging way. We have also been counting down to our Pyjama Day!

Year 2

Year 2 have had another very busy week! We have been designing, making and evaluating French baguettes as part of learning about France in DT Week with our theme of 'All Around The World'. We ate them after making them and they were yummy! We have been exploring diary entry stories and their features and we have also been exploring measuring mass in g and kg in our maths lessons.

Years 3

This week in Year 3 the children have been working hard in English to finish off their fairy-tale stories which links to our text this half term, The Magic Faraway Tree. In Maths, the children have been adding and subtracting fractions, as well as looking at unit and non-unit fractions. It has also been DT week this week, Year 3 were given the country Germany to focus on, so the children have designed and created their own cuckoo clocks as they originate from Germany. The children also completed an experiment in science this week where they observed how water travels through a plant to reach the leaves at the top.

Year 4

This week, Year 4 have had a great time with their learning. In Science, they loved exploring viscosity by taking part in a bottle-flipping activity, this was great fun and got everyone thinking and asking questions. We completed our final formal practice of the Multiplication Test, and the children were focused and did really well! Their good versus evil stories have come to an exciting and dramatic end and it's been wonderful to see the stories develop and imaginations ignite. During DT week, we learned about basket making, designed our own baskets, and had great fun creating them.

Year 5

Year 5 have been making Chinese lanterns as part of DT week and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves at Colchester Zoo on Wednesday!

Year 6

This week in Year 6 we have continued to work hard in preparation for our SATs!

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DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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.

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ST MARY'S CofE
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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!



We are super excited to celebrate another term of amazing attendance!

We've seen such a big improvement, and we are so proud of all our children. Well done!

From the week beginning 5th May until 20th May, one class from each year group with the best attendance will win a Pizza Party with Mr Robinson!

Come to school every day, arrive on time, and help your class become our Attendance Champions!

Which class will win the pizza prize?

We can't wait to find out. Good luck, everyone!!

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