



Friday 8th May 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

Remember last week when I said that the weeks were flying by? Well, this one seems the quickest yet!

It has been another busy one here; finalising planning for the SATs next week and behind the scenes organising and sorting next year. We have sent out packs to next year's nursery and reception classes and are beginning to meet our new set of parents. The cycle resumes!

Some of you have approached me about the parking wardens outside enquiring whether they are employed by the school. I can confirm that they definitely are not; they are council employees. Given the issues with parking around the school, the media coverage and the noise online including many parents complaining about it, I think it was inevitable that the council would send some wardens down. Please keep parking carefully and driving responsibly in Church Road!

Looking forward, don't forget that Friday 22nd May and Monday 1st June are INSET days and the school will be closed. We resume Tuesday 2nd June for the final push!

Have a great weekend,

Mr T Robinson

Headteacher

The Willows Primary School



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

BERLESDUNA – COMPLEX NEEDS & SEND TEACHER closing date 14th May
BERLESDUNA – GOVERNOR/TRUSTEE closing date 22nd May
CRAYS HILL – CLASS TEACHER closing date 15th May
FELMORE – CLASS TEACHER closing date 16th May
MERRYLANDS – HLTA closing date 10th May
MERRYLANDS – PART TIME EYFS TEACHER closing date 10th May
MERRYLANDS – AUTISM SUPPORT CENTRE LEAD TEACHER closing date 13th May

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

WELL DONE!

1R Anna for showing a positive mindset by challenging yourself and aiming high.

1P Lorrissa for developing a 'can do' attitude even when things get tricky.

1C Emily approaches learning with a smile, perseveres through challenges, and eagerly takes on new tasks.
Well done Emily :)

2D Ruby works so hard at school and completes everything with a positive attitude and lovely smile :)

2H Sofia for always having a positive mindset towards your learning and always trying your best to encourage others to focus and listen.

2T Jiya has a wonderful positive mindset and always sees the best in everything. She is very determined and works hard, even when she finds things hard.
Well done Jiya!

3SB Oscar for always persevering and having a positive mindset to all his lessons, well done, Oscar!

3D Esmæ for always having such a positive outlook on life, inside and outside the classroom.

3S Yanis for always putting 100% effort into everything he does and pushing himself to achieve more.

4I Ayaan for demonstrating a positive mindset in all areas of his learning. He approaches new challenges with a willingness to try his best even when tasks are difficult.

4E Svetoslav for always seeing the positive side and remaining cheerful in tricky situations.

4RH Oliver for consistently showing a positive mindset, approaching challenges with determination, and always believing in yourself.
Well done!

5F Aariz for always having a positive mindset, which has allowed him to make great progress in all subjects across the year. Well done!

5J Scarlett for always showing such a positive mindset when it comes to your learning—well done :)

5W Mia for starting your time at the Willows with an exceptionally positive mindset! You have fit into 5W absolutely wonderfully - well done!

6B Iosif for always sharing his jovial personality with his peers and embracing every challenge with optimism.

6H Noah for demonstrating a great positive mindset throughout the year. You have worked extremely hard and shown a remarkable improvement in your attitude towards school and learning.

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



Our Core Values: Respect, Responsibility, Courage, Hope, Justice, Compassion, Integrity, Wisdom

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FAIRHOUSE
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



ST MARY'S CofE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

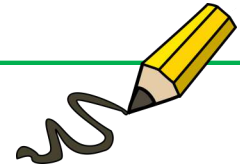
Superstar Readers of the Week

Yr1— Lilly, Leo, Kaleb
 Yr2 — Chloe, Roxy, Sofia
 Yr3 — Ronnie, Lewis, Pippa
 Yr4 — Kassie, Teddie, Alaia
 Yr5 — Elsie, Gracie, Annabelle
 Yr 6— Esme, Laila, Florence



Superstar Writers of the Week

Yr1— Vincent, Rosalyn, Gracie
 Yr2— Dolcie, Sophia, Arya-Rose
 Yr3 — Cesar, Isla, Dollimai
 Yr4 — Sobe, Sienna, Amiya
 Yr5 — Nola, Archie, Archie
 Yr 6— Ernie, Elsie, Poppy



Whole Class Superstar Readers of the Week

Key Stage 1: 2T—76 Lower Key Stage 2: 4I—98 Upper Key Stage 2: 5J—61

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

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

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Attendance percentages

for this week.

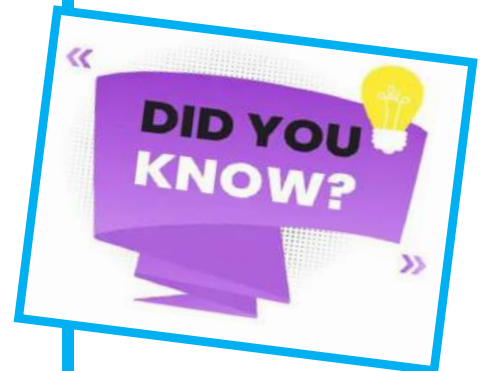
Yearly - 93.5% Weekly - 93.5%

KS1 – 92.5% KS2 - 94.0%

Attendance Matters!

Our Goal

Working together, we can help every child **attend, achieve, and thrive!**



Whole class attendance
winners this week are

3SB

with 99%

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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.

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...



THE WILLOWS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Year 1 This week we have been looking at 'The Kings Runaway Crown' in English and have been making predictions about the story. We then thought about where else Colin the dog might take the King's crown. In Maths we have been looking at sharing by making equal groups. We have been celebrating Sir David Attenborough's birthday this week and have made a fact file, playdough animals and even tried to copy his voice when speaking about animals. In History we have been looking at the Queen's platinum Jubilee and how people celebrated. We have continued to focus on our phonics getting ready for our phonics screening in June. We have really tried to use our knowledge to read alien words this week.

Year 2 have had a shorter but nevertheless productive week! We have been exploring observational drawing within our art lesson, thinking about shape, tone and pattern and measuring volume and capacity in ml and l within maths. We have been problem solving with the four operations; adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing and learning about significant individuals such as Sir David Attenborough who has just celebrated a monumental 100th birthday!

Years 3 This week, we have been looking at Sir David Attenborough and considering his impact and our responsibility to protect Earth. We have started exploring Diary Entries and we are becoming The Saucepan Man to write about his adventures. In maths, we have moved onto money, counting amounts in pounds and pence. In Geography, we created a flip book about the layers of a rainforest and in Science we explored pollination in plants- ask us what can be a pollinator! Finally, in art, we have been experimenting with different media. Preparing for our end of unit project, A Magic Faraway Tree.

Year 4 This week, we have enjoyed taking part in a variety of exciting learning activities. In PE, the children developed their rounders skills through fun team games and practised their throwing, catching and batting techniques. We also celebrated the 100th birthday of David Attenborough by learning about his incredible work and discussing how we can help to protect the natural world. In science, the class set up evaporation tests and made sensible predictions about what might happen during the investigation. In English, the children explored the work of William Shakespeare by writing their own Shakespearean scripts and confidently performing them for the class.

Year 5 this week, we have been planning and writing our dilemma stories. As we have been learning about endangered animals, our stories are focused on our main character choosing to either save an endangered animal, or let nature take its course. We have been including all our year 5 grammar features, including parenthesis, colons and semi-colons, as well as the rule of three, similes and metaphors and lots of vivid descriptions.

Year 6 have continued to work incredibly hard over the past week, focusing on their final SATs preparations ahead of next week. The children are feeling positive and confident and are looking forward to showing off all that they have learnt during their time at The Willows. They have also made excellent progress in their swimming lessons, with a number of pupils taking part in lifesaving skills this week. The swimming instructors were particularly impressed by the high number of children who are now proficient swimmers. Well done, Year 6, and good luck for next week's tests – not that you'll need it!

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DATES TO REMEMBER

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
Inset day	1st June



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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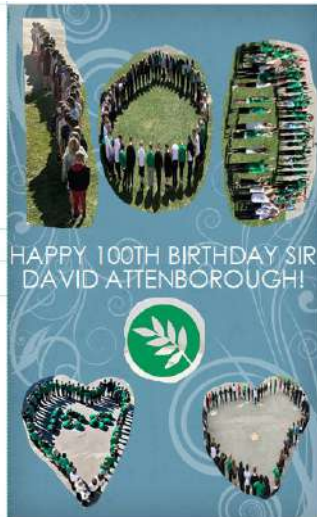
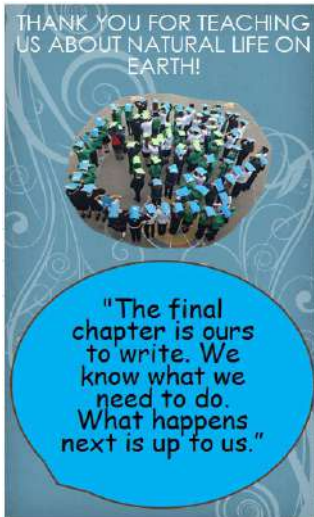
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100

The National Treasure Sir David Attenborough turns 100 on Friday 8th May 2026.

To celebrate this milestone, we have explored his life and all he has given to the world; knowledge, responsibility and love for the natural world. We have created a birthday card as a school to send him and thank him for all he has given to the world. Let's follow his guidance and work together to protect Earth because, **"It's surely our responsibility to do everything within our power to create a planet that provides a home not just for us, but for all life on Earth"**.



Both boys won rugby trophies this Sunday, at the end of the seasons:

Joseph Lay: coaches award.

Jacob Lay winning: players player and a club trophy.

Well done boys!



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Race for Life – 5th June 2026

On the 5th June we are holding our annual whole school 'Race for Life' event in aid of Cancer Research UK.

Funds will be raised via our just giving page

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/the-willows-primary-nursery-school>

Children can wear traditional 'Race for Life' colours of pink or blue, their normal P.E. kit or a decorated t-shirt.

All pupils will receive a certificate for taking part. Please ensure your child has sun cream, sun hat and a water bottle with them for the day.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. T Clay

Sensory and Nurture Leader – Autism Champion

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SATs don't measure sports
SATs don't measure art,
SATs don't measure music,
Or the kindness in your heart.

SATs don't see your beauty,
SATs don't know your worth,
SATs don't see the reasons,
You were put upon this earth.

SATs don't see your magic,
How you make others smile,
SATs don't time how quickly,
You can run a mile.

SATs don't hear your laughter,
Or see you've come this far,
SATs are just a tiny glimpse,
Of who you really are.

So sitting at your table,
With a pencil and your test,
Remember SATs aren't who you are,
Remember **you're the best!**



We would like to wish all of our Year 6 children the best of luck for the upcoming SATs week!



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 Key Stage 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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