



THE WILLOWS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Friday 18th September 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

The end of this week always brings the feeling that we have really settled in. Children have got used to their teachers and LSAs, the adults feel like they know their children and you better. You can almost hear the relaxing as the school gets on with the systems and routines that we always have. I am sure that there are niggles coming up, but remember to let us know and we can fix it!

I want to congratulate everyone for the first attendance week; it had a big impact on attendance. Keep your eyes out for the next one!

Also, the club lists went out yesterday. It is a good time to thank all the staff for giving up their time so that we can offer free clubs and particularly to Mr Short and Mrs Willmore who have spent a lot of time organising. Remember, if you missed out on a club email the office and we will add you to the reserve and also ensure that you get one next term.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who has attended the welcome to year group meetings. We did notice fewer parents managing to attend. If anyone has any ideas about how we could reach more of you I would be very interested to hear them. Your feedback is always appreciated!

Have a great weekend everyone,

Mr T Robinson

Headteacher

The Willows Primary School



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BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

DOWNHAM – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 24 September

MERRYLANDS – FIXED TERM CLASS TEACHER closing date 27 September

WHITMORE – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 28 September

WHITMORE – PART TIME CLASS TEACHER closing date 5 October

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!



Star Pupil of the Week

Yr1— Roxie, Mark, Dusty

Yr2— Archie, Samuel, Mathias

Yr3 — Elena, Sienna, Mila

Yr4 — Darja, Esme, Olivia

Yr5 — Freddie, Sienna, Ohemaa

Yr 6— Charlotte, Scarlett K, Maykl



Superstar Writers of the Week

Yr1— Ada, Amari, Wiliam

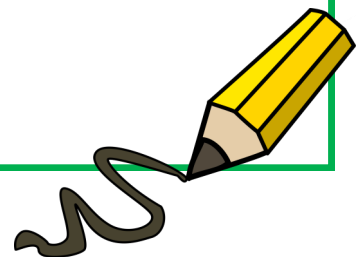
Yr2— Letty, Maria, Chiamaka

Yr3 — Ahmed, Arya, Selena

Yr4 — Franklin, Finley, Amayah

Yr5 — Violette, Amelia, Teddie

Yr 6— Monty, Lennon, Chime



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

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ST MARY'S CofE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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**

Our top readers for this week!



1R-83

2CH- 63

6F highest reading average.



Phenomenal Phonics



Yr1— Isla, David B, Leighton

Yr 2– Wafi, Leo, David

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THIS WEEK...

Year 1

We have officially started our phonics lessons in Year 1 and the children have been trying incredibly hard with their sounds. Alongside this, we have begun our handwriting lessons and are developing our letter formation skills.

We have been focusing on The Three Little Pigs story and have even been detectives after discovering a very mysterious crime scene involving straw, sticks and bricks! We have been following clues and using our detective skills to help us work out where the wolf has gone.

Year 2

Year 2 have had a wonderful few weeks since starting back at school. We have been exploring animal groups within science, describing characters such as aliens and settings such as space in English lessons as well as partitioning within our Maths lessons.

Year 3

This week in Year 3 we have been practising our correctly formed handwriting and starting an adventure story about dragons. We have been exploring place value in Maths, observed and drawn rocks in Science and started to explore Ancient Egyptian life. You can help us at home by listening to us read, practising our letter formation and identifying hundreds, tens and ones.

Year 4

The children have worked incredibly hard this week, they have finished their exciting stories set in Skara Brae and putting lots of effort into developing their writing. In Science, they enjoyed seeing the results of our experiment investigating the effects that different liquids have on teeth! In History, the children became archaeologists, exploring what people ate during the Palaeolithic and Neolithic eras by excavating their own (simulated!) poo! During PE, the children worked brilliantly as teams, focusing on communicating, supporting one another and finding successful solutions together. It has been a fun and fascinating week of learning, with plenty of opportunities for the children to get stuck into their topics.

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Year 5

In Year 5 this week, we have been writing descriptions of the characters from our book Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The children have really impressed us with their vivid detail and outstanding vocabulary. Here is part of a description written by a child in 5W. Can you guess who they are describing?

'He is a peculiar man. He wears this majestic red jacket, with a black, mysterious top hat. As an accessory, he has the gold stick with a swirl circle of black and white. He has dark, brown eyes and long, light ginger hair, as short as a bob. He has pink lips with his perfectly white teeth... He is a man with attitude, he's rude and he doesn't just rule the halls, he owns them. He walks with no emotion and silence, which makes it very awkward.'

Year 6

Year 6 have made a fantastic start to the year and have settled exceptionally well into the increased responsibilities of their final year at primary school. We have been particularly impressed by their resilience, determination and hard work during their first SATs practice assessments.

Congratulations to all of the boys who took part in the Year 6 football team trials. They demonstrated excellent teamwork, sportsmanship and effort, making selection a very difficult task. The children are also looking forward to taking part in exciting S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) activities this year, where they will develop their creativity, problem-solving and teamwork skills through a range of hands-on projects.

We are incredibly proud of the positive start Year 6 has made and look forward to seeing their continued success throughout the year.



Brendon in 6B has really found something that he absolutely loves - karting.



He finished 8th in the Local Finals, which means unfortunately he won't be taking part in the Regional Finals. What a shame, especially because he really was one of the drivers who had a genuine chance of getting through.

He finished 3rd in the qualifying race, he set his personal best lap time ever!

In the final race he had 3rd place starting position and held that position for almost half of the race. Then another driver pushed him and turned him around, causing him to lose several places. The driver received penalty points, but unfortunately Brendon didn't get his position back.

We are incredibly proud of him. He showed that he belongs up there, and his results throughout the day proved it.

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Whole class attendance
trophy winners this week
are

1C

with 99.1%



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 **9.00am**.



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.



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Keeping Children's Records Up to Date

To help us provide the best possible care for your child, please ensure we are informed of any changes to their dietary requirements, allergies, medical conditions, medications, care plans, or other relevant health information. This also includes emergency contact details.

If there are any updates, please email us as soon as possible so that our records remain accurate and up to date.

admin@willows.essex.sch.uk

Thank you for your support and cooperation.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Every child that is diagnosed asthmatic or has an EpiPen for allergies, must provide the school with an up to date care plan, should we not already have one. You will also need to provide the school with emergency medications to keep on the school site, if we do not already have this.

Care plans can be acquired from your GP, hospital or specialist nurse if you have one.

The document should include your child's name, DOB, address and emergency contact details.

All medications will need to be signed for also, please come to the office should you need a form.

Thank you for your co-operation

The Willows Primary PTA

Keep an eye out for any 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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As you may be aware, the new **secondary school admission** round is now open, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2027.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 31 October 2026. Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

All of the application information is available on the website above. The website also has a copy of the Secondary Education in Essex 2027-28 booklet which contains details of all secondary school admission policies.

Should you need any help or support, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

The Willows Primary School

Primary school places for September 2027

From 9 November 2026 you can apply online for your child's primary (reception) or junior (year 3) school place.

Applications received after the 15 January 2027 are considered late and will reduce your chance of being offered a place at your preferred schools.

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