



**THE WILLOWS**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

**Friday 25th September 2026**

### **Headteacher's Message**

Dear parents and carers,

Another week has passed us by. Reception are now settled and are on their journey through the school. All the classes know each other and are 'in the groove'. The school is calm and purposeful and it has been a great start to the year.

I thought I'd use today's message to talk about a couple of things that are going to be important this year.

Attendance is going to have a push this year. Some of you have already had notes to say that your child's attendance has fallen below 95%. This is something that we have to (keep you all informed) so don't worry or panic, we know that your child has only had a day or two off! As always, talk to us if there's something that needs fixing or you need help with.

Benedict's Law is now active, meaning that schools have a greater responsibility for allergens. We will be contacting everyone who states that they have an allergy, as every single child needs an allergy response plan. There is a clear definition of 'allergy' which is different from the every day usage so some 'allergies' will now not be classed as such. Medical information is vital here as well, so you may be asked for this. Again, staff are happy to explain; just book a meeting.

These two issues are statutory responsibilities for schools meaning we have to document and show that we have the systems in place. Please bear this in mind when you want to challenge us!

Have a great weekend everyone,

Mr T Robinson

Headteacher

The Willows Primary School



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

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— Arthur, Naiya, Zara

Yr2— Harley, Anna, Luna

Yr3 — George, Dolcie, Jacob

Yr4 — Logan, Hope, Lewis

Yr5 — Abigail, Mia, Reggie

Yr 6— Jacob, Aariz, Ella



## Superstar Writers of the Week

Yr1— Ada, Tommy, Arthur

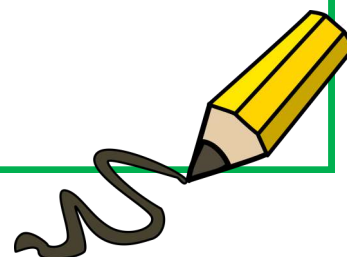
Yr2— Harley, Alex, Wafi

Yr3 — Piperlily, Alicia, Rain

Yr4 — Layla, Harrison, Sonny

Yr5 — Leo, Alfie, Emilie

Yr 6— Louie, Aiden , Danaya



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# OPAL

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

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!

**KS1: 2CH—84 reads**

**LKS2: 4RP: 71%**

**UKS2: 6F and 6H: 74%**



## Phenomenal Phonics



**Yr1— Sadie, Aleksei, Tommy**

**Yr 2— Amelia, Eleeza, Kyrie**

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# THIS WEEK...

## Year 1

This week, Year 1 have started reading the traditional tale Little Red Riding Hood as part of our Once Upon a Time theme. We have been working hard to sequence the events of the story and retell it in our own words, using lots of descriptive language. In Science, we have been learning about our five senses and exploring which function links to each sense. We have enjoyed investigating how our senses help us to understand and explore the world around us!

## Year 2

This week in Year 2, we have really enjoyed learning about schools in the Victorian era, exploring the life cycles of different animals and writing our own versions of the story *Man On The Moon*. In Art, we have been busy designing our very own aliens, ready to bring them to life through collage next week. We can't wait to see our fantastic creations!

## Year 3

This week Year 3 have been completing our Autumn tests and using expanded noun phrases to describe our dragons. The children have enjoyed thinking about the problem in our stories and deciding if their dragon escaped or if they got stolen, and by who! In History, the children had a lot of questions about the mummification process, and in Science, they used their enquiry skills to decide if a rock could be categorised based on their properties. In Maths we have been looking at numbers to a 1000 and the children need to use equal to, less than and more than to compare them. Year 3 have been excited to try vegan apple pies and talk about the ones they will be making this half term.

## Year 4

Year 4 have had a fun and exciting week of learning! In English, they have started writing their own instructions for a prank and had great fun setting up their very own pranks for the adults around school! In Science, we have been learning about the digestive system, and the children have impressed us with their fantastic scientific curiosity and thoughtful questions. In History, they have been investigating the differences between homes in the Stone Age and Bronze Age, thinking about how and why homes changed over time. They have also been practising their times tables throughout the week and have made some huge progress—we are incredibly proud of their hard work and determination!

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## Year 5

Year 5 have been working incredibly hard on their film narratives this week and it has been great to see them getting stuck into the acting we have done as well. We have also been really impressed by their rounding in Maths and map skills in Geography.

## Year 6

Year 6 had a fantastic opportunity to attend a STEAM Conference, where they took part in a range of exciting activities and workshops. The children enjoyed learning about careers in the construction industry, healthcare, engineering, as well as the many opportunities available within sport and music. It was an inspiring day that encouraged pupils to think about their future ambitions and explore a wide range of career pathways.

Our Year 6 boys' football team also competed in their first tournament of the season at James Hornsby School. The team performed brilliantly, winning all of their matches on the way to the final and finishing as tournament champions! A huge congratulations to all of the boys for their outstanding teamwork, determination and sportsmanship. It has been a fantastic start to the season, and we look forward to seeing how they perform in the league. Well done, boys! ⚽ 🏆



### **We're an Eco School!**

**We're delighted to celebrate our school's achievement of the Eco Award and Eco Flag!**

**This fantastic recognition reflects the hard work and commitment of our pupils, staff and wider school community in making our school more environmentally friendly and sustainable.**

**A huge well done to everyone who has played a part in this achievement. We're incredibly proud of what we've accomplished together!**

**Mrs Smith**

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### **Year 5/6 James Hornsby Football Tournament**

We could not be prouder of our Year 5/6 boys, who represented the school brilliantly at the James Hornsby Football Tournament.

The boys showed fantastic teamwork, respect, sportsmanship and character throughout the day. What made their achievement even more impressive was that they had not even had a training session together before the tournament!

After beginning with a 1–1 draw, the team went on an incredible six-game winning streak to reach the semi-final, producing some brilliant performances along the way. In the semi-final against Ghyllgrove, a fantastic goal-line clearance from Ronnie and an important goal from Aariz helped send us through to the final.

The final against St Anne Line was an intense game, but the boys showed great composure and determination. Feysiola scored the decisive goal as the whole team worked tirelessly until the final whistle to secure the tournament win.

It was a complete team effort. Feysiola finished as our top scorer, with Aariz, Reggie, Svet and Jenson also adding goals. Finley brought great energy, Ronnie was excellent all over the pitch, while Aiden and Mikolaj were outstanding at the back and also contributed going forward. Chime was superb in goal, conceding just one goal throughout the entire tournament and making some fantastic saves.

Every player gave their all and represented the school with pride, dignity and respect. They have started their final year in the school football team in the best possible way, and we are incredibly proud of every one of them. Hopefully we can continue this form into the rest of the season. Well done, boys!

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Whole class attendance  
trophy winners this week  
are  
**3S**  
with 100%



### 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 **9.00am**.



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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Primary**



**Canewdon  
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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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 9th 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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