THE WILLOWS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Early Years Newsletter

Date 23/10/2026

Reception News

This week the children in Reception have enjoyed further exploring Harvest. We had great fun using pumpkins in our science lessons and enjoyed creating pictures from leaves. We used leaves to create leaf rubbing pictures on the art table and have had fun using conkers, acorns and pinecones to explore and count.

In Maths this week we practised our number ordering skills and practised our knowledge of one more and one less than a given number. We used number songs to support with this.

In Phonics this week as we have now taught all of the phase 2 sounds, we have spent the week recapping our prior knowledge, going through all taught sounds and tricky words. We have also been assessing the children to see what they have remembered.

After half term our topic will be 'Light and Dark' and the first week of our topic will focus on Bonfire Night. Have a wonderful half term! We look forward to seeing you back in school on Tuesday 3rd November!

Please share anything you do at home over the half term on Tapestry- we love the children to share their experiences and they love to share their photos!

Challenges!

Can you practise your name writing, make sure the letters are formed correctly and move onto surname if you can already write your first name?

Maths challenge- Can you recognise shapes in the environment e.g wheels on cars are circle shaped?

Remember we will post a phonics video with challenges every week too!

Weekly Routines

PE- is on a Friday Afternoon, please send your child to school in their PE kit every Friday.

Reading Books – Will be changed weekly with your child's teacher/LSA (we count reads every Thursday)

Library Books - Will be changed weekly

Certificate Winners



Phonics Star: Alice G, George W, Erin W

Star Writer: Callum W, Lucas I, Harvey B

Pupil of the week: Roman T, Renae R, Arthur P



Nursery news

It has been a great end to half term in Nursery and we have had lots of fun linking activities to our story 'Room On The Broom'. The children have enjoyed making potions in the water tray and thinking of magic words to use to cast spells! The children explored inside pumpkins, using spoons to scoop out and collect the seeds ready to plant in the Nursery garden in spring. The children were very good at drawing and painting still life pictures of pumpkins.

This week in phonics we have been singing the rhyme 'Mary, Mary Quite Contrary'. The children are becoming more confident to explore clapping syllables using words from the rhyme. Our next rhyme will be 'Down At The Station'. After half term we will also be introducing our sound of the week, beginning with S.

In maths we have been exploring patterns, looking at how we can create patterns with our bodies such as clap, clap, jump and our voices such as loud, loud, quiet. The children have begun to explore continuing and creating their own repeating patterns using objects.

After half term we will be starting our P.E lessons, these will be on a Friday and children will need to come to Nursery dressed in their P.E kits.

Please share any special achievements and half term news photos on tapestry, the children love sharing these with their friends at Nursery and we love to celebrate them.

We hope you all have a wonderful half term. The Nursery Team.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 26th October- Friday 30th October - Half term

Monday 2nd November- School closed for INSET Day

Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th November- Autumn parents evenings

Friday 20th November- Children in Need dress up day.

NHS Speech drop in

If your child is under 5 years old and you have any concerns about your child's speech, language, communication or interaction skills please contact NELFT at Great Oaks for an appointment to support your child on the contact details below.

Email: drop-in@nelft.nhs.uk

Telephone: 0300 300 1544

Children's Centres

We have a few children's centres local to us who are able to offer a great deal of support to families. They run lots of sessions and groups for different aged children as well as parents. Please check out time website below—there is a timetable of events available on this page.

https://essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk/hubs/northlands-park-family-hub/

hcrg Care Group | Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service

Reporting absences

Please make sure to report your child's absences each day that they are off using PA Connect.

This should be reported by 8.30am each day.

If your child has an appointment please upload this to the PA Connect App.