



THE WILLOWS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Monday 12th October 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

Another week has passed by and brought the first cold day in a very long time. It seems so long ago that we felt cold! It is worth reminding everyone that we will always attempt to get outside so make sure that you send your child to school with the right clothing for Autumnal weather.

I mentioned in an earlier message the importance of attendance this year. There is a national push on attendance (you will find new DfE documents and attendance appears in the new OFSTED toolkit). Some of the messages and letters that you will receive may seem overkill or downright ridiculous but we have to send them when we do! For example, many of you will have been sent a letter as your child's attendance has dipped below or at 95%. We know and completely understand that your child has only had one or two days off with a sickness bug or heavy cold and that it is really early in the term! This letter is just a notification and something that we have to do! Don't worry, please don't get angry about it and if you want to talk to anyone just speak with me and I'll do my best to explain!

Which leads well onto communication! We pride ourselves here at The Willows of being open and engaging with you whenever you need to. We have many different ways of interacting. Please remember that ClassCharts, brilliant though it is, is just one of the ways to communicate with the school. Teachers cannot engage in message tennis throughout the day and so sometimes it might be more appropriate to contact the main office who can direct you to someone who might be better placed to answer your query!

Hope you had a great weekend everyone,

Mr T Robinson

Headteacher

The Willows Primary School



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

DOWNHAM – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 14 October
FAIRHOUSE – SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 9 October
MERRYLANDS – FIXED TERM CLASS TEACHER closing date 11 October
WILLOWS – CATERING ASSISTANT closing date 9 October
WILLOWS – CLEANER closing date 16 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— Florence, Isla, Arabella

Yr2— Parker, Oakley, Jazmyn

Yr3 — Teddy, Albie, Jiya

Yr4 — Georgie, Maria, Jedidiah

Yr5 — Aaron, Teddie Sienna

Yr 6— Elsie, Oakley, Aleena



Superstar Writers of the Week

Yr1— Shylah, Benicio, Naya

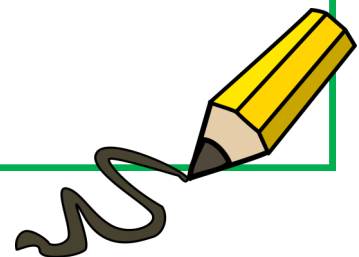
Yr2— Elsie, Luna, Archie

Yr3 — Winnie, Lainey, Eden

Yr4 — Clementine, Anaya, Yanis

Yr5 — Delilah, Noah, Theo

Yr 6— Amelly, Liana, Rocco



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

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Dates for the diary

13/10/2026—Happy Days Photos

14/10/2026—Egyptian Workshop

15/10/2026—Reading Cafe Year 2



Our top readers for this week!



KS1: RC—149

LKS2: 2D—73

UKS2: 5J –72% reading average.



Phenomenal Phonics



Yr1— Oliver H, Reegan, Ezra

Yr 2— Gracie, Theo, Lilly

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Lateness

Whilst we understand that there are certain situations where this cannot be helped, it is important that you keep communicating with us. This is to help us better understand, or to be able to help with the improvement of late arrivals, addressing any barriers that may be contributing to this. If your child arrives to school after the gates have closed, or if they have an agreed later start time, you must accompany them to enter school via the office. You must sign them & support them in using our InVentry console in the reception area. You will be asked to give a reason for their lateness, please make sure you complete this accurately, **as it is recorded on your child's attendance.**

If a later arrival time has not been agreed, should your child arrive after 9am, they will be marked as 'L' on the register. Any arrivals after 9.25am are marked as 'U', which goes down as a missed/unauthorised mark!

PLEASE BE REMINDED THE SCHOOL GATES CLOSE 9AM PROMPTLY!

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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**St Nicholas
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**Canewdon
Primary School**

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.

Should you have a visit booked, please ensure you let the office know and pre-order lunch should your child wish to have a school dinner.

Thank you

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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Communication at The Willows

At The Willows, we pride ourselves on the multiple lines of communication that we offer. Here is a simple guide on how to best use them!

The Willows Parents App (PA Connect)

The place where you can find everything!

You can use the app to:

- Check menus
- Check upcoming dates
- Look at calendar events & term dates
- Notify us of an absence, a medical appointment or to request a holiday
- Pay for trips/events



Class Charts

This is to communicate directly with your child's teacher for all non-urgent things. You can use this to:

- Notify your child's teacher directly of something that is not urgent (lost items etc)
 - Ask a non-urgent question (e.g. Ask about a trip that is the future)
- Inform the teacher of something about your child that may help support them (e.g. A pet passed away and they may be upset)

The School Admin Email- admin@willows.essex.sch.uk

How to get a message to the right person.

This is to be used for all urgent and confidential enquiries! For example:

- To notify us of anything urgent (e.g. Late pick ups, changes to adults picking up, absences if you cannot use the app)
 - Notify us of anything confidential (safeguarding, personal information)
 - Ask to speak with SLT or the Inclusion Team about your child
- Ask a question about something wider than your child's class (e.g. Staffing, Health & Safety etc)
 - Speak with someone about a concern that you have
 - Talk to us about anything financial



Using the correct method of communicating with us will hugely improve the speed in which we can deal with your issue as it will go the right person at the right time!

Thank you for your cooperation.

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MEN WANTED

– could you make a difference?

Lads Need Dads is recruiting male volunteers for programmes starting January 2027 in Tendring and Basildon.

We're looking for men aged 21+ from all walks of life to give a few hours of their time each week to support boys growing up without a consistent father figure.

You don't need to be a teacher or an experienced mentor. We're looking for men who are reliable, relatable, good listeners and genuinely want to make a difference in a boy's life.

We're particularly keen to hear from men who are studying, training or working in



youth work, criminology, social work, social care, education, policing, sport or community work – although men from all professional and life backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

WHY MEN MATTER

Positive male role models can make a lasting difference in a boy's life. Consistent, trusted relationships give boys someone who will show up, listen, encourage and believe in them.

Early support matters. We want boys to have positive men around them before problems arise, not only when they are struggling.

You're not there to replace a father. You're there to show up, listen, encourage and be a consistent presence in a boy's life.



equipping, engaging & inspiring young men

Tel: 07834 402017
www.ladsneeddads.org
info@ladsneeddads.org
ladsneeddads.org



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Lads Need Dads is a Not-For-Profit Community Interest Company. Company No. 9626924.

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Two ways to get involved

Reading Mentor – Year 6

Spend positive one-to-one time with boys through reading, conversation, games and activities, helping to build confidence, engagement and a positive relationship with a male role model.

Commitment:

Approximately 2 hours a week for 12 weeks.

Location:

Tendring & Basildon

Starting: January 2027

Becoming – Year 8

Join our team supporting boys through our new 12-week group programme exploring identity, emotions, relationships, masculinity, digital influences, purpose and the men they want to become.

Commitment:

Approximately 2½ hours a week for 12 weeks.

Location:

Tendring

Starting: January 2027

Working full-time? Don't rule yourself out.

Could your employer release you for a couple of hours each week?

Many employers support staff to volunteer in their communities through employee volunteering, social value or paid volunteering time. Our programmes run for just 12 weeks – it's worth asking.

Whether you're working, self-employed, studying, semi-retired or retired, we'd love to hear from you.

Colchester opportunities may also become available subject to funding.

Be there. Listen. Encourage. Make a difference.



Interested? Get in touch:
info@ladsneeddads.org
or call: **07834 402017**

All volunteers are subject to Lads Need Dads' safer recruitment and safeguarding procedures.



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