THE WILLOWS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Friday 23rd October 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

The long half term has now passed! This is always a tiring one as staff get to know a new class, children come off six weeks off and the warm germ free days of summer start to recede! We are all very pleased with how the half term has gone, if a little tired!

I want to thank the PTA for their work with the disco. Organising events are never easy and there is a lot that needs to go into it to make it successful, especially with 660 children! Our staff were also excellent so thanks to them too. The PTA have taken on all your advice about ticket sales and I am sure that the next disco will be even better. They are always after volunteers so drop then a message if you want to help and support in any way.

Thank you to you all for a massive effort with attendance this half term. We are up nearly 1% on last year's for this half term. That is a brilliant effort so thankyou. There is a national push on attendance from government so any effort that we put in will go a long way to setting up for the rest of the year. Remember, keep going and keep working with us to maximise your children's attendance.

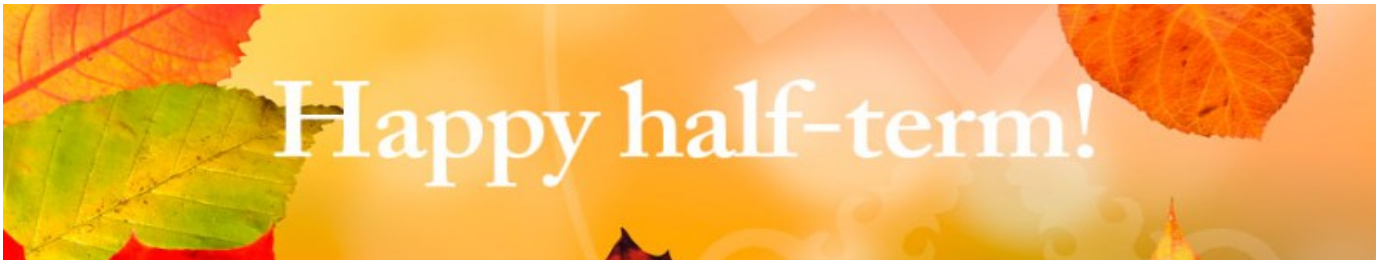
Have a great half term everyone, remember that Monday 2nd November is an INSET day and so there will be no school.

Stay safe, enjoy the break and we will see you after the holiday,

Mr T Robinson

Headteacher

The Willows Primary School



We look forward to seeing you back at school

Tuesday 3rd November!

WELL DONE!

Star Pupil of the Week

Yr1— Jack, Darius, Maisie

Yr2– Rosalyn, Tobie, Eleeyah

Yr3 — Sophia, Alora, Freya

Yr4 — Ronnie, Roman, Milan

Yr5 — Kofi, Jacob, Noah

Yr 6— Amelly, Jacob, Macie



Superstar Writers of the Week

Yr1— William, Olive, Mikail

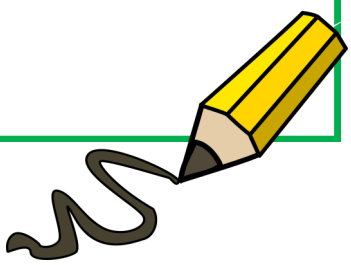
Yr2– Tihomir, Halei, Zara

Yr3 — Lillie, Blake, Faria

Yr4 — Noah, Aubree, Ronnie

Yr5 — Ronnie, Charlotte, Amarachukwu

Yr 6— Maykl, Autumn, Edi



Whole class attendance trophy winners this week are

1CON

with 99%





Well done to all those children who have received their 100% attendance badges and certificates this half-term!

An amazing achievement that we are very proud of.

We hope to see these numbers increase each term.





Yr1— Daisy, Shamar, Dolly

Yr 2– Annabelle, Christine, Albie



Year 1

Year 1 have really enjoyed their Design and Technology (DT) lessons, inspired by the story of *Hansel and Gretel*. Working in small groups, the children have used junk modelling materials to design and create their very own gingerbread houses. We have also been working hard in our phonics lessons, recapping familiar sounds and building our confidence, as well as exploring number bonds to 10 in maths.

Well done, Year 1, for all your fantastic effort this half term!

Year 2

This week, Year 2 have been learning all about acrostic poems and have enjoyed having a go at writing their own space poems. We have also been practising our addition and subtraction skills, using number lines to help us solve calculations. In addition, we have been finishing off our learning about schools in the past and animals.

All of the children should be incredibly proud of themselves and the effort they have put into their learning this half term. Keep up the fantastic work, Year 2!

Year 3

This week in year 3 we have been finishing our Science topic of rocks and soil by looking at Mary Anning and fossils, we have spoken about Rosa Parks whilst looking at Black History month and have spoken about responsibility in PSHE. In English we have completed Haiku poems and know that they have 3 lines with a syllable pattern of 5, 7, 5 and in Maths we have practiced subtracting 10s crossing the 10s. We also enjoyed dancing at the disco.

Year 4

Year 4 have worked incredibly hard this week, exploring poetry and discovering how the stanzas within a poem can paint a vivid picture in the reader's mind. They have used their creativity and imagination to write their own poems inspired by an image they were given. In maths, the children have been developing their confidence using the column method to subtract and in Science they have been learning all about food chains, including understanding the roles of producers and consumers. It has been a fantastic end to the half term and we are so proud of the children's hard work, enthusiasm and progress. We hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved half-term break!

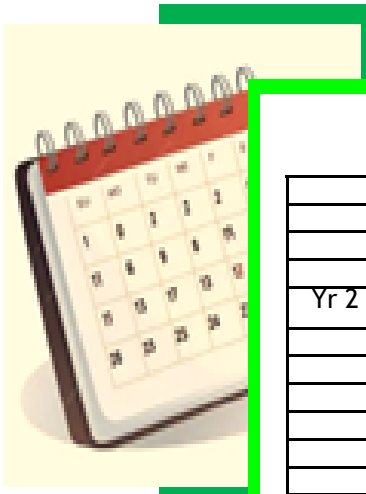
Year 5

This week has been test week for year 5 and we are really proud of the way the children have conducted themselves throughout this. We have also made mini biomes in water bottles for Geography and have tested to see if the parachutes we created in Science were successful!

Leo in year 2 plays for Runwell Under 7 Yellows.

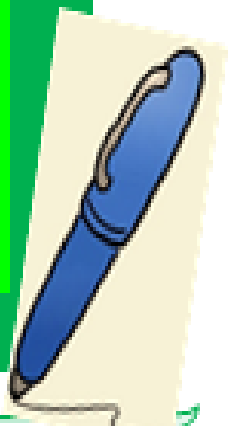
In today's match against Concord Rangers, he got his first match goal and with his amazing defending, he got man of the match.





Dates for the diary

Half term	26th - 30th October
Trust Inset day	2nd November
Anti-Bullying workshop	5th November
Moderation network	5th November
Yr 2 Great Fire of London workshop	9th November
Book fair arrives	9th November
Armistice day	11th November
Parent open evenings	11th & 12th November
Flu vaccinations	12th November
Trust maths challenge	12th November
Year 4 reading café	12th November
Kindness day	13th November
Children in need dress up	13th November
Yr 1, 3 & 5 cinema trip	17th November
Yr 4 Celtic Harmony trip	18th November
Yr 5 Space workshop	18th November
Yr2, 4 & 6 cinema trip	19th November



Attendance Matters
...every school day counts!

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.**

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!

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.



Thank you for your understanding.



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

The vision of the Berlesduna Academy Trust is to create and foster a culture of high aspiration, enjoyment for learning, academic success and lifelong skills amongst all pupils, regardless of their social, economic or cultural background.

BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST · MERRYLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY · WHITMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY · CRAYS HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL · FELMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHERRY TREE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY · FAIRHOUSE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL · ST MARY'S CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL · St Nicholas Primary · Canewdon Primary School

OPAL



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

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.

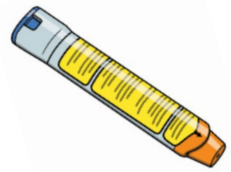
If there are any updates, please email us as soon as possible so that our records remain accurate and up to date.

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





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.

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.

Good Luck!