



Pride News...

Headteacher's Message...

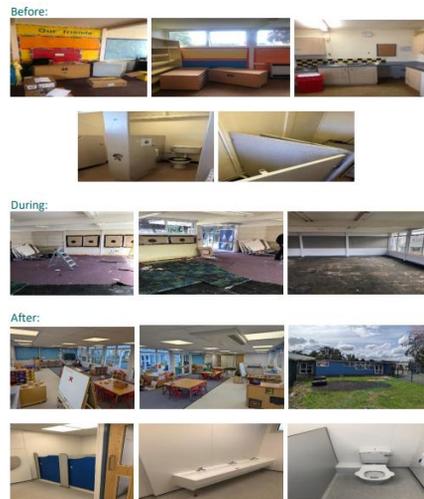
Date - Issue 16.09.22

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Willow,

Welcome back to a new year We wish to extend a very warm welcome to all the families that have joined Willow recently, as well as all our new Reception children. We usually aim to send out this newsletter to parents every two, to keep you up to date with school events and sharing good news!

Your child's class page on our school website also contains latest learning with photographs from each week, so please check out the [website](#) or the school Facebook page.

New Reception Classroom – At last our efforts have paid off and we now have moved our Reception Class into their new classroom. I am so thrilled to be able to share this positive news. I am so grateful to many stakeholders, although my special gratitude goes to Lisa Simmonds and Mike Southwell who assisted in overseeing the build project. It could not have been achieved without his guidance and support. Here are a range of photographs from our building journey.



Even though your child has only just started Year 6, the application process for Year 7 at secondary starts this term. We are starting to receive information about Open Events for parents and Year 6 children to attend. You will receive an email from Gloucestershire Schools Admissions Team very soon, which will start the application process. From our experience, be aware that it is vital you apply to all the secondary schools you are considering before making a final decision; if you leave a school off your list, it is always a challenge to later change your mind and apply for a new secondary school. Don't delay your application; if we can help you, please just ask. Please inform us if you have a planned a secondary school visit, so that we can mark this on our attendance register as an authorised visit.

That is all for now and I hope that you and your child have had a great start to term.

Pete Hales, Head Teacher



Behaviour Blueprint

Adult Behaviour

- Calm, consistent and fair
- Give first attention to best conduct
- High expectations
- Recognise “Over & Above Behaviour”
- Relentlessly bothered

Over & Above Behaviour

- Praise
- Note Home
- Recognition Board/ Display
- PRIDE Certificate
- PRIDE Champion - consistently “Over & Above”

The Willow Way

- Be Ready
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe

Characteristics of Learning

Positivity, Respect, Individuality, Determination and Excellence

Stepped Sanctions- In private

1. **Reminder of Rule**-repeat as necessary
2. **Caution**-“Think carefully about your next step.”
3. **Last Chance**-use micro script, and a 2 minute inconvenience at next break/lunch.
4. **Time Out**-in class, or on chair in corridor. 5 minutes
5. **Restorative conversation**-5 minutes with key adult (more than 1 in a day= Email sent home.)

Micro Script

I’ve noticed that...You know the school rules, be ready, be respectful, be responsible, be safe. Can you remember when you ...*(time they did this really well)*...and how that made you feel? I expect you to...Thank you for listening.

Restorative Questions

1. **What has happened?**
2. **What were you feeling at the time?**
3. **Who has been affected by the actions?**
4. **How have they been affected?**
5. **What needs to be done to make things right?**
6. **How can we do things differently in the future?**

The number of questions to be used MUST depend on the age of the child. Those underlined should be used with the youngest children.

A full copy of our Behaviour Policy can be found [here](#)

Uncompleted Work

Work sent home for completion with a slip for parents to sign and return.

Serious Incidents

Physical violence, swearing, racism, homophobia.

Straight to Step 4 & 5 above, with an additional restorative conversation with SLT, and a phone call or conversation with parents.



Pride News...

Acorn

This week has been the first week of having all of Acorn class together. We have made lots of new friends and Miss Simmonds has been pleased with how well we share and take turns. We have become more familiar with school routines and have learned our school rules: be ready, be respectful and be safe. This week, we have also started to learn our sounds; m, a, s, t and d. Next week, we will use these sounds to help us read some words!

We have enjoyed having our lunch at school this week. Miss Simmonds has been amazed at how well we have coped on the playground with the Year 1 and 2 children. We love the park area and have been using this to help us develop our climbing, balancing and jumping!

Birch

We have been very excited about starting our time in year 2! In maths we have been working hard to understand the place value of numbers to 100! In English we have been developing our story writing using the book 'Voices in the Park'. We started our Movers and Shakers topic this week and have thoroughly enjoyed learning about historically significant individuals! We can't wait to learn more about Neil Armstrong!

In art, we have been learning about primary and secondary colours! Our adults are very impressed with how hard we are working with our reading at home!

Ash

This term in Ash Class, we have some very exciting topics! In History, we are learning about what life was like for children in the 1950s and comparing it to our lives now. The children have started thinking about what the past is and how we can describe it. In D&T and Science, we are learning about materials and what their uses might be. During our English lessons, we have been reading "Where The Wild Things Are" and adapting the book to create our own piece of writing, focussing on developing our vocabulary and creative writing skills. In Maths, we have been learning to write number words and will go onto learning about place value.

Chestnut

Firstly, I would like to say hello to all Chestnut parents, I am looking forward to teaching your child this year. Our topic this term is 'Gods and Mortals'. In English this week the children have been exploring Gods and Goddess in Ancient Greece, creating posters and presenting their knowledge in groups to the class. In Maths we have been learning about the value of each digit in a number and in Science we have been learning about the different types of animals and what they eat.



Pride News...

Elm

Elm class have had an amazing start to the year! We have been analysing the picture book 'Tuesday' in English and doing lots of planning, ready for writing our story about flying pigs next week.

In Maths, we have been exploring place value of 4-digit numbers as well as placing these numbers on a number line. This was really tricky, but everyone showed our PRIDE value of Determination.

Our History topic of '1066' was launched with a class debate about who should become King of England after Edward the Confessor in 1066.

We were really impressed with how well the children used the information they were given to express their views with evidence.

In Geography, the pupils are using a compass to explore different parts of the country and the world. We will use coordinates to make different maps and investigate different places in the world.

We have also started to explore different ways to stay safe on the internet. The children showed great understanding of this and they have really impressed the staff with their knowledge!

Maple

We have had a positive, but busy start to the new term! All the children have settled in well and have been trying hard to earn Dojo points. We have been learning the story of Yeh-Shen in English and have used this to base our own stories on. We have been learning Roman numerals to 1000 in Maths and have been writing, ordering and comparing numbers with up to 7 digits. In Science, we have been learning about contact and non-contact forces and finding out how gravity works.

Oak

In Oak class, we have been reading 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan in English. The children made interesting inferences from the pictures, and we had some fantastic discussions! In Maths, we have been multiplying and dividing numbers by 10, 100 and 1,000.

In PE, we started our hockey unit. We focused on controlling the ball with the hockey stick and making simple passes. In Project, we looked at the map of Africa and researched one of the countries in preparation for our unit about the history of Africa. In Art, we focused on colour this week. We looked at tints, tones and shades used in different landscape painting. We then experimented with mixing paints to make colour charts based on our favourite painting. We can't wait to paint our own landscapes later this term!



Pride News...

PRIDE AWARDS!

These children have shown what it means to be:

- ★ **Be Positive**
- ★ **Be Respectful**
- ★ **Be Individual**
- ★ **Be Determined**
- ★ **Be Excellent**

PRIDE Award WINNERS...

Ash – TJ & Nimah
Birch – Lillie-Rose & Thomas
Chestnut – Lilly-Maye
Elm – Winter & Samuel
Maple – Vaslat & Jasmine
Oak – Harry & Cody

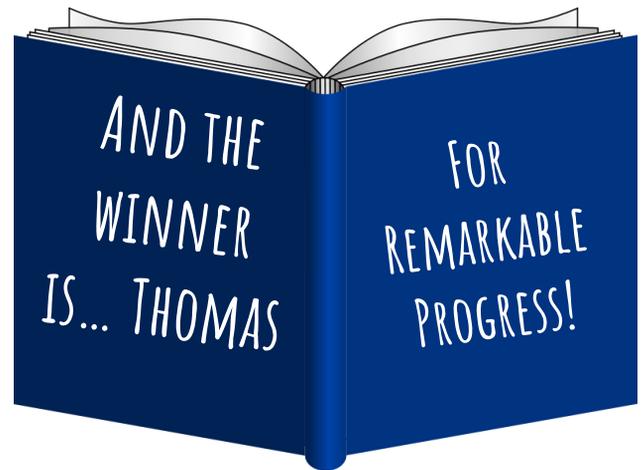
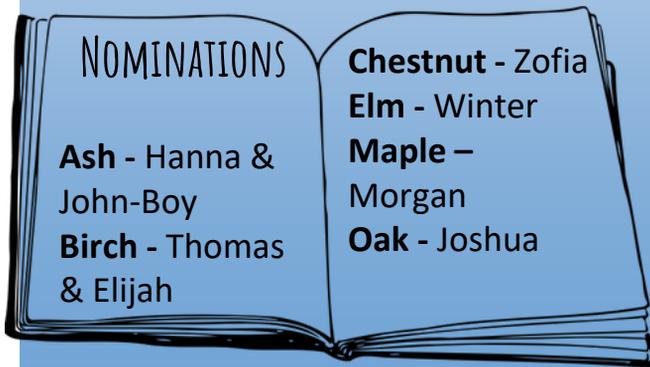
PRIDE Champions





STAR READER...

WILLOW'S STAR READER SPECIAL SURPRISE AWARD



Each week teachers will nominate a star reader from their class. A star reader is someone who has shown progress in reading, shown enjoyment of reading someone who has overcome difficulties in reading or shares their love of reading with the class or a friend. At Willow Primary Academy, we know the key to knowledge is reading and we want to inspire a lifelong love of reading! Willow has a special surprise book for the Super Star Reader to take home, keep, read and enjoy!



Pride News...

Attendance Superstars

This week: **94.67%**

Our year so far: **94.31%**

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



gg98860872 www.gograph.com

Class	Attendance
Acorn	99.15%
Ash	91.15%
Birch	97.50%
Chestnut	94.76%
Elm	86.18%
Maple	94.71%
Oak	100%



18 OR MORE DAYS

Excused and unexcused absences represent lost time in the classroom and lost opportunities to learn.

- Missing just one day every two weeks can add up to 18 days in a year. Absences add up before you even know it.



10 TO 17 DAYS

- Students who are absent an average of 15 days a year miss a year's worth of school before their senior year.
- When students miss a day of school it actually puts them two days behind their classmates.



9 OR FEWER ABSENCES

- Students with good attendance generally achieve higher grades and enjoy school more.
- Children benefit and make the most of their educational opportunities if they attend school regularly and on time.





Pride News...

Attendance

Each child's attendance can be summarised as:

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to a new academic school year at Willow Primary Academy and a warm welcome to our new Reception Children and Parents.

I would like to make you aware of Willow Primary Academy's attendance policy which you can access at Willow Primary Academy's website; www.willowprimaryacademy.co.uk/policies or if you would like a hard copy please ask at the main office and we would be happy to give you one.

The following are key aspects of the policy:

At Willow Primary Academy we aspire to have a whole school attendance rate of 100%. However, there will be occasions when children may be absent for good reason, therefore the Governing Body feels that the whole school attendance should not be less than 97% for an academic year.

Non-attendance is an important issue that is treated seriously. However each case is different and the school acknowledges that no one standard response will be appropriate in every case. Consideration is given to all factors affecting attendance before deciding what intervention

strategies to apply. **Each child's attendance can be summarised as:**

97+	An excellent level of attendance. This will help all aspects of their progress and life in school. This will give them a good start in life and supports a positive work ethic.
95%-97%	A good level of attendance but there is scope to make it better.
90-95%	Absence might now be affecting attainment and progress at school (letter can be issued)
90% and below	Absence IS causing SERIOUS CONCERN. It is affecting attainment and progress and is disrupting your child's learning. A meeting to be held to discuss attendance. The school will work with you and the Local Authority to improve your child's attendance. Permitting absence from school without a good reason is an offence by the parent.

Key things to remember:

- Good attendance correlates with academic progress and positive outcomes socially
- Ensure your child/ren are at school every day that is possible
- Be on time to school every day- gates open at 8.45am
- If your child is unwell please contact the school and leave a message on the telephone system
- Make all medical appointments outside of school hours
- DO NOT go on holiday during term time this will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances
- It is the schools decision whether to authorise an absence
- Evidence of medical appointments and medication may be asked for at any point



Pride News...

Parents/carers should:

- Ensure their child attends school daily and on time, appropriately dressed and equipped
- Let the school know if they are having difficulties with their child's attendance, so that any available help or support can be offered before the situation gets out of hand.
- Inform school on the first day of any absence with an expected date of their child's return.
- Notify school if they intend to remove their child permanently from school for whatever reason, and confirm this in writing.
- Instil the value of education and regular daily school attendance within the home environment.
- Support their child to recognise their successes and achievements.
- Support their child's school at every opportunity. Get involved in their education, form a positive relationship with school and acknowledge the importance of children receiving the same messages from both school and home.
- Should aim to keep medical and dental appointments to a time outside of school hours. Six monthly regular dental appointments can be made to coincide with school holidays.

The Headteacher of Willow Primary Academy will have the final say as to whether a child's absence is coded with an authorised or an unauthorised mark.

Registration times:

Arrive at School on time. The school gates open at 8.45am and close at 9.00am (9am for Piper Centre). Children arriving after this time are required to be taken to the school office through the front entrance. Registers close at 9.05am. Any pupil arriving after this time will be marked as U (Late after register closed) Parents may be issued with a penalty notice if their child is repeatedly late.

	100%	Perfection
Equates to 4 days off each year	98%	Impressive
Equates to 7 school days off each year	96%	Good
Equates to 9 school days off each year	95%	Nearly there
Equates to 11 school days off each year	94%	Needs to improve
Equates to 1 month off each year	90%	Danger zone
Equates to 2 months off each year	80%	



Pride News...

Attendance

Willow Primary Academy staff will:

- Contact parents on the first day of absence, if, they have not been notified as to why a child is absent from school.
- Follow up any unexplained absences.
- Keep and mark the registers accurately, which are a legal document within the guidance of The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 1996, with the appropriate attendance code for both a.m. and p.m. registration.
- Be consistent in their attendance practices.
- Give high priority to punctuality and attendance.
- Promote good attendance at every opportunity – Induction, Parents evenings, Newsletters, Assemblies, on Notice boards,
- Reward and celebrate good and improved attendance.
- Attendance targets for the School and each year group in the School is expected to be 100%.
- Keep parents/carers informed of their child's attendance.
- Make good use of attendance data by specific analysis
- Work within a multi-agency approach in order to improve attendance and support pupils and families.
- Reporting/requesting support from the allocated Inclusion Adviser for any child missing education – see CME guidelines

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours Sincerely,

Nikki Hendry & Debra Arthur

Attendance Team





Pride News...

Dates for Your Diary

Term Dates for 2022 – 2023

Term 1 from Wednesday 7th September 2022 to Thursday 20th October 2022

Term 2 from Monday 31st October 2022 to Friday 16th December 2022

Term 3 from Wednesday 4th January 2023 to Thursday 16th January 2023

Term 4 from Monday 27th February 2023 to Friday 31st April 2023

Term 5 from Tuesday 18th April 2023 to Friday 26th May 2023

Term 6 from Monday 5th June 2023 to Tuesday 25th July 2023

Flu Vaccinations will take place at school on the 6th October.

Please remember to return your consent forms, to agree or disagree with this.

Secondary school open days

Sir Thomas Rich's School – Open Days 19th and 20th October

Pate's Open mornings 2023 - Tuesday 28th February 2023 Tuesday 28th March 2023 Monday 26th June 2023 Timings: arrival at either 09:00 or 09:30 – finish by 11:00

Denmark Road High School – 10th & 11th October 8:30-11:50

Gloucester Academy Open Evening - Thursday 15th September (5pm - 7:30pm).

St Peter's High School – Open week W/C 26th September 10:30 & 1:45pm



Details about some after school clubs led by the staff at Willow will be circulated soon!!



Pride News...

Following the death of Her Majesty The Queen, Gloucester Cathedral, the Diocese of Gloucester and Gloucestershire Lieutenancy invite you to attend a special service, which will take place at the Cathedral on Sunday 18 September at 3pm.

Please note that those wishing to attend will need to register for a free ticket. Tickets will be subject to availability and can be booked using the link: <https://gloucestercathedral.artsvp.co/8654f1>

Those attending are welcome to take their seats from 1.45pm, and we ask that everyone is seated by 2.45pm.

Please note these tickets are special community tickets that have been held back to offer to our community partners and users. Those trying to book tickets through the Cathedral website will find that the tickets released to the general public have now sold out. Please only use the link included in this email.

There are limited community tickets available so please be mindful of who you share this link with - we would welcome you to refer as many of your participants as are interested

Ideally, I would like for those who would normally have barriers to attending things like this to be able to attend (e.g. SEN students, Pupil premium families etc) so please share with relevant staff as you feel appropriate. Ultimately it's better to have seats used than not so if staff want to desperately attend, they are welcome too.



Pride News...

Willow Primary Academy are going to be taking part in Jeans for Genes day this year!

Jeans for Genes day is all about raising money to help some of the most vulnerable people in the UK. We want to help raise some money to go towards transforming the lives of families affected by a genetic condition. 1 in 10 families in the UK are affected by a genetic condition. Children are able to come in to school on Friday 23rd September 2022 wearing their jeans paying just £1 to do so.

Children do not have to wear jeans if they don't wish they might have a denim shirt, skirt, dress or jacket! Children can wear as much denim as they wish!

Children will have a special assembly with Mr Hales on Tuesday because it is important that they understand what genetic conditions are and discussing them helps increase understanding, empathy and respect.

For more information on Jeans for Genes please visit the Jeans for Genes website:

<https://WWW.jeansforgenes.org/>

Many thanks in advance,
We are looking forward to seeing the denim
next Friday!
Mrs Stephens

