



Pride News...

Headteacher's Message...

Date - Issue 09.12.2022

Dear Parents / Carers

It's hard to believe but we are nearly at the end of another year! The days are shortening, the weather is getting colder (and hopefully drier) and Christmas is on the way! The elves are hard at work at the North Pole and I am certain that I have already heard sleigh bells several times late at night! In school, everyone is busy preparing all this year's exciting Christmas events.

Christmas Fair

It was amazing to see so many families at the Friends of Willow Christmas Fair. These events really help to support to bring the added extras for your child and your support is very much appreciated by the school and the Friends of Willow. We are delighted to share that we raised £638.55.



Nativity / KS2 Performance

We can't wait to welcome you to our Nativity for Acorn, Ash and Birch Classes and the Key Stage 2 Performance for Chestnut, Elm, Maple and Oak.



Pantomime

The children were absolutely transfixed by the Pantomime yesterday. A huge thanks to M&M Theatrical Productions for their performance and an even bigger thanks to the Friends of Willow for raising the money to pay for this magical experience for the children. Having a live show is such a great experience and the children thoroughly enjoyed it.





Parking

Congestion outside schools at drop off and pick up times is very common. If you need to use your car to transport children, please follow the requirements of the highway code and park legally and considerately. Thank you to the families who are doing this already.

Please be aware the police are aware that there have been incidents of unsafe, illegal parking in the roads surrounding school in recent weeks. They too take this very seriously as we want to keep our community as safe as possible during inevitably busy drop off and pick up times.

Gifts

As we approach the end of term and the holiday season, we're aware of the heightened financial pressures that many of you are facing at the moment. As such, we want to emphasise that our staff are not expecting any 'thank you' gifts from pupils and parents. Due to the potential impact of the cost-of-living crisis on many families this winter, we would like to request that you refrain from giving presents to staff.

Should you still wish to give something, we would very much appreciate:

- > Homemade cards and letters – kind words mean a lot!
- > Paying it forward – volunteering your time to help others
- > Homemade gifts

Please drop off any gifts at the school reception, labelling the package with the staff member's name and your child's name and class. If your gift is a food item, it must be **nut-free** and **wrapped securely**.

We would like to wish you and your family well over this holiday season.





Pride News...

Acorn

We have been enjoying learning the Christmas songs for our performance of 'The Big Little Nativity'. The children cannot wait to perform their at our nativity productions next week!

We are also just about to start our new project, 'Winter Wonderland'. Our role play area is going to be set up as Santa's workshop and we will be learning all about what happens during the winter months.

Don't forget, our Stay and Play session is on **Wednesday 14th December at 1:45pm.**

We hope to see you there, for some Christmas craft!

Ash

In Ash class we have been getting into the festive spirit. We have been making decorations and writing Christmassy setting descriptions based off 'Mog's Christmas Calamity'. The children have been using their best adjectives to describe the living room in the book and have written beautiful pieces of work.

We have been working hard on our Nativity. The children have really enjoyed working with Acorn and Birch class and are showing determination in their singing, dancing and acting.

Birch

We have been very busy in Birch class. We have been continuing to learn our lines, songs and dances ready for our Nativity next week! In math's we have been working hard to understand turns and directions! We have impressed our adults with our knowledge of clockwise and anti-clockwise turns! In English, we have loved learning all about Mog's Christmas Calamity.

This week, we were very excited to start learning how to join our writing during spelling practice!

Chestnut

Wow, what a busy few weeks Chestnut class have had. In maths we have been working hard in our subtraction unit using bridging, rounding and partitioning to help us to work out the answers. In english, we have been watching 'Mog's Christmas Calamity' and interpreting the actions, thoughts and feelings of Mog the Cat in preparation to write a narrative. We have also been learning about the earth in geography and we are really enjoying our outdoor learning sessions every Tuesday afternoon.



Pride News...

Elm

It is very busy in Elm Class trying to finish everything off before Christmas and prepare for the Christmas Play. In Maths, we have been practising our mental calculation strategies for addition and subtraction in preparation for column methods after Christmas. We are retelling the events of Mog's Christmas Calamity in English through Mog's perspective. We are finishing this next week.

In Art, we had our first attempt at weaving. Some of the children found this very tricky at first, but we are going to show the school's PRIDE value of determination to continue this next week. Mrs Tonks has been really impressed with the children's recorder playing. The children already know 2 notes and have started to play different rhythms and melodies.

Maple

Maple Class have had a busy few weeks. We have been planning our own recounts based on Mog's Christmas Calamity and we will be writing them next week. In Maths, we have completed our unit of work on multiplying and dividing whole numbers and decimals by 10, 100 and 1000. Miss Powell was very impressed! In Art, we have been making our own paper casts and clay casts. We can't wait to paint them. We have been continuing to learn about the solar system in Science. We learnt about the different phases of the moon. We also performed our class assembly. Thank you to all those parents who attended.

Oak

Oak class have been busy in maths. We have been drawing and classifying 2D and 3D shapes and exploring and drawing nets for 3D shapes. We have also been writing stories based on Mog's Christmas Calamity. In art, we created our own pieces of art based on black history which we have been learning about in History, Art and English this term. We decided on our own titles and wrote a paragraph to explain the meaning behind our art.



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...

Acorn – George & Linda
Ash – Taliyah &
Birch – Kye-Reece & Alarrah
Chestnut – Teya & Athena
Elm – Kacper & Jenson
Maple – Lola & Jasmine
Oak – Erin & Leah

PRIDE Champions

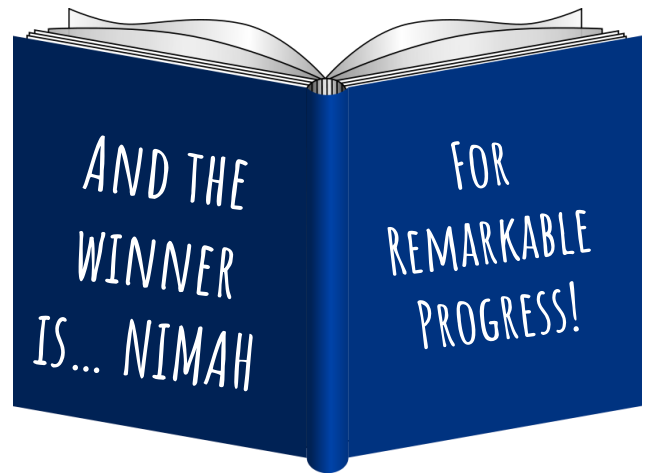
LIBERTY (OAK CLASS)
SUMMER (ELM CLASS)





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: **89.71%**

Our year so far: **92.60%**

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



gg98860872 www.gograph.com

Class	Attendance
Acorn	92.31%
Ash	89.63%
Birch	92.63%
Chestnut	91.32%
Elm	86.05%
Maple	83.84%
Oak	92.89%



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...

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 February 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

School Events

Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th December – EYFS / KS1 Nativity (more information to follow)

Tuesday 13th December – KS2 Christmas Performance (more information to follow)

Wednesday 14th December 2022 – Christmas lunch.

Thursday 15th December 2022 – KS2 Christmas Performance (more information to follow)

Tuesday 10th January 2023 – Young Voices (more information to follow)

Monday 30th January 2023 - Elm Class Assembly (parents of Elm Class are invited)

Monday 13th February 2023 – Parents Evening (further details to follow)

Tuesday 14th February 2023 – Parents Evening (further details to follow)

Thursday 23rd March 2023 – Screening vision and Measuring height and weight of children in Reception and Year 6.

Friends of Willow Events:



Pride News...

Holiday Activity Fund

There are 4 days of action-packed festive family fun this winter with #HAF2022 which runs from 19-22 December 🎪

Circus skills, sports & games, art & crafts, science, drama, Christmas parties and much more

Check out what's happening in your area 📍 <https://orlo.uk/hHr9j>





Pride News...



Gloucestershire Health and Care
NHS Foundation Trust

Mental Health Support Teams in Schools | Information for Parents

Schools play an important role in supporting the wellbeing of children and young people at a time when they are experiencing lots of physical, emotional and social changes.

For some children, this stage of growing up can sometimes become overwhelming or difficult to manage, and it can be made worse by life events such as changing schools, exams, challenging home circumstances, bullying or difficult friendships.

Mental Health Support Teams have been put into over 70 schools across Gloucestershire to tackle these challenges by helping young people to feel more resilient, arming them with techniques to look after themselves and strategies to help them cope better with life's ups and downs. The teams will also support parents and teachers with information and tips about how best to help children and young people who are experiencing difficulties.

The teams are made up of Education Mental Health Practitioners, Primary Mental Health Workers, TiC+ Counsellors and Team Managers. They will travel to each school for meetings with staff to discuss any children and young people they think may benefit from their support. If a child is refusing to go to school, they will also work with families to help the child get back to school.

If you are concerned about your child and would like some support, please contact your School Mental Health Lead for an initial discussion. They will be in touch with our teams regularly.

Name: Nikki Hendry
Contact Details: Nikki.hendry@willow.sandmat.uk or 01452526442 (option 4)

When a school notices a child is struggling with day-to-day worries, an initial discussion with the team will take place to ensure this form of support is the most appropriate way forward.

If the young person is at **primary school**, their parents and/or carers will be contacted and asked to agree consent prior to any support being started with their child.

If the young person is at **secondary school**, the team may agree to see them on their own and contact them directly without seeking consent or necessarily sharing information about the 1:1 sessions with yourselves as parents/carers. These decisions will be based on the information provided by the referrer. We feel that if a young person takes the important step to get in touch for help, we must respect their wishes so that they can feel safe talking to the team. We won't give out any information about them without talking to them first.

The only reason we may not be able to keep things confidential is if we believe a child, young person or someone else is at serious risk of harm.

During our sessions we may identify some children or young people who may benefit from specialist support. We will ensure that young people are aware that any recommendations for specialist support will be discussed with parents or a responsible person before making any onward referral. In exceptional circumstances we may share information with appropriate authorities without your knowledge, such as if we believe a child, young person or someone else is at serious risk of harm, or if information is required by law (such as a court order). The MHST follow rigorous organisational policies and procedures to protect personal data and maintain confidentiality.

If you would prefer that your child was not discussed with our team, should they experience difficulties, you can opt out of this service by contacting your Mental Health School Lead above. Your child will still have access to all the usual statutory support within your school. Please note: if you choose to opt out of the school discussing concerns with the MHST we may still see secondary aged children asking for support themselves. Further information can be found on our organisation websites:

<https://ghc.nhs.uk/privacy-notice/> & <https://ticplus.org.uk/privacy-policy>



Pride News...

The Library



Mid-Winter Tales

with Master Storyteller Bill Church

**A feast of
festive
fantasy
and fables!**



Tuffley Library,
Tuesday 20 December
14:30 - 15:30



Book at the Library
or online by scanning the
QR code or visiting
gloucestershire.spydus.co.uk