



Pride News...

Headteacher's Message...

Date - Issue 16.12.2022

Dear Parents / Carers

School Closure

Thank you to all parents for their understanding regarding the school closure on Monday 12th December. I understand as a working parent the challenge this may have brought but I wanted to ensure that we kept the school community safe. A huge thanks must go to Mike Southwell for working to make the site safe for the re-opening on Tuesday 13th December 2022. There was a huge of clearing and gritting completed.

Performances

It's been tremendous to see so many parents, carers and friends join us for the Performances this week. I am so pleased that we can put things like this on again for families to enjoy. All the children did remarkably well to learn all the lines, songs and dance moves to make these into magical performances. Thank you to everyone that came along to these performances, and I hope you enjoyed them as much as I did!



Christmas Dinner

We thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas Dinner this week and a huge thanks must go to our catering team for making this possible. It is no mean feat to cook for that many children and staff and ensure that everyone got their delicious food! A huge thank you to them!



Happy Holidays

I hope that all our school community has an amazing holiday and enjoys whatever they are doing over the break. I hope that you all keep safe and well and I look forward to welcoming the children back to school to begin the New Year at Willow Primary Academy.



Pride News...

CEO's Message . . .

Dear Parents / Carers

As I face my last few days as CEO of SAND Academies Trust, I would like to thank you all for the support you have shown to our schools and to me over the years. As the CEO my role the last 3 years has been on setting up the central functions of the Trust and I have missed contact with pupils and families, but I know from the headteachers that your support is amazing.

It has been a privilege for me to work in special education for over 40 years and an honour to work with your amazing children. I am so proud of the expertise of our staff and the commitment they put into giving your young people the best experiences possible.

I wish you all well and hope you all have a very happy Christmas.

I am not disappearing completely; I will be doing some part-time work for SAND AT after Christmas but am handing all the responsibility over to our new CEO Martin.

Thank you again for all your support,

Lyn





Trust News . . .

Willow Primary Academy - DfE School Rebuilding Programme

To ensure we can provide the best learning environment for our pupils, the Trust submitted an application to the DfE as part of their School Rebuilding Programme. This programme carries out major rebuilding and refurbishment projects at schools and sixth- form college buildings across England.

We are delighted to let you know that after careful consideration by the DfE, Willow Primary Academy has been provisionally prioritised for the programme.

The Trust only received official confirmation today of the school being selected and wanted to share this exciting news with all stakeholders as soon as possible. We will need to wait for more information from the DfE before we can confirm any details of future refurbishment or rebuilding works to be carried out, as these have not been set out in the initial communications. We will keep all stakeholders updated on progress as we receive more communication from the DfE.

Extract from the DfE highlighting the number of schools and proposed dates for the programme.

The Department for Education (DfE) has selected 300 schools in 2022. These projects will enter delivery at a rate of approximately 50 projects per year, this year and for the next five years. 61 projects have already entered delivery following our announcement in July 2022. The 239 schools announced today will be reviewed and prioritised according to the condition of their buildings and other relevant criteria, and only scheduled for delivery on completion and resolution of due diligence checks. The first schools from the 239 announced in December 2022 are expected to enter delivery between April 2023 and March 2024.



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 – Cody
Ash – T J, John-Boy & Chrystal
Birch – Haleema
Chestnut – Maddie, Finley & Cameron
Elm – Chelsea and Isla
Maple – Leah S & Theo
Oak – Oscar & Georgia

PRIDE Champions

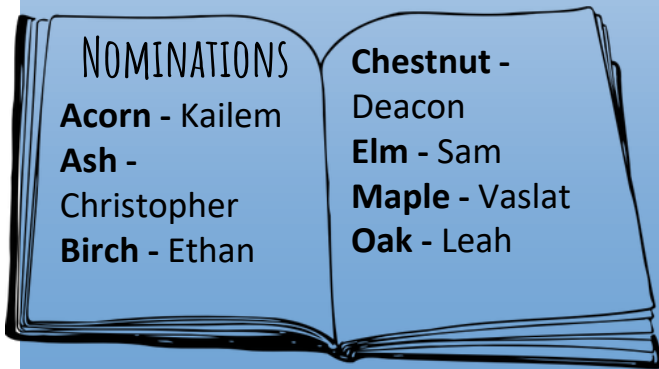
Acorn – Frances
Birch - Oakley





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: **90.64%**

Our year so far: **92.53%**

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Class	Attendance
Acorn	88.55%
Ash	89.80%
Birch	95.97%
Chestnut	87.50%
Elm	86.67%
Maple	89.24%
Oak	99.43%



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

Wednesday 11th January 2023 – Year 3 & 4 Swimming lessons at GL1

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)

Friday 17th February 2023 – INSET Day

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

Friends of Willow Events:



Pride News...



Parent Support & Advice Line

Are you worried about your child's mental health, emotional well-being or behaviour?

Parenting can be hugely rewarding but it can also be really hard work, especially if you think your child is unhappy or you are worried about them.

If your child is 0-25 years old and lives in Gloucestershire, drop-in to our free, anonymous, confidential helpline during open times and talk to one of our trained parent support advisors.

www.ticplus.org.uk



TIC+ cares - we're here to help!

If you would like support please get in touch. It's free, confidential and anonymous.

The TIC+ parent support advisors can help, they care, won't judge, and will take you seriously.

Whichever option you choose, there is no need to make an appointment, drop-in anytime during our open hours.

Call 0800 6525675 to chat with one of our team members over the phone*

OR
Parent Support Web Chat at www.ticplus.org.uk/parents-carers

To make it easier to reach out for help we offer a choice of ways to contact us:

Parent Support Line:

You can call our Freephone number from your mobile or home phone.

Parent Support Web Chat:

We recognise that sometimes it's difficult talking when things aren't going so well. Providing you've got access to the internet, web-chat allows you to live message a member of our team.

OPEN TIMES:

Monday 5pm – 9pm
Tuesday 9.30am – 1pm
Wednesday 5pm – 9pm
Thursday 5pm – 9pm

Open times may be subject to change - check our website for up to date information www.ticplus.org.uk

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