



# Pride News...

## Headteacher's Message...

Date - Issue 20.01.2023

Dear Parents / Carers

A huge welcome to the new families that have joined us recently. The growing number of children at Willow is testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff to provide the best possible education for your children.

### **Morning Drop Off**

During the morning drop off we would like to develop independence of children in Key Stage 2 and to prepare them for secondary school. I would like to remind parents that they can drop their child off at the first gate. This will also reduce the pedestrian traffic within the school playground at this busy time of the day. I would certainly encourage this for children in Year 5 and Year 6 as this would aid the transition to secondary school.

### **Talking to Teachers**

During the morning drop off teachers are often at their classroom doors. The purpose of them being there is to welcome their class to school and make children feel comfortable and happy when they arrive. During this time, they are welcoming the children and learning begins immediately when children arrive and this is their main focus.

If you need to talk to a staff member initially, can you find a Senior Leader or a Family Welfare Officer who will be more than happy to help and pass any relevant information onto the appropriate staff. You can also communicate with your child's Class Teacher via Class Dojo. I will encourage teachers to check Class Dojo between 8.30 am and 8.40 am for any morning messages.

At the end of the school day, the teachers are more available to talk to parents and carers and therefore this is a better time to catch your child's teacher.

Have a great weekend!



# Pride News...

## CEO Message...



Dear Parents and Carers,

### NEU Strike

You may have heard in the news that the National Education Union (NEU) has voted to strike on a number of days over the coming months, with the first planned day being Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2023.

Each school in SAND AT will be affected to differing degrees depending upon its union membership and each will need to react accordingly.

I am, therefore, writing to you to inform you that the normal school day in your child's school may well be disrupted on strike days. Depending upon the anticipated extent of the disruption each school will make their own arrangements, which may include partial or full closure of some classes.

We very much hope that this will not be necessary, however, our top priority remains as always, the health and safety of our pupils. In our planning, we will be following the department for Education's guidance to prioritise vulnerable children and the children of key workers.

Your child's school will write to you next week to give you further details on how it will be operating on the 1<sup>st</sup> February.

Kind regards,

**Martin Hughes**  
Chief Executive  
SAND Academies Trust  
[Martin.hughes@sandmat.uk](mailto:Martin.hughes@sandmat.uk)



# 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 and Syreese

**Ash** – Arianna and John-Boy

**Birch** – Elijah and Keeley

**Chestnut** – Shayla-Kay and Skyla

**Elm** – Kayla and Emelia

**Maple** – Jasmine and Ethan

**Oak** – Lilly-Belle

### PRIDE Champions

Misha





## WILLOW'S STAR READER SPECIAL SURPRISE AWARD



STAR READER...



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: **93.29%**  
Our year so far: **92.79%**

Class	Attendance
Acorn	89.21%
Ash	92.39%
Birch	91.67%
Chestnut	94.03%
Elm	88.73%
Maple	98.76%
Oak	96.00%

Please remember to let us know if your child is absent by calling 01452 526442 Option 1.  
If you are planning to go on holiday during term time, you need to complete an absence request form and make an appointment to see the Headteacher.



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS







# Pride News...

## Dates for Your Diary

### Term Dates for 2022 – 2023

Term 1 from Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 to Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Term 2 from Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Term 3 from Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Term 4 from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Term 5 from Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Term 6 from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 to Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023

### School Events

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023** - Elm Class Assembly (parents of Elm Class are invited)

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023** – Parents Evening (further details to follow)

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023** – Parents Evening (further details to follow)

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023** – INSET Day

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023** – Screening vision and Measuring height and weight of children in Reception and Year 6.

### Friends of Willow Events:





# Pride News...

## Clothes Swap

Willow Primary Academy

Thursday 2nd Feb  
3:00pm - 3:30pm

As part of our drive to become more ECO friendly, and while fully understanding the rise in the cost of living, we have decided to hold a pre-loved children's clothes swap at school.

From Wednesday 25th January, families can bring any of the items listed below into school so that they are ready for the swap.



On Thursday 2nd February between 3:00pm and 3:30pm, families will be able to access the school hall and rummage through the donated items, taking anything suitable.

We believe that the following items would be well received:

Pyjamas  
Tops  
Trousers  
Shirts/Dresses  
Coats  
School uniform  
Shoes



Any items of clothing left behind at the end of the swap will be recycled/suitable.





# Pride News...

**NATIONAL YOUTH ANTI-VIOLENCE TOUR**



**KNIFE ANGEL**

BRITISH  
IRONWORK CENTRE

**FEBRUARY 2023**  
**Coming to Gloucester Cathedral Green**

For more information visit [www.gloucesterknifeangel.uk](http://www.gloucesterknifeangel.uk)



Or scan the QR code

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GLoucester CATHEDRAL  
GLoucestershire COUNTY COUNCIL  
BRISTOL & GLoucester METROPOLITAN POLICE  
OPCC  
Gloucester City Council  
NHS Gloucestershire

