



# Pride News...

## Headteacher's Message...

Date - Issue 27.01.2023

Dear Parents / Carers

It has been great to welcome so many visitors to Willow Primary Academy and show them how the school is progressing through the dedication and hard work of the staff.

### **Julie Kent, MBE**

On Wednesday it was great to have the opportunity to show Julie Kent, MBE around school. She is from the charity Pied Piper and we are hoping to develop our relationships with them so that they can support a project that we would like to consider at the school. It was a really positive visit and I am hopefully that our bid will be successful.

### **Clare Silvester, School Improvement Partner**

On Thursday we had Clare come and scrutinise our maths curriculum. The main findings of the visit are as follows:

- Evidence in books, through learning walks and in discussion with pupils clearly shows that there is progression across the school.
- Evidence clearly in the progression of skills across the school, and in the work produced by the teachers for the pupils to complete. Leaders are confident in the way they talk about the intent, implementation and impact of the chosen maths curriculum.

My favourite quote from the report is as follows:

*'The children were a real credit to the school and answered the questions accurately and with ease. They all knew what they were learning, why, how well they are doing, what they can do if they need help, and the older pupils knew what their next steps were.'*

### **Kirsten Harrison, Director of Education for Gloucestershire**

Today, myself and Martin Hughes (CEO) met with Kirsten Harrison to share the journey of Willow Primary Academy. It is important that we develop a strong relationship with Gloucestershire County Council and share the success of the school. This school is on the right trajectory and I am becoming increasingly confident that when we get our next Ofsted inspection we will be pushing for a positive outcome.

Have a great weekend

Pete Hales  
Headteacher



# Pride News...

## Strike Action

Dear Parents / Carers,

You may be aware from media coverage that the National Education Union have declared strike action, which will take place on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teacher's pay, and not because of any issues at our school.

**I'm getting in touch to confirm that Willow Primary Academy will be open as usual on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023. Please send your child in as normal.**

It may be that your child is not taught by their usual teacher but we are ensuring that the strike action has minimal disruption on your child's education.

Kind regards

Pete Hales  
Headteacher





# Pride News...

## Acorn

This week, we have been learning about Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year. We have learned about the traditions and have used our creative skills to make a Chinese dragon that moves and lanterns!

In Maths, we have been learning how to combine two groups to make a whole – the start of addition!

We have also continued to learn about the farm and crops that grow there. We have carefully chopped up fruits to make a healthy fruit salad and have created portraits in the style of Arcimboldo.

What a busy time we've had!

## Birch

We have had a very productive week in Birch class!

In Geography we have been learning about erosion and the effects it has. We did a demonstration using sand and water to help with our understanding. We used some great vocabulary.

In Maths, we have been learning about measuring the mass of objects. We have used scales to read the weights in kilograms and grams.

In Science we have been continuing our materials project. We conducted an experiment to see if materials could be changed by bending, twisting, stretching and squashing. It was a lot of fun and hard work!

## Ash

This week in Ash Class, we have been starting our learning on Meerkats based on the book 'Meerkat Mail' to create a fact file. We have been researching facts that we would include and how we would create an effective fact file.

We were very lucky to have a visit from police officer Chloe who told us all about what the police do and how they keep us safe. We even got to try on police uniform. We really enjoyed this!

Our Maths has come along very well! We are experts at partitioning and using this information to help us complete addition and subtraction questions. To assist with our subtractions, we have mastered counting backwards from 20 to solve problems. We have been working very hard!

## Chestnut

Chestnut class have been working super hard in Science this week. We have been investigating forces by using the Newton meters to pull objects within our classroom. We have also been reading the book 'The Tunnel' by Anthony Browne in English, thinking about the characters and how their feelings change throughout the book. Swimming this week was also so much fun!



# Pride News...

## Elm

Elm Class have been really enjoying their reading time. Many children have moved up to higher reading levels due to the amazing progress they are making. We are very proud!

In Guided reading sessions, children have been getting immersed in short stories with cliff-hangers and have enjoyed making predictions about what might happen next using evidence from the text.

In English, we have been reading The Barnabus Project and the children have been applying their knowledge of direct speech punctuation to write stories based on this book. We have been really impressed with the results.

## Maple

Maple Class have continued to develop their understanding of long multiplication in Maths. We learnt what a bar was in Music and we have learnt about what makes a mammal a mammal in Science. We will be using our knowledge of mammals and their life cycles to write our own explanation text in English.

We also had a visit from a police officer who talked to us about anti-social behaviour.

## Oak

We have been working extremely hard in Oak class. We have completed our second round of mock SATS. Miss Flynn is happy with the progress we are making in SPAG and spelling.

We met with a police officer this week. She talked to us about anti-social behaviour. We learned a lot from her, and we enjoyed asking her questions about her experience in the job.

In DT, we are finishing our engineering unit by writing a non-chronological report on bridges.



# 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** – Eliora and Praise  
**Ash** – Toby and Taliyah  
**Birch** – Bonnie and Ethan  
**Chestnut** – Lilly-Maye and Dylan  
**Elm** – Lily and Phoebe  
**Maple** – Lyra and Vaslat  
**Oak** – Kaydi and Georgia

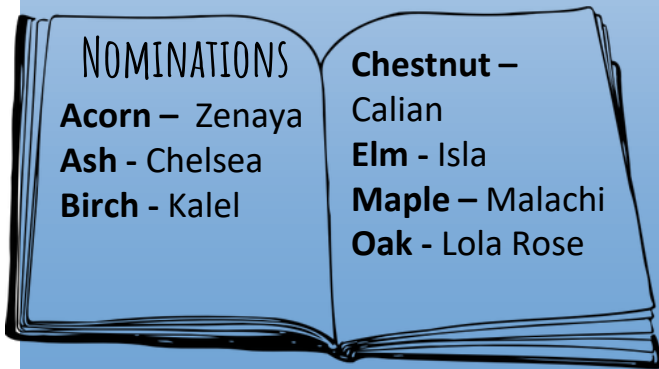
### PRIDE Champions

Kaiden (Oak)





## 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: **95.46%**

Our year so far: **93.78%**

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS



| Class    | Attendance |
|----------|------------|
| Acorn`   | 100%       |
| Ash      | 94.81%     |
| Birch    | 94.61%     |
| Chestnut | 97.32%     |
| Elm      | 84.07%     |
| Maple    | 97.10%     |
| Oak      | 98.22%     |



Just a reminder that school starts at 8.45am and gates will be closed shortly after.





# 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> April 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)

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February** – Football match v St James Primary School (at Willow Primary School)

**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)

**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...



Dear Parent/Guardian,

To celebrate and encourage a lifelong love of reading at home and school, we are running a sponsored read between the **30<sup>th</sup> January – 6<sup>th</sup> February**.

The project is being organised in conjunction with our Usborne Partner Ally Bennett and all the money raised will go towards brand new books for our school. In addition to the sponsorship money, Usborne will also donate up to 60% of the total raised in **EXTRA FREE BOOKS** to the school. So, for every £600 raised, we will get an extra £360 in **FREE Usborne books!**

Please help us to enhance our reading resources for pupils by encouraging your child to spend a small amount of time each day either reading to themselves, to others, or being read to. They can read books, comics, magazines, newspapers, menus, websites, recipes, poems, leaflets, instructions – anything with words!

In addition to this, the child that either raises the most money or reads the most in each class, will win a prize!

If you are able to support our sponsored read, please find enclosed a sponsorship form and reading log for your child, if they wish to use it to record their reading.

Please ensure all sponsor money is returned to the office by **THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**.

We look forward to having lots more books for your child to read, share and enjoy. For more information, please speak to your child's teacher.

Kind regards,

Miss Simmonds

Reading Leader





# Pride News...

## Adult Education

We have a fantastic opportunity to run adult education courses at Willow Primary School.

We recently held a coffee afternoon with Jasmine Pugh from Adult Education, Mrs Arthur and myself (Nikki Hendry).  
Adult Education can support whatever the need is.

We had some great suggestions of courses that can be run at Willow Primary School and we would love some of your feedback in order for us to plan these courses in.

There can be a range of courses such as cooking, eating on a budget, English, Maths, Makaton, first aid, mental health strategies. These courses can be with or without your child.  
Please help us by completing the attached form.

Many Thanks, Miss Hendry

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=06620jxD00mVMMRRtc0bcZvF64yQx-pAn\\_dC4fpTjkFURVNWtIpYNUMyVkJJtzQ2MVBLV0ZTRDk1RC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=06620jxD00mVMMRRtc0bcZvF64yQx-pAn_dC4fpTjkFURVNWtIpYNUMyVkJJtzQ2MVBLV0ZTRDk1RC4u)





# 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 recyclesuitable.







# Pride News...



**FEBRUARY  
HALF TERM  
ART CLUB**

20 - 24 FEBRUARY  
LONGLEVENS INFANT SCHOOL  
AND  
ABBEYMEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Join us at Mrs Hamblin's Little Artists!

- For ages 4 - 11 years old
- Full days available 8.30am - 4.30pm for just £25 (£5 extra to 5pm)
- Half days available - morning and afternoon for just £15
- Create masterpieces and experiment with different materials
- Run by a qualified, DBS checked, caring and enthusiastic team

**Book online - [www.mrshamblinslittleartists.co.uk](http://www.mrshamblinslittleartists.co.uk)**



@mrshslittleartists



@mrshamblinslittleartists

We look forward to seeing you!

