



Pride News...

Headteacher's Message...

Date - Issue 20.10.2023

Dear Parents and Carers

We are one week closer to half term! This has seemed a very long first half term of the year but the children are doing absolutely brilliantly.

Open Sessions

We have had a number of Open Sessions this week inviting families to come and have a look at what Willow has to offer. A huge congratulations has to go to the Head Pupils (Willow, Lola, Cain and AJ) who have been available to meet and greet, make tea and coffee and also give a little insight into life at Willow. They have been amazing!

Reading Review

On Monday of this week we had a School Improvement Partner visit the school to look at the quality of our reading provision right from Reception to Year 6. The strengths identified are shared later on in the newsletter. We are very proud of our reading provision and whole heartedly believe that this is the gateway to all learning.

Attendance

Attendance is a key focus for Willow this academic year. If children are not in school every day then this has a huge impact upon their learning. One of the biggest barriers is families taking children on holiday during term time. These will only be approved at the my discretion. If it is not approved then this could be referred to the Local Authority who may issue a penalty notice to families.

Harvest Assembly

We are looking forward to welcoming families to our Harvest Festival on Monday 23rd October. It starts at 2.15 pm.

I hope you have a great weekend!

Pete Hales, Headteacher



Pride News...

Willow's Learning!!!





Pride News...

Spotlight on the Curriculum



Spotlight on the Curriculum Reading Review:

"Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. Infact, reading for pleasure is more

likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background."(Pearson 2021)

During the last week we had a visit from a School Improvement Partner and a Reading Lead from another local mainstream primary. The highlights of the report are as follows:

How do we achieve this?

The subject leader for reading is clearly aspirational for pupils to become fluent readers and to develop a 'lifelong love of reading'

To achieve the school's objectives, leaders have provided relevant training opportunities to staff to develop their subject knowledge and to strengthen their expertise in teaching reading.

Teachers make good use of the interactive whiteboards that provide clarity about the purpose of the lesson.

Teachers often challenged pupils to extend their vocabulary by asking focused questions to gauge their knowledge and understanding.

Adults confidently demonstrated their skill at supporting individual pupils to engage and learn basic phonic knowledge successfully.

Most pupils demonstrated good learning attitudes, which were evident in that they listened carefully, paid attention and responded positively when asked to answer questions.



Pride News...

In Other News

Online Safety Tip of the Week



Harvest Festival Collection

We are currently collecting items of food as part of our Harvest festival. If you have any donations of non-perishable items like tins and jars, please do send them in. The children will be giving these to a local food bank. Thanks in advance – even the smallest donation will help support local families.



Safeguarding Tip of the Week

This week's safeguarding focus is mental health. Mental health is about our moods, feelings and emotions. Recognising the signs that a child may be struggling with their mental health can be really hard and it is important that we talk about mental health with our children. Below are some tips to support you with these conversations:

- Make conversations about mental health a normal part of life
 - Give it your full attention - be an active listener
 - Take it seriously and explore the feelings together
 - Offer empathy rather than solutions
- For more information see:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/mental-health-parenting/>



Attendance Update

We believe there is a strong link between attendance and safeguarding. A child's absence from school can often be an early indicator of an increased need within a family and poor attendance can be a sign of a safeguarding concern. A child who is not in school is a child who is not achieving: development, social and emotional wellbeing and safety may all be compromised. It is important that parents call in every day that a child is absent from school.



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 – Joseph and Adam

Ash – Henry and Shaylan

Birch – John-Boy and Chrystal

Chestnut – Archie and Aquan

Elm - Skyla

Maple – Efe and Jazmyn

Oak – Daniel S and Cain

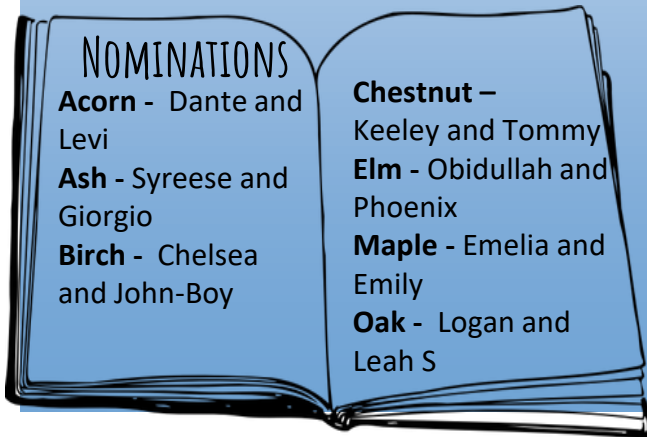
PRIDE Champions

Elm Class - Obidullah

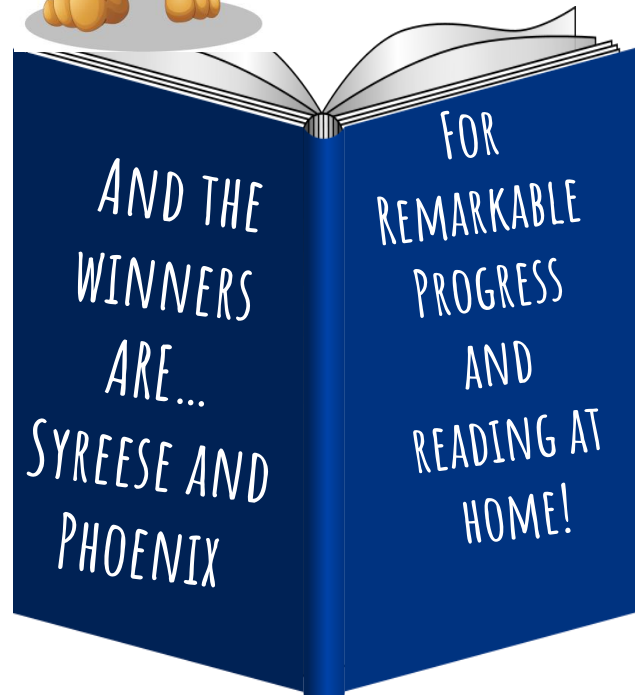




WILLOW'S STAR READER SPECIAL SURPRISE AWARD



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!



THIS WEEK'S CLASS TOP DOODLERS ARE:

ASH – ELIORA, FRANCES AND PRAISE

BIRCH – JOHN-BOY, NIMAH AND LILY

CHESTNUT – TOMMY, AQUAN AND
KEELEY

ELM – SAMUEL, ADI AND LACEY-MAI

MAPLE – SHAYLA-RAI, SAM, DELROY

OAK – VASLAT, DANIEL S AND JENSON



Each week teachers will monitor the activity on Doodle of the children in their class. They will look at the combined number of stars children have earned for all four of the Doodle apps.

Each week the top 3 Doodlers from each class will receive 10 extra PRIDE points to spend in the PRIDE shop.

Keep up the effort with the home learning.

HAPPY DOODLING!!!



Pride News...

Attendance Superstars

This week: 88.75%
Our year so far: 92.85%

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Class	Attendance
Acorn	84.02%
Ash	97.50%
Birch	88.67%
Chestnut	88.18%
Elm	92.33%
Maple	86.87%
Oak	84.44%



Reminder

Gates are open by 8.45am and close shortly after. Please ensure your child is on time and ready to learn.

If your child arrives late you need to take them to reception and you as the parent must sign them in on the screen.

Thank you for your cooperation





Pride News...

Dates for Your Diary

Term Dates for 2023 – 2024

Term 1 from Wednesday 6th September 2023 to Friday 27th October 2023

Term 2 from Tuesday 7th November 2023 to Friday 22nd December 2023

Term 3 from Monday 8th January 2024 to Thursday 8th February 2024

Term 4 from Monday 19th February 2024 to Friday 22nd March 2024

Term 5 from Tuesday 9th April 2024 to Friday 24th May 2024

Term 6 from Monday 3rd June 2024 to Friday 19th July 2024

Christmas Bank Holidays	25 th December 2023
	26 th December 2023
New Year Bank Holiday	1 st January 2024
Good Friday	29 th March 2024
Easter Monday	1 st April 2024
Early May Bank Holiday	6 th May 2024
Spring Bank Holiday	27 th May 2024
Summer Bank Holiday	26 th August 2024

All term dates can be found on our website [here](#)





Pride News...

Dates for Your Diary

School Events

- Monday 23rd October 2023 (2.15 pm to 2.45 pm) – Harvest Assembly
- Thursday 26th October 2023 (9.00 am to 10.00 am) – Coffee Morning with Family Support Team
- Thursday 9th November 2023 – Elm Class Trip
- Friday 17th November 2023 – Children in Need
- Tuesday 14th November 2023 (9.00 am to 9.45 am) – Ash and Birch Parents Phonics Session
- Monday 16th November 2023 (2.45 pm to 3.10 pm) – Maple Class Assembly
- Tuesday 21st November 2023 – Individual School Photographs
- Thursday 23rd November 2023 (9.00 am to 10.00 am) – Coffee Morning with SENDCo
- Friday 8th December 2023 – Christmas Jumper Day
- Tuesday 19th December 2023 (9.30 am to 10.30 am) – Acorn, Ash and Birch Nativity
- Tuesday 19th December 2023 (1.30 pm to 3.00 pm) – Chestnut, Elm, Maple and Oak Christmas Performance
- Wednesday 20th December 2023 (9.30 am to 10.30 am) – Acorn, Ash and Birch Nativity
- Wednesday 20th December 2023 (1.30 pm to 3.00 pm) – Chestnut, Elm, Maple and Oak Christmas Performance
- Wednesday 10th January 2024 – Swimming starts for Chestnut and Elm Class
- Tuesday 23rd January 2024 (9.00 am to 10.00 am) – Coffee Morning with Reading Leads
- Thursday 22nd February 2024 (9.00 am to 10.00 am) – Coffee Morning with Maths Leads
- Friday 8th March 2024 – Oak Class trip to Pitt River Museum
- Friday 15th March 2024 – Red Nose Day
- Thursday 21st March 2024 (9.00 am to 10.00 am) – Coffee Morning with Writing Leads
- Friday 22nd March 2024 (1.15 pm to 1.45 pm) – Easter Celebration
- Monday 8th July 2024 – Oak Class Residential

