



Pride News...

Headteacher's Message...

Date - Issue 17.11.2023

Dear Families

Cross Country

On Wednesday some children from Willow walked to Holmleigh Park and took part in the cross country championships. They were all outstanding and all of the children who had taken part before beat their previous position! An especially big 'Congratulations' to Lily in year 2 who came 3rd in her race and to Jenson in Year 6 who made it through to qualify for county! Mrs Stephens was so proud of them all and their behaviour was wonderful.

Early Years Review

On Thursday we had a review of our Early Years provision. This was a very successful and helped us to demonstrate what a good start to school Willow Primary Academy gives its youngest learners. I look forward to sharing elements of the report in a future newsletter. A huge congratulations to the EYFS Team!

Oracy Competition

There is an exciting Oracy Competition for the children to take part in. Have a look at the following poster. This can be viewed on Class Dojo as well.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING! 2024

An Oracy Competition for Gloucestershire's Infant, Junior and Primary Schools

Our school is very excited to be taking part in the 'Look Who's Talking!' competition, along with lots of other schools in Gloucestershire!

WHAT IS ORACY AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

Oracy is the ability to express ourselves clearly and communicate with others effectively through spoken language.

By hearing our children become more effective speakers and listeners, we are all helping to give them the tools they need to better understand themselves, each other and the world around them.

HOW WILL THE COMPETITION WORK?

Your child will get the chance to talk to their class for ten minutes, about any subject that they choose and then a 'Star Speaker' will be chosen. Star Speakers from every class will then get to talk in front of the whole school. These speakers will then go on to the final stage and will represent our school in the competition, with lots of other local schools!

WHAT CAN YOUR CHILD TALK ABOUT?

Children can talk about anything, anything that they choose to, for up to ten minutes. They can use any props that they wish to, which will help with their talk, but just cannot use any technology, or any PowerPoint slides.

HOW CAN YOU HELP THEM AT HOME?

- First of all, please help them to think about what they would like to talk about. The more interested they are in the subject, the more passionate their talk will be! What are they interested in? What would they like to talk about? A toy, their pet, a book, something they have seen on TV, their favourite sports team, something they have learned about from you at home - or anything about it can be anything at all!
- They will need to plan and rehearse their speech, so please listen to them practice and give them lots of encouragement!
- Make sure they are speaking with big voices, slow and clearly, so everyone can hear their talk and learn about their chosen topic.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Have a great weekend!

Pete Hales



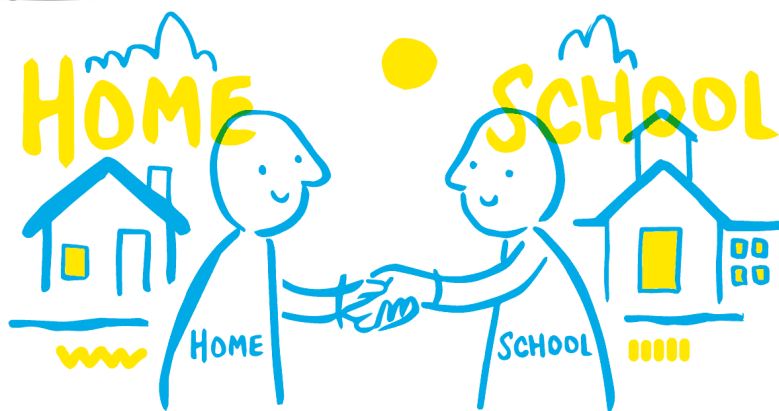
Pride News...

Family Engagement



At Willow it is vital that we are working in partnership with our families. To help Support you and your child or children we have some events coming up!

It would be great if you could join us for these!



Coffee Morning

Come and join our SENDCo, Beth Griffin for a coffee and a chat.

This is an informal opportunity to find out more about how we can support your child at Willow.

**Tuesday 23rd November from
9.00 am to 10.00 am**



Pride News...

Spotlight on the Curriculum



Spotlight on the Curriculum Swimming:

Swimming and water safety is a statutory part of the national curriculum for Physical Education (P.E) and has been since 1994. With the sudden closure of the main swimming provider in the city, Willow were very fortunate to be able to book in Elite Swimming so that the children do not miss out this year. Elite Swimming have built a pop-up pool inside our multi use games area on our school site! All children in years 2-6 will receive 30 minutes swim time, daily, for two weeks. This is the same amount of swim time as if we had gone to GL1 but with far less travel time! Elite swimming provide their own qualified swimming teacher and lifeguard therefore the children will receive the same quality of education as at GL1. If you have any questions about swimming please ask Mrs Stephens.

When children leave Year 6 they should be able to do the following:

Use a range of strokes effectively

Front crawl

Backstroke

Breaststroke

Swim competently and confidently over a distance of at least 25 metres.

Perform safe self-rescue in different water based situations.



Pride News...

Lumi Nova

Student wellbeing is central to the ethos of our school. We are therefore delighted to share with you a new NHS Gloucestershire funded service designed to support young people aged 7-12 (years 3-7) who are experiencing fears or worries; **Lumi Nova**.

What is Lumi Nova?

Lumi Nova: Tales of courage is an intergalactic adventure game where players step into the shoes of a newly recruited Luminaut and start an exciting adventure through space - travelling to different planets, meeting new characters, solving puzzles and attempting challenges. Lumi Nova support young people to fight fears & manage worries. Whilst exploring planets, customising characters and earning treasure your child breaks their fears and worries down into manageable steps, learning life-long skills and building resilience.

Lumi Nova is designed for 7 - 12 year olds (school years 3 - 7) who are having difficulties with fears and worries related to social situations, separation or phobias, but may also be helpful for young people outside this age range. Designed by BFB Labs, Lumi Nova was developed with NHS clinicians and leading academics. It is based upon Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Exposure Therapy which are proven to be effective. Lumi Nova is recommended by NICE (National Institute for Health & Care Excellence) and adheres to strict standards of clinical safety.

How to Access Lumi Nova:

To use Lumi Nova you must first register to get a game key by visiting luminova.app/glos or by scanning the QR code below, and completing a short registration form. You will then receive an SMS message that will guide you through getting started.

You will be directed to download Lumi Nova. Lumi Nova is free to download from the Apple and Google Play Stores and is compatible with iPhones, iPads and most Android smartphones and tablets.

Where can I find out more about Lumi Nova?

- More information about Lumi Nova including FAQs and case studies can be found at luminova.app/glos
- If you have any questions please reach out to the lumi nova team: luminova@bfb-labs.com
- To listen to a short presentation about Lumi Nova you can attend a 30 minute [Parent Lumi Nova Discovery Session](#)





Pride News...

In Other News

Online Safety Tip of the Week



Healthy Lunchboxes



Safeguarding Safety Tip of the Week

Neglect

This week our safeguarding focus is neglect. Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs and the most common form of child abuse. A child might be left hungry or dirty, or without proper clothing, shelter, supervision or health care. This can put children and young people in danger. It can also have long term effects on their physical and mental wellbeing. The main types of neglect are physical neglect, educational neglect, emotional neglect and medical neglect. For more information about this and what to do if you think a child might be suffering neglect see the NSPCC link below:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/neglect>



School uniform

This is a reminder about school uniform. This will come into effect from January 2024.

The expectation is that children will come to school in the following:

- * Plain white polo shirt
- * Plain black joggers, leggings, skirts (with cycling shorts) or shorts
- * Black skirts with cycling shorts
- * A school jumper or cardigan with a logo (Piper Centre we are waiting for uniform with your Logo on)
- * Plain black trainers

This applies to all children in both Willow and The Piper Centre.



Pride News...

Willow's Learning!!!





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 – Levi and Johnny

Ash – Syreese and Kailem

Birch – Logan and Toby

Chestnut – Mason and Tommy

Elm – Dylan and Deacon

Maple – Alfie and Brett

Oak – Ethan

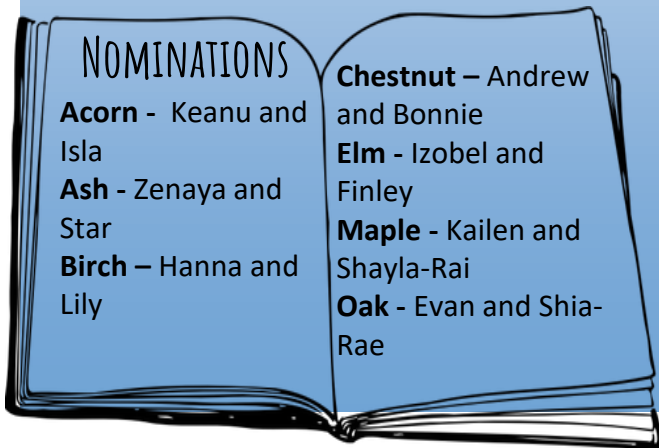
PRIDE Champions

Oak – Calvin





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 – PRAISE, ELIORA AND CHARLIE
BIRCH – CHELSEA, CHRYSTAL AND LILY
CHESTNUT – TOMMY, LAVINIA, ETHAN
ELM – OBIDULLAH, ELIANA, SAMUEL
MAPLE – SHAYLA, SAM, EFE
OAK – VASLAT, WILLOW AND LYRA



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: 93.03%
Our year so far: 92.84%

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Class	Attendance
Acorn	91.06%
Ash	89.50%
Birch	89.33%
Chestnut	90.43%
Elm	98%
Maple	90.71%
Oak	98.52%



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

- Tuesday 14th November 2023 (9.00 am to 9.45 am) – Ash and Birch Parents Phonics Session
- Monday 20th 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

