



Pride News...

Headteacher's Message...

Date – 08.03.2024

Dear Families

As we continue to nurture the love for reading in our children, we have been excited to celebrate The Really Wild Reading Festival and World Book day this week. We believe that reading is not just a fundamental skill but a gateway to a world of imagination and knowledge.

At Willow Primary Academy, we value reading immensely. In our recent Ofsted Report it stated:

'Reading has a high priority. As soon as children enter the Reception Year, they learn to read effectively. All staff are well trained to teach the phonics curriculum. Teachers identify swiftly any pupils who need extra help. Pupils read books that are well matched to the sounds that they know. In turn, this builds pupils' confidence and fluency. Once pupils have understood the phonics code, they follow a well thought-out curriculum. Pupils talk enthusiastically about the wide range of books they read.'

We understand the importance of instilling a passion for reading from an early age, and we provide an environment that fosters this love for reading.

The celebration of reading event has been a fantastic opportunity for our children to showcase their reading progress, share their favourite books, and engage in various reading activities. We encourage you to continue to support your child's reading journey.

As parents, your role in nurturing a love for reading is invaluable. Reading with your child at home, visiting the library together, and discussing books can have a significant impact on their development. We recommend setting aside dedicated time for reading each day and creating a cosy reading corner at home where your child can escape into the world of books.

In the words of Franz Kafka, "A book must be the axe for the frozen sea within us." Let us continue to break the barriers through reading and inspire our children to explore new worlds, expand their horizons, and unlock their potential through the power of words.

Pete Hales



COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Come and join us for an afternoon of celebration following our successful Ofsted Report!



Date: Wednesday 20th March

Time: 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm

Location: Willow Primary Academy and The Piper Centre

“The school is at the heart of the community.”



“One parent's comment was, 'The school is amazing in every possible way'.”

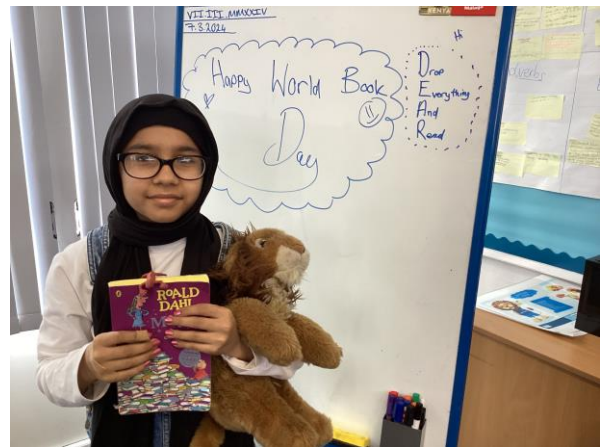
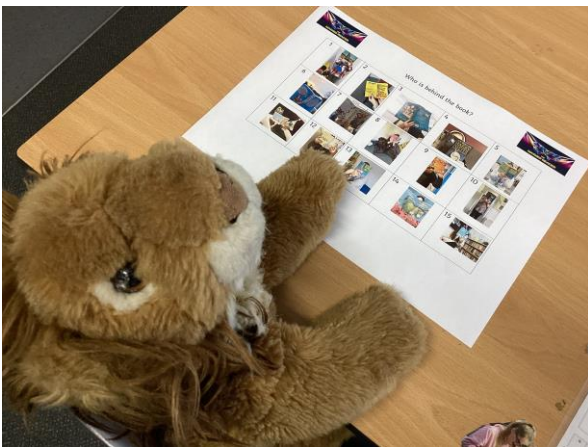


“As a result of a well-thought-out curriculum and high expectations, children get off to a flying start.”



Pride News...

Willow's Learning!!!





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!





Pride News...

In Other News

Online Safety Tip of the Week



Safeguarding Safety Tip of the Week

Child on child abuse

This week's safeguarding focus is child on child abuse. Child-on-child abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to bullying (including cyberbullying), abuse in intimate personal relationships between children, physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm, or sexual violence. The signs of child-on-child abuse can include the imbalance of power within a relationship, sexual behaviour that is inappropriate and children or young people isolating themselves from family and friends. Child on child abuse can result in significant, long-lasting trauma, isolation, physical harm, poor mental health, a child missing education, and poor outcomes.



Payments Reminder

To pay for school trips etc on ParentPay, we are a cashless school. If you need a ParentPay log in please speak to the school office.

School uniform

Uniform



Willow Primary Academy sweatshirts and cardigans can be purchased at The School Shop.

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

- Plain white polo shirt.
- Plain black joggers, leggings, skirt (with cycling shorts) or shorts.
- School jumper or cardigan with logo on (or a plain navy jumper or cardigan).
- Plain black trainers.



Pride News...

Applications for Holiday Free School Meal vouchers for the Easter 2024 and May 2024 holidays are open from 27 February until midday 12 March.

The vouchers are funded through grant funding we have received and is separate to that of term time free school meals.

Vouchers for the May half-term will be distributed at the same time as those for the Easter holiday period. Therefore, families who have signed up will receive a total of £30 per eligible child, comprising of; 1 week (£15) for Easter 2024 and 1 week (£15) for May 2024 half-term. During 2024, there will be food and activity support available via the HAF programme (during Spring, Summer and Winter holiday periods). This is a separately funded scheme that provides the children who book and attend events with a meal. The HAF programme is not able to distribute food/supermarket vouchers.

For more information on the HAF programme please visit their webpage here: [Holiday activities and food programme \(HAF\) | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

The holiday voucher scheme is for children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (income-related) free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire. We are unable to consider college and sixth form students as well as children who receive infant free school meals (available to all children in reception to year 2); they are not eligible for this scheme.

Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register for Easter 2024 and May 2024 holiday vouchers - they will already have been included. Families that have previously signed up will need to contact us with any changes to their circumstances. To ensure we reach all those who are eligible, we are encouraging parents that have not previously signed up, to sign up as soon as they can.

Voucher emails will be sent out week commencing 18 March. Please encourage parents to check their junk/spam email folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there. If parents have not received their vouchers by the 20 March, please encourage them to email childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

Please note we check eligibility for the scheme by cross-referencing with the term-time free school meal register, so please make sure parents are registered beforehand. They can register by [clicking here](#). If your school is one of the five that do not use this method, we will require confirmation from yourselves on the child's eligibility. You can find more information on what schools these are on the same link.

For more information and to sign up, please visit our website - [Holiday School Meal vouchers](#).

If you have any updates to an existing application, please email childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk so that we can update your details, as this is not an automatic process.



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 – Dante and Nevaeh

Ash – Henry

Birch – Toby and Nimah

Chestnut – Bonnie and Frankie

Elm – Brody D-G and Dylan

Maple – Efe and Alfie

PRIDE Champions

Ash - Linda





WILLOW'S STAR READER SPECIAL SURPRISE AWARD

NOMINATIONS

Acorn – Tyler and Ramsey

Ash - Aflie and Lacie-Mae

Birch – Demitri and Logan

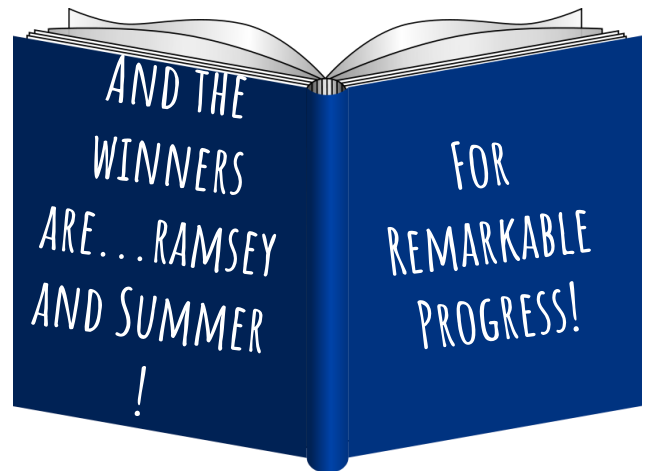
Chestnut – Keeley and Daneen

Elm - Kaitlin and Adi

Maple - Summer and Delroy



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 – FRANCES, PRAISE & ELIORA
BIRCH – LILY, DEMITRI & NIMAH
CHESTNUT – TOMMY, DANEEN & SOPHIA
ELM – ADI, ELIANA AND SAMUEL
MAPLE – SHAYLA-RAI, KAYLA & MEGAN
OAK – LOGAN, AYAAZ & VASLAT



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: 88.95 %

Our year so far: 91.77%

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Class	Attendance
Acorn	96.33%
Ash	88.42%
Birch	92.70%
Chestnut	91.63%
Elm	94.85%
Maple	74. %
Oak	90.16%



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

- Thursday 22nd February 2024 (9.00 am to 10.00 am) – Coffee Morning with Maths Leads
- Monday 26th February 2024 – Chestnut class Assembly
- Thursday 29th February 2024 – Coffee Morning with Maths Lead
- Thursday 7th March 2024 – Ash class trip to Gloucester City Centre.
- Friday 8th March 2024 – Oak Class trip to Pitt River Museum
- Monday 11th March 2024 – Birch class Assembly
- Monday 11th March 2024 - Coin trail.
- Friday 15th March 2024 – Red Nose Day
- Friday 15th March 2024 – Friday 22nd March 2024 – Easter egg hunt trail
- 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 25th March 2024 – Friday 5th April 2024 – Easter Holidays
- Monday 8th April 2024 – INSET DAY
- Thursday 11th April 2024 – Birch class trip to W-S-M.
- Thursday 11th April 2024 - Art Exhibition Sale
- Thursday 25th April 2024 – Coffee Morning with Headteacher and Head of Piper Centre 9:00am – 10:00am
- Monday 6th May 2024- May Bank Holiday
- W/C Monday 13th May – KS2 SAT's Week
- Monday 13th May 2024 - Ash class Assembly
- Thursday 23rd May – Whole Trust Trip to Cattle Country
- Friday 24th May – Pied Piper pyjama day
- Monday 27th May 2024- Friday 31st May 2024 – May HALF TERM
- Monday 3RD June 2024 – Year 4 Multiplication check
- Monday 10th June 2024 – Phonics Screening Check
- Tuesday 11th June 2024 – Willow Sports Day
- Wednesday 12th June 2024 – Piper Centre Sports Day
- Monday 24th June 2024 – Acorn class Assembly
- Friday 5th July 2024 - Summer Games Afternoon
- Monday 8th July 2024 – Wednesday 10th July 2024 – Oak Class Residential

