



Pride News...

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you well.

Over the past few months, Julia Hyde has provided stability and continuity for the school while a thorough and careful recruitment process for a new Headteacher was undertaken. This process involved Local Advisory Board members, staff and pupils, and we are grateful for the support shown throughout this period.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Rachel Bradley-McKay as the school's new Headteacher. Rachel is an experienced Headteacher and is based in Gloucestershire. We are very much looking forward to welcoming her to the school community.

Rachel will start on the 1st September and we will ensure that parents and carers have the opportunity to meet Rachel and hear more about her vision for the school. Julia and the Trust will continue to support the school on a day to day basis.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the school. I have enjoyed meeting many of you at the school gate in the mornings and appreciate the positive engagement from the school community.

*Best wishes,
Martin
Chief Executive*



Pride News...

Year 6 Leavers Hoodies – for both main school and Piper Centre.

Please click on the link below which will take you to the online shop, where you can order you child's hoodie.

All orders will need to be made by April 12th.

Thank you

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.leavershoodies.com%2Fthe-willow-primary-academy-2026-leavers&data=05%7C02%7CLucy.Sullivan%40willow.sandmat.uk%7C9f8dab3f999d45102c7908de73c9a460%7C3ab6aed3433c493b9530c451b5cd1b71%7C1%7C0%7C639075507129456100%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFRpbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LHVFXKE6oIMy7jbtA7fMnBPVX9ToEmpjUzM7Ks5g46o%3D&reserved=0>



Notice to all parents/carers,
Can we remind you all that pupils should not be bringing in any toy items, card games etc into school. Pupils bringing in these items from home into school, the class teacher will look after them until the end of day.

If you feel your child needs something with them, please check with the class teacher first this is ok.

Thank you



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...

Ash – Eliyah & Talia

Birch- Ramsey and Jacob

Chestnut- Kacper and Cody

Elm- Archie & Chrystal

Maple- Lavinia and Kaleb

Oak – Izobel & Skyler





WILLOW'S STAR READER SPECIAL SURPRISE AWARD

NOMINATIONS

Ash - Joshua & Darcy

Elm - Lucius & Lily

Birch – Maddison and
Felipa

Maple – Grace and Keeley

Chestnut- Evie-Joyce and Delilah

Oak- Nate & Obi



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:

Oak class!!!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Class	Attendance
Acorn	78.6%
Ash	88%
Birch	75%
Chestnut	88.9%
Elm	86.4%
Maple	90.5%
Oak	96.3%



Reminder

Gates are open by 8.40am 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





In Other News

School uniform

Uniform



Willow Primary Academy and
The Piper Centre 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.



School Events

- Year 6 Residential- **25th-27th March 2026**
- World Book Day- **Thursday 5th March 2026**
- Book Fair- **Thursday 12th and Friday 13th March 2026**
- **Ash class trip to St barnabas Church – 10th March**
- Trip to Gloucester Museum (Year 3)- **12th March 2026**
- **Red Nose Day – 20TH March 2026**
- 1pm Finish on Friday 27th March- (Last day of term)
BOTH WILLOW AND PIPER CENTRE
- Easter Half Term- **Monday 30th March- Tuesday 14th April 2026.**
- **INSET DAY- Monday 13th April**
- Swimming starts for Year 5 & 6 (Friday AM)- **17th April 2026**



<u>Term</u>	<u>School opens on</u>	<u>School closes on</u>	<u>Number of days</u>
Term 1	Wednesday 3rd September 2025	Friday 24th October 2025	38 days
Term 2	Monday 3rd November 2025	Friday 19th December 2025	35 days
Term 3	Wednesday 7th January 2026	Friday 13th February 2026	28 days
Term 4	Monday 23rd February 2026	Friday 27th March 2026 School closes at 1pm.	25 days
Term 5	Tuesday 14th April 2026	Friday 22nd May 2026	29 days
Term 6	Monday 1st June 2026	Friday 17th July 2026	35 days

Bank holiday	Date
Christmas Day Holiday	Thursday 25 December 2025
Boxing Day Holiday	Friday 26 December 2025
New Year's Holiday	Thursday 1 January 2026
Good Friday	Friday 3 April 2026
Easter Monday	Monday 6 April 2026
May Day Holiday	Monday 4 May 2026
Spring Bank Holiday	Monday 25 May 2026
Summer Bank Holiday	Monday 31 August 2026



GLOUCESTER FOOTBALL CAMPS

OFSTED REGISTERED
AWARD-WINNING CAMPS



Scan the QR code for more info, or visit atlas camps.co.uk



CHILDCARE VOUCHERS



February Half Term at the Museum!

It's a busy Half Term packed with hands-on activities, creative workshops and plenty for families to explore. Creative makes, family fun and brilliant ways to dive into history all week long.

Art Explorers: Arts & Crafts Trail

Sat 14 - Sun 22 Feb | £2 per trail

Follow the trail through puppets, pottery and nature-loving makers, try creative challenges and design your own patterns. Finish it and you'll earn a nature-inspired stamper to take home.

Making Folk: Crafting Charms and Folk Motifs

Sat 14 Feb, 1-4 pm | £5

Get creative with natural materials, beads and fabric as you make your own charms or stitch folk-inspired motifs. For all ages, proudly part of Gloucester Folk Trail.

Hands On History: Object Handling with the Birdlip Mirror

Sun 15 & Wed 18 Feb | £1 donation

Take a closer look at our Birdlip Mirror replicas and discover their stories with our Visitor Experience Assistant. This relaxed drop-in is free, with a suggested £1 donation. Great for families aged 3+.

Brick Builders Club: The Great Outdoors

Tue 17 Feb, 10am - 1pm | £3 per child

Get creative with nature-themed LEGO challenges inspired by our Arts & Crafts displays. Build landscapes, dream up wild creatures or invent something totally new. Pick up fun prompts and let your imagination take over. Suitable for ages 5+.

Glorious Glevum Tour

Wed 18 Feb, 2-3pm | From £5

Explore Roman Glevum with Lucius Sita, our resident auxiliary soldier. Discover why the Romans chose Gloucester, what daily life looked like and the hidden treasures inside the museum.

Medieval Mercenary Tour of the Eastgate Chamber

Sat 21 Feb, 2-3pm | From £5

Join Sir Miles, our medieval mercenary, for a fascinating trip into the Eastgate Chamber. Explore its history, uncover old myths and hear the superstitions that have surrounded this hidden space for centuries.





Learn to Swim Discovery Days

Come & try our Learn to Swim lessons

28th February 9am- 1pm at GLI Leisure Centre

- Come and visit us at GLI. Have your child take part in one of our fantastic swimming lessons for FREE!
- To book your free taster lesson either:
 - Call now 01452 396666
 - Book online [Join Now | Freedom Leisure](#)



GLI Leisure Centre,
Bruton Way, Gloucester. GLI IDT
01452 396666

www.freedomleisure.co.uk





WORLD
BOOK
DAY[®]

6 MARCH 2025

We are celebrating World Book Day! We would love if you can join in too, and come into school wearing your favourite pj's, bring in your favourite bedtime story.
Thursday 5th March.



COMIC RELIEF

COMIC RELIEF

Red Nose Day 2026 will take place on Friday, 20th March 2026. We will be having a non-uniform day that day to raise money. If your child would like to take part, please bring in £1 in a named envelope on the day.

Children are welcome to wear a red nose on the day. These will also be available on a first come, first served basis from the office. Children will be able to buy these from 16th-20th March for £2.50. Again, if your child would like to purchase one, then please bring the money in a named envelope.

Finally, there will be a cake sale after school with the support of Y6 children. Mrs Sullivan will be in contact with more details soon!

Many thanks for you support.