



WILLOW BANK PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a relaxing half term break. It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week. As you may be aware, this week there have been lots of mysterious and exciting events taking place at Willow Bank linked to the children's Autumn 2 topics and core texts.

In Reception the children returned on Monday to discover that their classroom had been decorated in balloons and streamers for a celebration! The children have spent their week making playdough cakes with candles and writing invitations and cards to their friends and family.

Year 1 children also found a very old map of London and made predictions about what London might have been like a very long time ago.

In Year 2, the children discovered that something had happened in their book corner and again had to look for clues to find out who had left wool scattered on the floor! Could it have been the big, bad wolf?

In Year 3, the children followed a set of top-secret instructions to build their own 'Iron Man' using cardboard boxes!

In Year 4, the teachers came dressed as their star sign linked to their new topic on the Greek Gods and Year 5 discovered a mystery package and produced their own mini film trailers using iMovie to share their predictions about what the package might contain.

The children discovered a crime scene in Year 6 as the classroom had been sealed off to protect the evidence left behind by a mystery perpetrator- who could the tri-cornered hat belong to?

We are also very proud of the children's learning outcomes from Autumn 1 which are displayed in our corridors around the school. We look forward to sharing them with you at our Parents Evenings this half term.

As we embark on a new half term of learning, we have also been very proud to see the children coming to school looking so smart in their school uniforms which really helps give them a sense of belonging to our Willow Bank family. As children are able to wear their PE Kits on PE days, we also ask parents to ensure that children are dressed in a plain white T shirt with navy/ royal blue tracksuit bottoms or shorts and school sweatshirt rather than expensive branded sportswear and hooded tops. Thank you for your support with this.

Finally, I would like to thank all those parents and carers that read at home every day with your child. The difference it makes to their progress and attainment across all areas of the curriculum cannot be underestimated, as well as instilling a love of reading that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. Just 10-15 minutes a day is all it takes, and it is a perfect way to end the day before bedtime. Please make a note of the pages you have read in your child's reading record book as these are checked every day by class teachers.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

*Best wishes,
Mrs Oldfield*



This week **Magnolia** had a class party! We played party games, made playdough cakes, drew in glitter and wrote cards. We have started to learn about different festivals and celebrations around the world and we can't wait to find out about more.



In **Year 1**, we discovered clues to a past event in our classroom! We investigated these objects and tried to think what had happened. We worked in pairs/groups to smell, touch, and look at these objects and predict what might have happened. Then as a class, we looked at a map to discover where it happened!



happened:
things got burnt
big fire
ruined spreading firemen
Smoke houses
burned



This week **Year 1 and 2** found a crime scene in their classroom! We became detectives and looked for clues that might tell us who had been in our classroom and why!

We worked in pairs/groups to complete a crime sheet and predict what might have happened. Then as a class, we looked at the front cover of this book and predicted what the book might be about and how it could relate to our crime scene!





Year 3 are reading 'The Iron Man' written by Ted Hughes as part of their 'Who's the greatest?' topic.

Year 3 have started reading about the lead character Hogarth, his first encounter with the Iron Man and the calamities that follow. They have also been learning about 'The Civil Rights Movement' and key events that have impacted the world today.



Year 4 - As part of our RE lessons, we have been looking at Hinduism. This week we created traditional Rangoli. Last week, many Hindus within our community celebrated Diwali. During Diwali, Hindus make patterns called rangoli from colourful materials like powders and pastes. Diwali is the festival of light where people light outside their homes to symbolise the inner light that protects from spiritual darkness.



Year 5

This week Year 5 have really enjoyed using I Movie to create a newspaper article based on a mysterious Egyptian box found in the classroom. They worked collaboratively and showed amazing support for each other.



As part of the hook to engage **Year 6** students in the core text; *The Highwayman*, the children came into school on Monday morning to discover their classroom had become a crime scene prepared by their teachers over the half term break. To calm their curiosity, the children engaged in discussions full of questions which led to the creation of very insightful hypotheses.





Would you like to find out more about Children's University and how you can support your child/ren?

If so, please come along to a presentation by Louise at the following time:

**Thursday 24th November
8.45am – 9.15am
School hall**

Louise will share information about Children's University, what opportunities are open to you and your children and she will also answer any questions you may have.

Please see prices below

2022 Poppy Appeal
Poppy merchandise is now available in the school office until Friday 11th November 2022.

Poppy Appeal



Zip Pull

SUGGESTED DONATION: 50p



Reflector

SUGGESTED DONATION: 50p



Silicon Wristband

SUGGESTED DONATION: £1



Snap Band

SUGGESTED DONATION: £1.50



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION





WELLBEING

BE KIND, BE FAIR,
BE HONEST, BE TRUE,
AND ALL OF THESE
THINGS WILL COME
BACK TO YOU.

THINK OF THE WEEK



Well done to:	
Magnolia - 91.7%	Yew - 88.6%
Hornbeam - 91.8%	Mulberry - 92.8%
Alder - 93.5%	Redwood - 93.6%
Laburnum - 89.2%	Almond - 95.2%
Hazel - 90.4%	★ Walnut - 97.4%
★ Larch - 97.5%	Sycamore - 95.4%



EYFS and KS1 Parent Reading Morning
Every Thursday from 8:40-9:10am



All parents and carers welcome!



Don't forget that your child should be reading with you every day at home and sign in the diary when you have done so. It is helpful to write which page they have read up to and maybe even a short comment on how well they did with reading/answering questions. Adults will be checking reading records everyday.



Willow Bank Primary School



**RECEPTION
SEPTEMBER 2023
OPEN MORNING**

Tuesday 15th November
Tuesday 13th December
Tuesday 10th January

9:30 - 10:30 am

Please confirm your attendance by calling or emailing the school office

0208 320 1900
wbpoffice@watschools.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming you on a tour of our school and meeting members of the Willow Bank team





Safeguarding

Now that the clocks have gone back, the evenings will start to get darker by the day and therefore, visibility is key. Children need to be seen, not just by other motorists and cyclists, but by other pedestrians. It is vital to teach your children good road safety basics from an early age.

Explain to children why they should not run across the road, show them how to identify safe places to cross and reinforce the importance of road safety. It is unsafe for young children to run ahead from their accompanying adult, or to whizz past on their scooters. Drivers may not spot a child on their own.

For the children who walk home alone, please talk to them about retaining a sense of awareness. They should be discouraged from having headphones in their ears and should not be concentrating on their phones.

Being pre-occupied and distracted will make them more vulnerable, both to being robbed or hit by a car.

Be safe Be seen
MAKE SURE DRIVERS CAN SEE YOU

SEND



Does your child or young person have a Special Educational Need or Disability?

Bexley Information, Advice & Support Service (IASS) are running IASS COFFEE MORNINGS.

This is an opportunity for you to meet other parents in a similar situation to yourself, relax over a coffee / tea in a friendly, non – judgmental environment and take a breather.

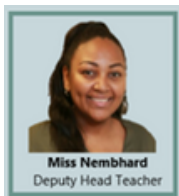
The sessions will be organised and facilitated by the Bexley IASS Parent / Carer Champions and attended by a member of staff from Bexley IASS.

If you would like to book a space on a session visit:

<https://www.bexleyiass.co.uk/training-andiass-drop-ins/>

Where: Virtual via MICROSOFT TEAMS
 When: Every 3rd Tuesday of the month
 Time: 10am – 12noon

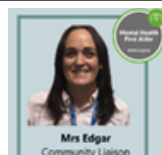
Meet our Inclusion Team



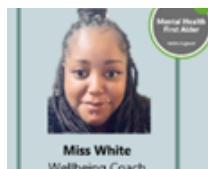
Miss Nembhard is the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). She is there to support not only your child/ren but the whole family to ensure children are safe and happy at school.



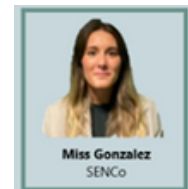
Miss Jones is our Relationships and Behaviour Lead. She works with children who need extra support in and outside of the classroom and provides strategies to children, teachers and parents to help build pupils resilience and show positive behaviour for learning.



Mrs Edgar is our Community Liaison Officer who leads on attendance. She is also one of our Deputy DSLs who supports Miss Nembhard to safeguard your children and work with you as a family to ensure wellbeing is positive.



Miss White is our Wellbeing Coach who works alongside Miss Jones. As well as supporting with positive relationships and behaviour strategies across the school, Miss White supports the wellbeing of children, ensuring their social, emotional and mental health needs are met.



Mis Gonzalez is our SENCo who works with us at Willow Bank for three days and two days at Peareswood. She is ensuring that children with SEND are having their needs met.



Mrs Day is our Pastoral Coach who leads on all therapeutic interventions in the school. Similarly to Miss Jones and Miss White, Mrs Day supports children who may find parts of the school day difficult. She also runs our Lunchtime Club and Nurture group and you will often see her with Willow our Wellbeing Dog.