



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a relaxing Christmas and New Year break; it has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school this week. Thank you for sending them in looking so smart in their uniforms, it really makes a difference to a child's sense of belonging to our fabulous Willow Bank family.

This week the children have enjoyed a range of exciting learning experiences linked to their new topics for spring 1. Please do take time to look at the photographs and read all about their Big Bang sessions in this newsletter. A highlight for me was popping into Reception class to read the children a bedtime story, and I know many staff across the school did the same to launch their new 'Traditional Tales' topic.

Year 6 children enjoyed a trip into London on the Elizabeth line to visit The Clink museum and experienced what it must have felt like to be a Victorian prisoner confined in a very small cell. The children really enjoyed their day and were able to make links with their learning from the autumn term in which they studied Crime and Punishment as their history topic. They were excellent ambassadors for the school and behaved impeccably throughout the day.

This term we will be inviting parents into school for our Open Classroom afternoons so you can see where your child spends their day, as well as have time to look at the beautiful learning environments the teachers and TAS have created for them. The children are also looking forward to sharing their learning from the spring term with you. Please make a note in your diaries of the following dates:

**Monday 6th February 2023 3:20-4:00pm**

**Monday 27th March 2023 3:20-4:00pm**

Finally, thank you for sending your child in with a bottle of water every day. Can we please ask that it is plain water and not squash or flavoured water.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Mrs Oldfield

Headteacher

Peabody is delighted to announce that Cosy Corners have been introduced at some of our community centres. These are dedicated for the most vulnerable members of the community, for example, the elderly, isolated, and families who are struggling with energy bills or finances.

Each Cosy Corner offers something a little different. But whichever of our community centres people visit, they can find a warm and friendly space to relax, keep warm and get advice about staying warm this winter. People will also be able to visit a Cosy Corner for:

- free tea and coffee
- energy saving advice
- use of charging points
- get support and advice about cost of living

People can also speak to our community centre teams to find out about any other support we can offer you and your family.

**Come in for:**

- Free tea and coffee
- Energy saving advice
- Use of charging points
- Cost of living support and advice

# Cosy Corner

**Everyone is welcome!**



**For more information:**  
[www.peabody.org.uk/cosy-corners](http://www.peabody.org.uk/cosy-corners)

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# E.Y.F.S.

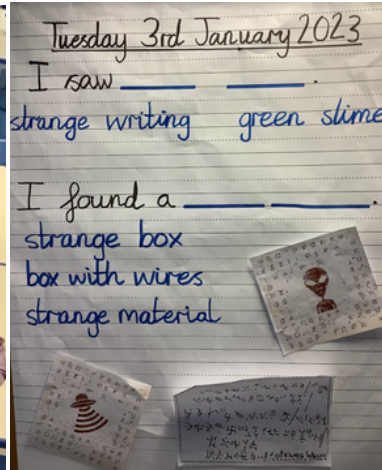
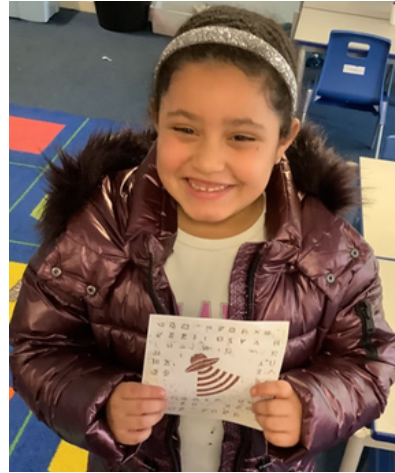


Reception launched their new topic 'Storytellers' by coming into school in their pyjamas and with their favourite cuddly toy. Lots of different adults from around the school came to read traditional tales to the children. We loved story time!



# Year 1

On Tuesday, Year 1 investigated some strange occurrences that had been happening at school over the break. We discovered strange objects, some strange writing and symbols. We worked out that there must have been an alien somewhere in the school



# Year 2

## Year 1 and 2

As part of our topic Hakuna Matata we made a 'campfire' in the classroom and told wishing tales including Aladdin and The Golden Touch - The Story of King Midas. We then had the opportunity to make our own wishes for the future.



Year 3 are reading 'The Pebble In My Pocket' written by Meredith Hooper as part of their 'Rock, Paper, Scissors' topic.

This term they were sent on a secret mission out on the school field discovering rocks as well as their core text. Year 3 have started reading their first non-fiction book of the school year about the life of a rock from when they were created and how they form, based on the type of rock and how they look today. They have also begun learning about the different ages of human history, from the Stone Age to the Iron Age and how human technology has evolved.



# Year 3



# Year 4

For our Hook activity, we used newspaper articles and research to investigate how a whale ended up in the River Thames. We generated our own questions to find out more information about the whale and if the whale had a good chance of surviving in the River Thames.



# Year 5

Year 5 attended a class POWWOW - here we celebrated the amazing tradition of oral story telling. We shared Native American dances and indigenous Folktales. This was to immerse the children in our FOLKTALES writing topic.



Year 6 students were immersed in a CODE BLUE activity as a hook for their writing this term. Through this activity, they were able to recognise how a threat would make them feel, identify people around them who make them feel safe and explain how they would want others to treat them if they were in danger.

# Year 6



## Jupiter

Jupiter's stripes and spots are actually clouds, made of gases of ammonia and water, floating in an atmosphere of hydrogen and helium.



- Earth is not flat, but it's not perfectly round either.
- The days are getting longer.
- There weren't always several continents.
- Earth's icy times.
- The driest place on Earth.
- Earth's gravity isn't uniform.
- In the past, sea levels were very different.
- Our sun has a voracious appetite.

In science to launch our topic of SPACE we researched and filmed ourselves learning about the planets in our solar system.



INCLUSION AT WILLOW BANK



**Bexley Information Advice & Support Service (IASS)**

Bexley IASS are statutory services offering information, advice and support to parents and carers of children and young people with SEN

Bexley IASS aims to promote good working relationships between children, young people, parents, education settings and the Local Authority (Council), whilst seeking to empower parents to play an active and informed role in their child's education.

IASS can support parents, carers, children and young people in a number of ways. Providing a range of services which are:

- Confidential, accessible and FREE.
- Provided by IASS staff who are independently trained.
- Working within the obligations and expectations as set out in Chapter 2 of the SEND Code of Practice



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=2&v=CoSiCbMTUAc&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=CoSiCbMTUAc&feature=emb_logo)

We are pleased to introduced a new member of our Inclusion Team Mrs Gregory who is our SEND Assistant working alongside Ms Gonzalez (SENCo) on Mondays and Tuesdays.


Mrs Gregory has worked with children for many years and has a passion for supporting children and their families.

Mrs Gregory is looking forward to getting to know everyone.




To keep you informed, Mrs Day will be spending the rest of the half term at another school in the Trust. Miss Jones and Miss White will be here to support the children who are normally seen by Mrs Day.






**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

# Safety Tips For Parents




**TALK ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS**

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.




**USE PRIVACY SETTINGS**

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.




**ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE**

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.




**EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF**

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.




**LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.



**MODERATE SCREEN TIME**

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.





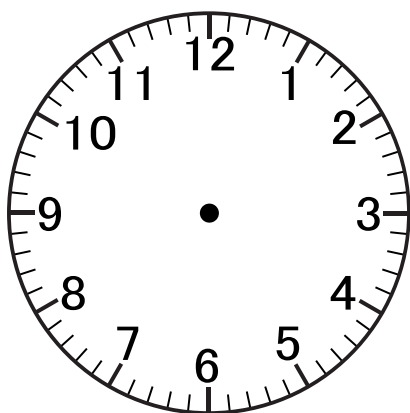
WELLBEING



Well done to:	Our target is over 96%
Magnolia - 89.7%	Yew - 86.4%
Hornbeam - 90.9%	★ Mulberry - 96.6%
Alder - 88.6%	Redwood - 86.4%
Laburnum - 85.3%	★ Almond - 96.7%
Hazel - 92.2%	Walnut - 95.7%
Larch - 89.0%	★ Sycamore - 96.0%



THUNK OF THE WEEK



If both hands fall of a clock, is it still a clock?

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



## The Role of the Reading Ambassador at Willow Bank Primary School

Reading Ambassadors were recently introduced to Willow Bank Primary school by Mrs Oldfield with the purpose of encouraging students to read.

### How are the Reading Ambassadors Chosen?

To become a Reading Ambassador there are six reading passport stages that one has to pass through namely: Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond. In a nutshell, one has to have read successfully for 3000 minutes to qualify to become a Reading Ambassador and each of the stages require reading for 500 minutes.

### What is the Job of a Reading Ambassador?

Reading Ambassadors help in encouraging other students to read constantly as reading is an important aspect of learning. Reading Ambassadors create a conducive environment for reading through the creation of reading clubs and speaking in assemblies and now as reading buddies where books are being shared at lunchtimes with KS1 children.

I hope you have enjoyed this piece of writing.

Written and published by  
**Barakah (Hazel Class)**

(Edited by the Reading Ambassadors).



*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.*



**EYFS and KS1 Parent Reading Morning**

**Every Thursday from 8:40-9:10am**

**All parents and carers welcome!**

PIRATE

DAY



**Thursday 19th January**

**Cheese & Tomato Pizza**

**Served with Herby Wedges, Baked Beans or Sweetcorn**

**Followed by,**  
**Iced Vanilla Sponge ,**  
**Chocolate Crispy Cake**  
**or Fresh Fruit**

A healthy food meal is important for children and young people to keep healthy and improve their performance

