



Dear Parents and Carers,



This week at Willow Bank Primary, we have been celebrating National Storytelling Week, and what a fantastic time we have had! Every class was delighted to receive a special Storytelling Chest, filled with a wonderful selection of stories and poems to enjoy during daily story time. The children embraced the joy of storytelling, learning their favourite tales by heart and performing them to each other in a special celebration assembly this morning. Reading stories—sometimes over and over again—helps to instil a lifelong love of reading for pleasure, providing an escape for our emotions and imagination:

We are also extremely proud of our WBP football team, who played a friendly match against St Michael's Church of England School last Friday. The team, made up of both girls and boys across Key Stage 2, showcased our core values of respect, aspiration, and resilience, winning the game 11-1! We are looking forward to a rematch at St Michael's after half term, and the excitement is already building as children await team selections for the next game.



Another highlight of the week was our Year 5 trip to the Science Museum, where children explored the exhibits linked to their Big Question: 'How has space exploration changed our world?'. They learned about the Apollo 11 moon landing and engaged with a range of interactive displays. We are incredibly proud of how well they represented Willow Bank Primary throughout the trip.

Additionally, we had the pleasure of welcoming senior leaders from Days Lane Primary School for our EdTech Study Tour via LGfL. The focus was on exploring accessibility with iPads, particularly how technology empowers SEN pupils with independence. Our visitors were impressed by the confidence and enthusiasm of our pupils as they demonstrated how they use iPads to enhance their learning in the classroom.



A huge thank you to all the parents who joined us for Larch Class' sharing assembly last week. It was wonderful to see you enjoying the children's presentations and taking the opportunity to look through their books. We hope you found it an insightful experience into their learning this term.

Important Reminder:

- INSET Day: Friday, 14th February – School will be closed to children on this day.
- Last Day of Term: Thursday, 13th February.

We hope you have a lovely weekend and look forward to another fantastic week ahead!

Best wishes,
Mrs Oldfield and The Willow Bank Team



Year R

In Magnolia, we have loved welcoming parents to our weekly reading mornings. The children absolutely enjoy having their grown-ups join them to read our traditional tales, and they have been especially excited to explore our big books together!

The children truly enjoy reading alongside the adults, and it's wonderful to see their love for learning spread across our reception class. This time together has been invaluable in helping the children with segmenting, blending, and improving their fluency. Thank you all for joining us week after week!



Year 1

In Year 1, we have been focusing on two key skills: decoding words and using prosody. Decoding involves breaking words into individual sounds and then blending them together, which helps the children recognise and understand new words more easily. Alongside this, they are learning to read with prosody - reading with the right rhythm, pace, and expression—to make their reading engaging and expressive. These foundational skills not only boost their confidence in reading aloud but also lay the groundwork for their future success in literacy.



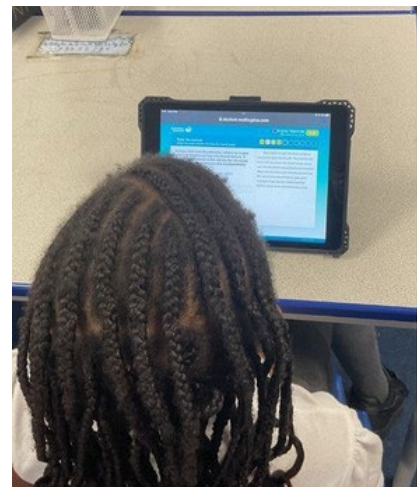
Year 2

In Year 2, we continue to build on decoding and prosody skills to develop fluency and confidence in reading. Children practice reading with accuracy, appropriate expression and a steady pace to enhance their understanding and engagement. These skills help them read more smoothly, improving comprehension and preparing them for more complex texts as they progress in their literacy journey.



Year 3

In Year 3, we have been trying hard with our Reading Plus programme. It is a new app to us this year and we are thoroughly enjoying using it, especially earning our certificates when we go up to a new reading level! "Using reading plus has helped me with my comprehension skills as I am now answering questions correctly more often, I also feel a lot more confident when reading."-Glory





Year 4

This term, Year 4 have been diving into a variety of books from our classroom book corner and showing an incredible commitment to their reading journey. Reading has truly become a daily habit in Year 4, and we are so proud of their enthusiasm and dedication. Many children have been taking home books and reading every day with their adults, strengthening their comprehension skills and fostering a lifelong love for literature.



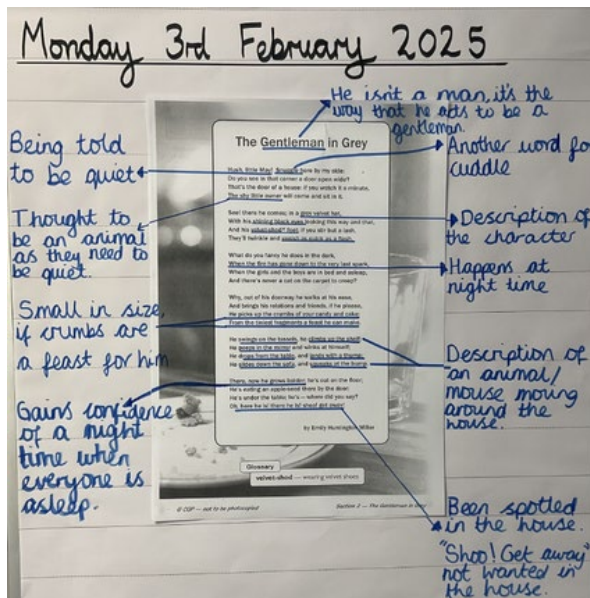
Year 5

In Year 5, we have started a daily reading club. Each morning, we come in and read until 9 o'clock, either to ourselves or out loud to an adult. We have really been enjoying Enid Blyton's Magic Faraway tree series and the Famous Five.



Year 6

Year 6 are continuing to work on annotating texts as they read to improve their understanding. They have been reading the poem, 'The Gentleman In Grey' by Emily Huntington Miller this week, identifying words they might need to clarify, summarising parts of the poem and looking to infer hidden meaning... what is The Gentleman in Grey?



OUR CORE VALUE FOR SPRING 1 IS KINDNESS

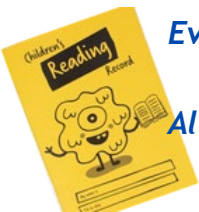




KS1 & EYFS Parent Reading Morning

Every Thursday from 8:40-9:10am









All parents and carers welcome!



We are looking for Read with Me volunteers at Willow Bank! These volunteers will visit our Yr 1 & 2 classrooms and listen to our children read.

If you are interested in volunteering with us for 30 minutes or an hour each week, then please pop into the office to express your interest and pick up our application pack.



Well done	Our target is over 96%
Magnolia - 95%	Yew - 99% 
Hornbeam - 93%	Redwood - 93%
	Almond - 96% 
Hazel - 99% 	Walnut - 97% 
Larch - 98% 	Sycamore - 96.5% 
	

School Reminder

Children should not arrive earlier than 8.20am, for Bagel Breakfast club from 8.25am - 8.35am
 School gates close at precisely 8:50am. After this time, entrance is via the school office and parents will need to sign your child/children in using the screen.

A reminder that we have our Chance To Chat.

As a school we provide ongoing support for the children’s wellbeing and mental health to which one of the methods is they can fill out a form while in school to express their worries. The form then gets placed in the ‘Chance to chat’ box where it will be addressed by the wellbeing team.

We also have an online form which is located on the school website named ‘Chance to chat’.

The children can complete the form if they are worried about something or need some advice? A member of staff will get back to the child at school.

Please copy the link below and paste in the search bar and it will direct you straight to the form.

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=MvrWB2Z-r0qnuEuN-gjOI1CAPQc0X4RFje43giTliLNUOE5BWUFISE40VjBXODZYRVFITINXVzZYNCQIQCN0PWcu>



Photos of children may be taken for promotional purposes. If you do not give consent to this please state when booking.




New prizes to be won!

February Half Term FOOTBALL COURSE

BOYS AND GIRLS 5-13 years
All abilities

£45 per week
or £15 a day

- Woodland Academy Trust Discount
- Sibling discount (non trust members)

Willowbank Primary School, Seacourt Rd, London, SE2 9XB

Please Bring: Packed Lunch, Drinks, Trainers & Shinpads.
Rewards include: Certificates, Medals & Trophies.
Coach Qualifications: UEFA and FA Qualified Coaches; FA Child Protection; Safeguarding & First Aid Training.

17-21 Feb | 10am-3pm

Sam Cassell
07539 016184
Little.Achievers@outlook.com
📍 littleachievers1 📱 littleachievers_

Running of the day

- 10-10.30am
Arrival and registration
- 10.30-10.45am
Warm up games
- 10.45-12 noon
Technique and skill based learning
- 12 noon-1pm
Lunch time
- 1.00-1.30pm
Morning recap
- 1.30-2.45pm
Themed tournament
- 3pm
Home time

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What to bring

- Packed lunch
- Lots of drink
- Comfortable clothing
- Football boots, Astro turfs, Trainers (No metal studs or blades)
- Shinpads

Rewards

- Little Achievers attendance certificate
- Medals
- Trophies

Coaches qualifications

- UEFA and FA Qualified Coaches
- FA Child Protection
- FA Safeguarding
- First Aid Training



SEND Half Term Activities

FREE

Taster sessions - 17th / 18th / 19th Feb

Inclusive Rugby, Yoga and Dance session for D/deaf, disabled, or neurodivergent young people

All abilities and genders welcome!



When?

Monday 4-5pm (Rugby)
Tuesday 4-5pm (Yoga)
Wednesday 2-3pm (Dance)

Who?

Young people aged 5-16

Where?

St Stephen's Church Hall
DA16 3QL

Sign up here:

bit.ly/BexleyHalfTerm2025
Or scan the QR code!






Access Sport

If you have any questions please contact:

📞 020 7993 9883

✉ Disability.Inclusion@AccessSport.org.uk

Supported by 



TEA & TALK

PARENT/CARER SUPPORT GROUP



Tuesday 11th February - 9:30am-12:30pm

**The Danson Youth Centre, Brampton
Road, Bexleyheath, DA7 4EZ**

Join us for a cuppa and an informal chat about anything SEND. Members and non-members are welcome. Come along for all or part of the morning.

The main session starts at 9:30am when we will have a discussion about **transitions in key phases such as nursery to primary, primary to secondary and secondary to post 16, with the Bexley Voice Team.**

At 10:30am we will hear from:

- Lance Campell, **Eye Care Champion from Seeability**
- Gwen Jerrom from the **Specialist Dental Service**

After this, there will be plenty of time to chat with other parents and carers and the BV team.

You can also book 1-1 appointments with:

- Kate Courtney, Designated Clinical Officer for SEND, for any health related enquiries
- Danny Graham - Benefits Advisor from DWP

Please book your 1-1 appointment via our website:

<https://www.bexleyvoice.org.uk/tea-talk.html>