



Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe how this half term has flown by! We have certainly crammed a lot into the past few weeks and are already looking forward to the exciting learning planned for Spring 2.

Laburnum Class enjoyed their trip to the Greenwich Maritime Museum linked to their core text and humanities topic of rivers. The children were excellent ambassadors for the school and we are very grateful to all our parent volunteers who supported on the day.

Every class has been busy this week completing their writing outcomes for our displays around the school. Teachers stayed late on Wednesday evening ensuring the children's outcomes are displayed with pride and reflect our high expectations. We are really looking forward to inviting parents into classes for our Spring term Parents Evenings on 22nd and 23rd March so you are able to see our wonderful learning environment.

There has been a huge response to our after school clubs this week. We are very grateful to all staff that lead the clubs and to the office staff who ensure communication is strong. Unfortunately, there are limited spaces so we are aware that some children may be disappointed; however we do keep a record to ensure the application process is fair and the clubs are accessible to as many children as possible.

After half term we will be inviting children to attend taster sessions of our new 'WBP Breakfast Club' provision in the school hall. Please keep an eye out for your child's letter! We have plans to provide a daily breakfast club of cereal or bagels from 8:15-8:40am to support our school community and give children a great start to their day.

Finally, today we say goodbye to Miss Davies and Mr Macdonald who will be moving on to start new roles after the half term break. We would like to thank them for all their hard work this year and wish them all the best for the future.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term break. We look forward to welcoming the children back on **Monday 20th February** at 8:40am..

Best wishes,
Mrs Oldfield



Writing Newsletter

As we near the end of this half term, each year group has been working hard on the presentation and content of their work. EYFS are continuing to focus on their letter shapes and moving that onto writing full words, then sentences. Years 1-6 have been producing their final writing outcomes which will be published across the school until summer term. The children can show the pride and care they take in crafting a piece of writing to all adults, children and visitors.

E.Y.F.S.

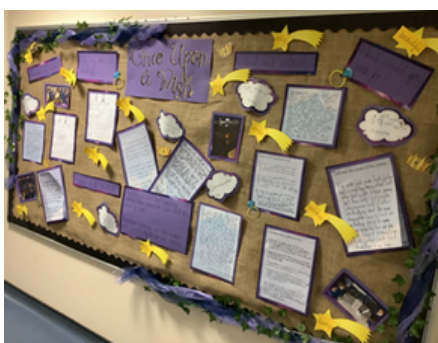


In **Magnolia**, we have been using The Gingerbread Man as a stimulus to becoming storytellers ourselves. We were thinking about which characters we liked and



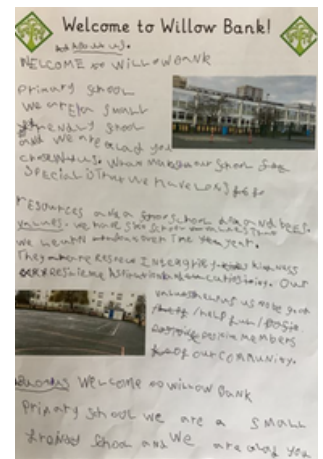
Year 2

Across **Year 2**, we have been focussed on 'wishing tales' and been inspired by our core text, Lila and the Secret of Rain. We chose our own wishes and magical objects and used them as inspiration for creating our own stories.



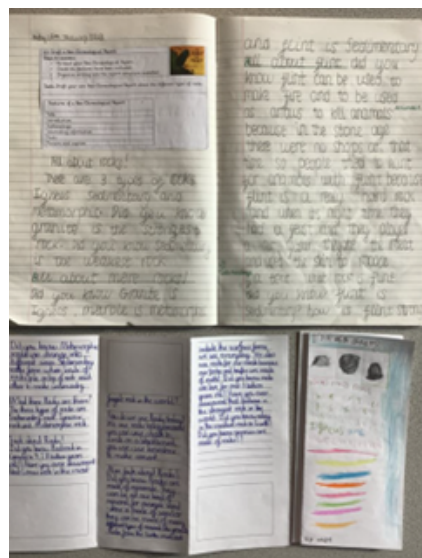
Year 1

In **Yew**, we created a fact file about the school, our values and what like best about Willow Bank.



Year 3

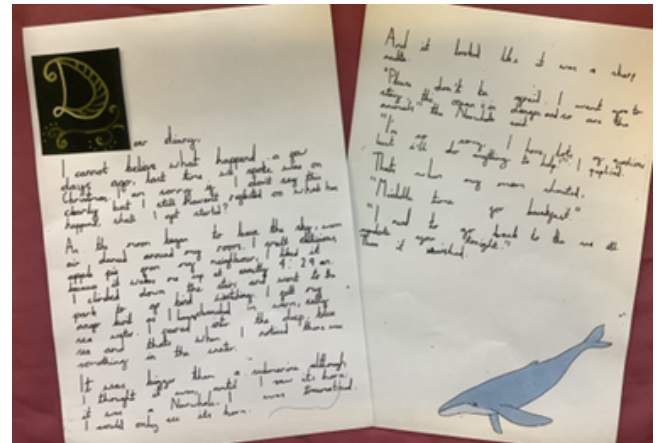
In year 3, we have been reading Pebble in My Pocket and using that as inspiration to create our own non-chronological reports about rocks. First, we drafted our writing in our books and then we created our own leaflets to publish.





Year 4

Year 4 have been using the core text, *The Morning I Met a Whale* as a stimulus for writing our own diary entries. We explored the key moments between characters in the story, identified their emotions and used conjunctions to make our writing coherent.



Year 5



Year 5 have been exploring oral traditions from North America and using our core text, *The Woman Who Outshone the Sun* to create our own traditional folk tales.

Year 6

In **Year 6**, our core text has been *The Arrival*. We looked at the images in the book and discussed the emotion and trauma caused to families who are forced to migrate to a different country. We then wrote balanced arguments around the question: Should unaccompanied migrant children be granted permission to stay in the UK?





INCLUSION AT WILLOW BANK

Miss Gonzales and Miss Nembhard attended a conference on Wednesday about Metacognition - supporting children to think about their thinking!

Research shows that when you encourage the adoption of metacognitive strategies, your child is more likely to improve their attainment.

For this reason, we are focusing on how you can encourage the use of such metacognitive strategies, helping them progress in their learning.

When supporting your child at home, discuss with your child responses to the questions of:

Planning

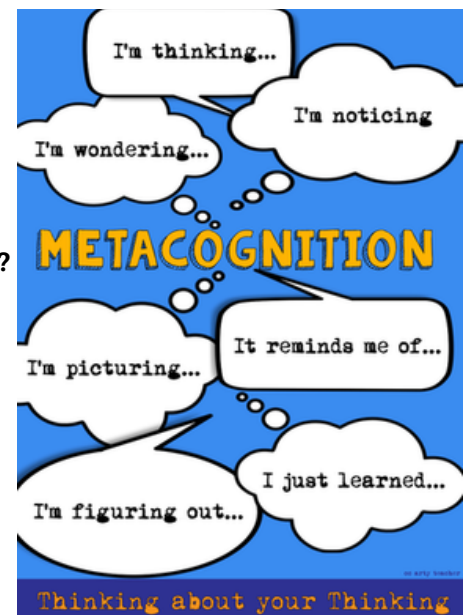
- What is the goal of this task?
- Have I completed such a drawing before and how did it go?
- Where is the best place to start?
- Do I need extra resources to help me?

Monitoring

- How am I doing here?
- Is there something I could change to help me reach the goal?
- What has gone well so far?
- How am I feeling about this task?
- Do I need to take a break and come back to this later?

Evaluating

- How did it go?
- How would I do this differently next time?
- Did I reach the goal set at the start?
- Is there a technique I would use differently next time?
- Did I start in the right place?



Keeping Children Safe

If you're worried that anyone under the age of 18 might need help, or is being neglected or hurt, you must tell someone.

We know people feel nervous about speaking out in case they interfere or make things worse - but it's much better to be wrong than do nothing. Taking action could help protect a child from harm.

If you're a concerned member of the public, you can:

- call Children's Services at the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 020 3045 5440 and speak to a social worker. If you're worried you'll be put in a difficult position, you can speak to them anonymously. The opening hours are Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm
- if it's out of hours, call 020 8303 7777 or 020 8303 7171
- drop in and see us at Civic Offices, 2 Watling Street, Bexleyheath DA6 7AT





WELL BEING

Courageous
Friendly
 Considerate
 Compassionate
Kindness
 Thoughtful
 Generous
Human



Well done to:	Our target is over 96%
Magnolia - 95.0%	Yew - 91.4%
Hornbeam - 93.4%	Mulberry - 93.1%
★ Alder - 98.5%	★ Redwood - 98.5%
Laburnum - 93.5%	Almond - 94.7%
Hazel - 93.5%	★ Walnut - 97.2%
Larch - 92.1%	★ Sycamore - 96.0%

THINK OF THE WEEK



Can you touch the wind ?



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!



We are looking for Read with Me volunteers at Willow Bank! These volunteers will visit our EYFS, KS1 and KS2 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.