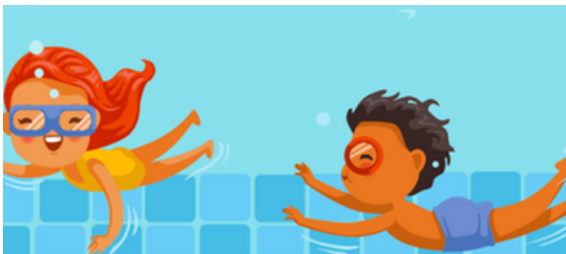




## Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy week at Willow Bank filled with exciting learning opportunities. Here is a roundup of some highlights from this week, along with important updates.

**Reception Settling In** - We are delighted to see how quickly our new reception children in Magnolia Class have settled into their daily routines. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring their indoor and outdoor provision, making new friends, and beginning their phonics learning journey, setting a strong foundation for their future learning. Well done, Magnolia Class!



**Year 4 Almond Class Swimming Lessons** - Year 4 have been splashing their way through their weekly swimming lessons at Crook Log Swimming Pool. These lessons are not only a fun way to stay active but also teach a life-saving skill that will bring years of enjoyment. The children are making excellent progress, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts.

**KS1 Parent Reading Mornings** - It was wonderful to welcome so many KS1 parents to our first Parent Reading Morning of the new school year on Thursday! This weekly event will take place every Thursday from 8:40 to 9:10 am, and we invite all KS1 parents to join their child in the classroom to share a book. Our goal is to inspire every child to read daily, both at school and at home. We hope this helps to instil a lifelong love of reading, and also enhances their confidence and progress across all curriculum areas.



**Spelling Lists** - Each child will bring home a list of spellings to learn as part of their weekly home learning. These words will either come from their high-frequency word list or focus on particular spelling patterns. Please set aside a few minutes each day to practice these spellings with your child. Your support is invaluable in helping them retain and recall key knowledge.

**Wishing You a Relaxing Weekend!** As always, your involvement in your child's learning is greatly appreciated, and it makes a significant difference in their development. We hope you enjoy a restful weekend. Best wishes,

Mrs Oldfield and the Willow Bank Team



## Year R

This week reception have enjoyed exploring their new reading corner in their classroom. They are also very excited to be taking their school reading books home each day to share stories with adults at home.



## Year 1

This week in whole class reading we focused on the text Winnie The Witch! We read part of the text and predicted what might happen to the characters in the story using the text and pictures to help us. We also started our guided reading groups this week and have enjoyed decoding and using prosody in our reading!



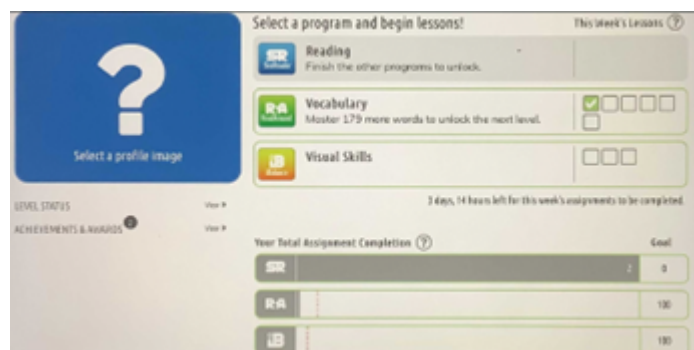
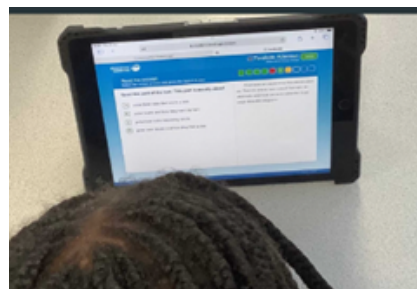
## Year 2

In Year 2, children continue to build on their reading skills with increased fluency and comprehension. They explore a wider range of texts, from storybooks to informational texts, learning to recognise more complex words and understand their meanings. Class reading activities often include group reading sessions, where they practice reading aloud and independent reading time, allowing them to enjoy books at their own pace.



## Year 3

In year 3, we have been exploring Reading Plus. Our experiences of Reading Plus so far have been nothing but positive! We are loving the wide variety of different texts and genres available to us; an extra incentive is the possibility of a certificate, which we are all eager to earn.





Year 4

Almond class are excited to be reading (This Morning I Met a Whale) by Michael Morpurgo! They're captivated by this powerful story, sparking meaningful discussions about nature, conservation, and adventure.



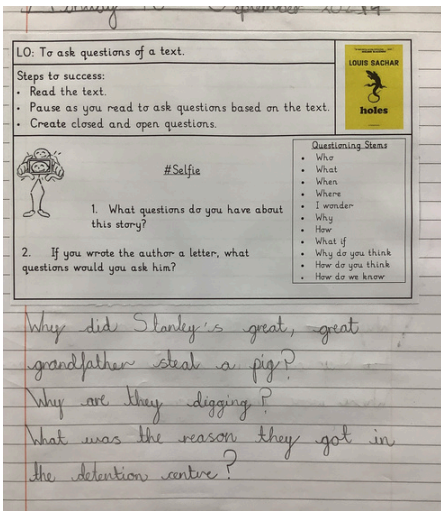
Year 5

Children in Year 5 are currently enjoying reading "Children of Benin Kingdom." They are using strategies such as prediction, evaluation, and summarising to deepen their comprehension and engage more fully with the story.



Year 6

This term, year 6 have been considering their Big Question: Is it Appropriate to Celebrate Law Breakers? In reading, we began looking at the book 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. Our reading focus was about asking questions, based on both the cover as well as the first three chapters of the story. This week, we started to develop our summarising skills to give a succinct synopsis of part of the story.



OUR CORE VALUE FOR AUTUMN 1 IS RESPECT

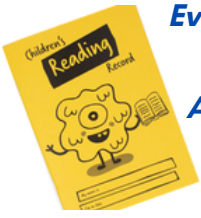




**Y1 and Y2 Parent Reading Morning**

**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 - 99%	Yew - 92%
★ Hornbeam - 96%	★ Redwood - 97%
	Almond - 91%
★ Hazel - 96%	★ Walnut - 97%
Larch - 93%	★ Sycamore - 97%
	

**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-giOI1CAPQc0X4RFje43giTliLNUOE5BWUFISE40VjBXODZYRVFITLNXVzZYNCQLQCN0PWcu>



# PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS CHANGING

**1**

## FIRST OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days  
Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

**2**

## SECOND OFFENCE (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.

The following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.

**3**

## THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a Parents future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

## 10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10-WEEK PERIOD

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

Please follow the link for the Publication that will start from 19th August 2024.  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance)



Does your child get anxious about school? Take part in some free parenting / carer workshops delivered by an Educational Psychologist

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We warmly invite you to participate in our upcoming online parenting workshops, designed to support you in developing your child's well-being and reduce anxiety. As Educational Psychologists, we would like to introduce the Friends Resilience program, which serves as the basis for our sessions.

### About the Friends Resilience Programme:

Friends Resilience is an early intervention program developed by Professor Paula Barrett. The program has a strong evidence base, approved by the World Health Organisation, for reducing anxiety and low mood (Essau et al., 2012). This program, involves developing effective coping skills for managing challenging situations, building problem-solving abilities, building peer relationships and other support networks and teaching how to create coping step plans, breaking down goals into achievable steps. <https://frienresilience.org>

### Why Attend?

- Learn how the programme can support and enhance your child's well-being.
- Learn practical strategies to help your child bounce back from challenges.
- Discover effective ways to enhance your child's emotional well-being and overall happiness.
- Engage in insightful conversations and share experiences with other parents and caregivers.
- Benefit from the expertise of educational psychologists with a passion for nurturing children's mental health.
- Connect with other parents on the same journey, creating a supportive network.

### How to Register and Join

1. Mark your calendar for the relevant dates and times in the table below. If you would like to receive an invite link via email, please email: [michelle.clubb@bexley.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.clubb@bexley.gov.uk)
2. Download Microsoft Teams if you haven't already. <https://teams.microsoft.com/joinustart>

<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> FRIENDS Workshop</b> Date: Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 Time: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Platform: Microsoft Teams</p>
<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> FRIENDS Workshop</b> Date: Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 Time: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Platform: Microsoft Teams</p>

**10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL**

Change can be hard for children to manage, being back to school after a long summer break might cause them to feel uncertain about their friendships, school routines and relationships with new teachers. Trained adults play an important role in providing both practical and emotional support.

- 1 LEARN WHAT EQUIPMENT YOU NEED**  
Plan a list of all equipment needed for the start of the school year. Consider items like school bags, lunch boxes, water bottles, and stationery. Check the school website for a list of required items.
- 2 COMMUNICATE WITH THE SCHOOL**  
Establish a communication channel with the school. This could be through a parent-teacher meeting, a school newsletter, or a dedicated email address. Share any concerns or needs you have.
- 3 CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE**  
Check the school website regularly for updates on school events, policies, and contact information. This is a great way to stay informed and connected to the school community.
- 4 HELP TO MANAGE FRIENDSHIPS**  
Encourage your child to talk about their feelings and experiences with friends. Help them to develop coping strategies for managing social situations and conflicts.
- 5 PLAN SELF-CARE**  
Encourage your child to take care of themselves. This includes getting enough sleep, eating healthy food, and taking breaks when needed. Self-care is essential for managing stress and anxiety.
- 6 MANAGE TRICKY FEELINGS**  
Acknowledge that it's okay to feel nervous or anxious about school. Help your child to identify their feelings and develop strategies to manage them, such as deep breathing or talking to a trusted adult.
- 7 SECURE A SCHOOL UNIFORM**  
Ensure your child has a school uniform that fits well and is comfortable. Check the school website for the uniform code and any specific requirements.
- 8 PREPARE FOR TRANSITION DAYS**  
Prepare your child for the start of the school year by talking to them about the new year and the new teachers. Encourage them to share their excitement and any concerns.
- 9 READ THE MENTAL HEALTH POLICY**  
Read the school's mental health policy to understand the support available for children with mental health issues. This can help you to know what to do if your child is struggling.
- 10 LEARN ABOUT SEN SUPPORT**  
Learn about the school's Special Educational Needs (SEN) support. This can help you to understand the services available for children with SEN and how to access them.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Anna Taylor is a qualified mental health professional for schools, an author and a speaker. She has worked for several years in the education sector, supporting children with mental health issues. She is currently a Senior Lecturer at the University of Bexley, where she teaches on the MSc in Educational Psychology.

**Wake Up Wednesday**  
The National College

[www.wakeup\\_wednesday.com](https://www.wakeup_wednesday.com)  
@wakeup\_wednesday



**LOVE BRITISH FOOD:  
PIE WEEK**  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September



**Monday: Apple Lattice Pie**  
**Tuesday: Open Chicken Pie**  
**Wednesday: Cottage Pie**  
**Thursday: Root Vegetable  
Crumble**  
**Friday: Caramelized Sweet  
Potato Pie**



**Willow Bank  
Primary School**



Wednesday 2nd October 2024  
Wednesday 6th November 2024  
Wednesday 4th December 2024  
Wednesday 8th January 2025


09:30 - 10:00 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



Bexley Early Years Entitlement  
Parent Questionnaire 2024



**Bexley are carrying out their annual  
childcare sufficiency survey.  
Please scan the barcode**

**The 111 NHS helpline number is now providing  
support for those experiencing mental health  
crisis.**



Copy the link for more information:  
NHS England » NHS 111 offering crisis mental health  
support for the first time