



Mathletics has been launched across school and the children are loving it! It is proving to be a fun way of motivating our children to practise their maths skills. Look out for more fun Mathletics challenges coming soon!



A special mention to Finley Smith in IC who worked so hard on Mathletics over the half term holiday that he was on the top 100 leader board! Well done Finley - we are very proud of you.



We would like to welcome **Mrs Bedford**, who is teaching 5D, to our permanent teaching team. Mrs Bedford is a very experienced teacher and is a great asset to our teaching team.



This month is **Safer Internet Month** at Willow. Your children will be finding out all about the potential dangers of using the internet and how to stay safe.



The **February Reading Challenge** was completed by many children over half term, who demonstrated their love for reading. Well done to the **83 children who returned their challenge sheets**. Enjoy the prizes!
A Special mention to Josiah Potts (Y4), Martha Potts (Y6) and Finley Smith (Y1) who completed ALL of the reading challenges!!
WOW!

Year 3 Ancient Greek Day



The children really enjoyed the Ancient Greek Day that the company History Off the Page delivered. The children took part in a range of activities from mosaic making to being Ancient Greek doctors and finding cures. In the afternoon, they took turns in groups to perform different plays and indulged in a small, Ancient Greek feast. They looked fantastic in their costumes! A big thank you to the parent volunteers for their help, and well done to the children whose behaviour was excellent on the day. Well done!

Miss Myers and Mr Cambell



In order to promote great attendance we are planning to hold a **Going for Gold** week each half term. Our first one will be the week commencing Monday 27th March. We will be challenging all children to attend school every day for the week. If they do, their names will go into a draw for a prize! On Friday 31st March, children and staff will be invited to wear an item of yellow or gold clothing to celebrate the day. Prizes will be available for classes with 100% attendance. More information will follow soon.



A big thank you from Mrs Ostle and Mrs Carroll to all of the parents and carers who

supported the Year 1 Art Gallery on Thursday 16th February. The work produced by the children at the end of our Paws, Claws and Whiskers topic was fantastic and showed what they had learnt throughout the topic, learning about different animals. They were all very proud of what they produced and how it looked in the gallery, enjoying showing it to their grown-ups and talking about their work and the work of others.

Imaginative Learning Project - Hook Days

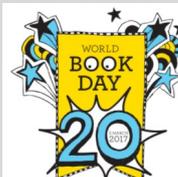
With a new half term, comes new Imaginative Learning Projects. School was buzzing on Tuesday and Wednesday with children excited and engaged in their Hook activities for their new projects. Children and staff in our Foundation Stage came to school in their pyjamas and enjoyed a day filled with stories. Thank you to all the parents who came and joined in with the craft activities.



Year 2 children had a messy day painting, printing, making playdough and working with clay - Miss Burgen even got to make a clay hand print with the children! The Year 4 children also used clay, working together in small groups to make their own mountains for their new project Misty Mountain Sierra. While in Year 6, the children made model Anderson shelters as an introduction to their project A Child's War.



All of the children, in every year group really seem to have had a fantastic time and we are looking forward to sharing what the children have learnt with you before the Easter holidays.



As part of our **World Book Day** events we held another breakfast and would like to say thank you to the parents and carers who attended with their children. It is always lovely to see the support we receive at these events and we look forward to holding more of these throughout the year.



Currently at Willow, we have an Interim Executive Committee however we are looking to move over to a Local Governing Body in the near future. In

order to do this, we need to recruit some new governors. If you would be interested in becoming a governor yourself or if you know of anyone from local businesses that may be interested then please come and talk to us about what the role entails.

We would love you to join us on Willow's journey to good and beyond.



Could parents of Year 2 children please take them directly to their classroom door in the morning and drop them off

there. This has already proved successful with the Year 1 children and we would like the Year 2 children to have the same positive start to the day. Many thanks.

Keeping You Informed - School Improvement

Last half term was a busy one so we wanted to update you with the progress we have made. The following is a brief list of our key successes last half term:

- A new writing teaching sequence was introduced and children now have more opportunities to write at length.
- New maths teaching sequences have been introduced and children are developing and applying their mathematical skills.
- Imaginative Learning Projects were introduced and the children are now more engaged in their cross curricular learning.
- Teaching and learning expertise is being shared across school as part of teachers' professional development.
- Our new ASPIRE values were introduced and the children are all working hard to demonstrate them.
- Our new behaviour policy was introduced and children are rising to our raised expectations.
- Bug Club was relaunched and every child has in school has a Bug Club login.
- Athletics was introduced and each child has a login so that they can improve their maths skills in a fun way.
- New quality guided reading books were purchased to ensure that children have interesting and challenging texts to read in school.
- Teaching assistant hours were increased so that children have more support with their learning in the afternoon.



So, we have completed our first week of **Family Dining at lunchtime and what a big change it has been!** In just one week, we have

managed to refine the process so that it is now running smoothly. The children have been fantastic; they have stepped up to being servers and have shown that they are willing to try new foods. We would like to thank our cook Cheryl, our kitchen staff, midday supervisors, teaching staff - in particular Mrs Winter and Mrs Lindle - but most of all our fabulous children who have made family dining a resounding success!

Midday Supervisors Wanted

We are looking to increase the number of midday supervisors that we have. If you would be interested in applying, please call into school for more information.



On **World Book Day**, the children took part in a sponsored word scavenger hunt. Classes were paired so that the older children could support the younger ones. They had lots of fun finding and reading as many words as they could in the time limit. Many thanks to all parents who sponsored children or supported their children in getting sponsors. Please could you return all sponsor money as soon as it is collected. The deadline for returning is Friday 10th March. Once all the money is collected, we will let you know how much we raised and what the funds will be spent on. Many thanks for your support.



School Uniform

Many thanks for your feedback on our school uniform and the raised expectations. Following your feedback we have looked at some different options and have decided that we will use Tesco as an additional supplier of the logo jumpers, the existing jumpers will still be available through the school office.

More information about how these can be purchased will follow soon.

Children must wear the logo jumpers and cardigans by the start of the new school year in September.



@AcademyWillow

Friends' of Willow

Friends of Willow are a group of parents who support our school by running fund raising events and helping out with a range of school activities.

They are hugely valued by our school but they are a small group of parents. We are looking to increase the size of the group. If you would like to be involved, we would really appreciate your support. It is not necessary that you help out at every event.

If you are interested, just let us know.

Reading Support



Could you spare a few hours a week to listen to children read? **If you would be interested in supporting**

our children with reading in school please let us know. We are always grateful for reading support.

Parents' Evening

Our parents evenings will take place w/c 27th March. More details to follow. We look forward to having the opportunity to talk about your child's progress. More details to follow.

Diary Dates

9th March	Book Sale at 4pm
13th March	Whole school Assessment week begins
22nd March	Y6 Road Safety event
23rd March	Mother's Day Coffee Morning
24th March	Red Nose Day
27th March	'Going for Gold' attendance challenge Week
27th March	Parents Evening week
30th March	Class Photographs
3rd April	Topic work showcase week
6th April	Drama Club Performance to parents
7th April	School closes at the end of the day for Easter Holiday

Thank you for completing the feedback surveys earlier in February, your feedback is invaluable to us.

It was clear that you support the developments taking place and we look forward to continuing to work alongside you.

Mrs Sumner, Headteacher.

Miss Burgen, Head of School.