



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderful start to the new half term! Children have returned from the break ready to learn and have been engaging in their Big Bang hook sessions this week with enthusiasm. Please see the fantastic photos and year group blogs later in the newsletter to see what exciting learning experiences your child has been involved in.

Yesterday we sent a link to our two-minute **Parent Lunch Survey** to gather parent voice regarding the option to introduce a halal meat service at WBP. Thank you to everyone that has already responded. Please use the following link <https://forms.office.com/e/M7T9wucgNb> or QR code to access the survey and have your views heard. The survey will remain open until Friday 17th November and we would like as many responses as possible to inform our decision making. Thank you in advance for your support.



**Autumn Parents' Consultation Evenings** – please check your emails for an important letter informing you how to book an appointment with your child's class teacher at our forthcoming parents' evenings on **Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th November**. The meetings will take place in your child's classroom to give you an opportunity to see their learning environment as well as look at their learning in books. Appointments are 10 minutes only during which you will discuss your child's current targets as well as how they have settled into their new school year. This will also be an opportunity for you to look through the class floor book containing the class published writing outcomes from Autumn 1.



Our free daily breakfast club continues to be extremely popular with 60-70 children coming every day to enjoy a warm toasted bagel or bowl of cereal to start the day. A polite reminder that we serve from 8:25-8:35am, so please do not come earlier than this time, particularly in the cold weather, as there are no staff to supervise before 8:25am. Thank you for your cooperation.



The children enjoyed a firework safety assembly this week, led by Mr Poole, as there will be many families enjoying bonfire night over the weekend. Please enjoy the festivities and take care of each other and your pets.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend.



Best wishes,

Mrs Oldfield and the WBP Team





This term we will be looking at our core text 'Lets Celebrate'. The children came into the classroom decorated with balloons and we discussed different types of celebrations. The children wore party hats and we started to write our names on party invitations, cut out different shapes for our pumpkins and create cupcakes using play dough.

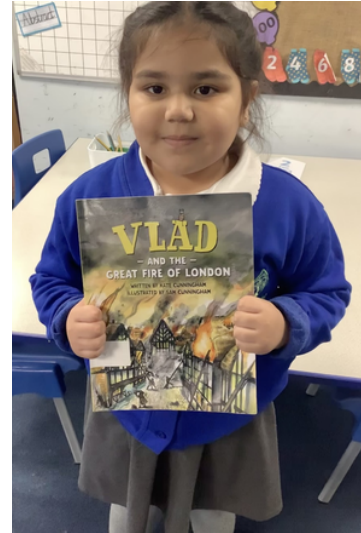


EYFS



## Year 1

In writing , year 1 have explored the book Vlad and the Great fire of London. We had great fun learning the song London's burning singing in rounds and performing to Mrs Oldfield!



## Year 2

Today we received an email from the London mayor asking for our help!



*Dear Hornbeam Class,  
I'm hoping you can help me!  
I need to write new fact-files for different London landmarks and I've heard you are learning all about London and can help me find out about these places for me.  
Please could you click on the links below and record what you have found out.  
I look forward to hearing from you soon.  
Sadiq Khan*

We used Google Earth, Google Maps to look at maps showing London. We also researched London using the internet and recorded what we had learnt on Showbie.



## Year 3

During our hook lesson, children were volcanologists who were tasked with looking at volcanic eruptions and how they occur. To simulate our own volcanic eruption, we performed the coke and mentos experiment to show how a volcanic eruption spills over the crater and causes damage to the surrounding area.







**Year 4**



Year 4 students embarked on an educational adventure to explore the fascinating journey of water through the water cycle. Through interactive lessons and hands-on activities, they delved into the world of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. Their journey culminated in an engaging play that brought the water cycle to life. With enthusiastic performances, Year 4 transformed their classroom into a stage where the story of water's miraculous transformation from vapor to liquid to ice was vividly portrayed. This playful learning experience left a lasting impression and deepened their understanding of this fundamental natural process.

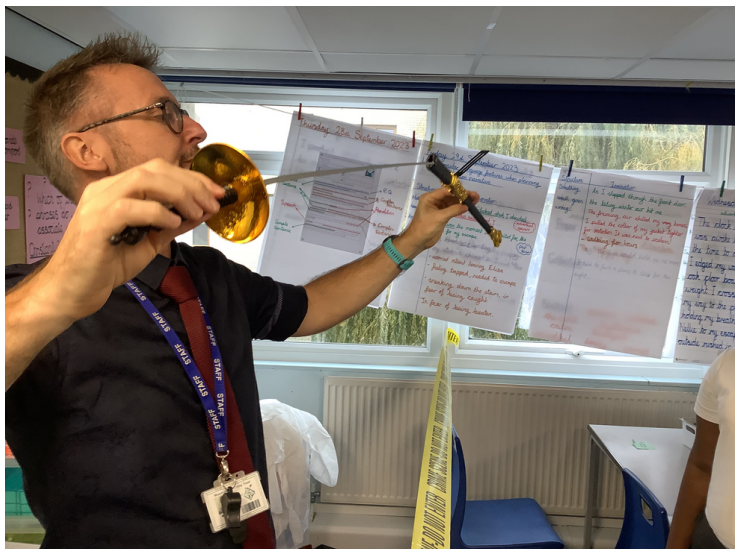
As part of our hook lesson in year 5, we went on a scavenger hunt through our forest area, where we found passages and read them aloud in groups. We next considered and talked about the similarities and differences between the experiences and places in the book and the school forest. We talked about the ways in which nature might serve as a story-telling inspiration.

**Year 5**



**Year 6**

As part of our new topic, Crime and Punishment, year 6 came back to school this week to find a crime scene in Larch class! The children had to examine the clues that had been left behind and devise a hypothesis for what had happened, who the victim was and who could have committed the crime.



**OUR CORE  
VALUE  
FOR AUTUMN 2  
IS  
INTEGRITY**





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.

<b>Well done to:</b>	<b>Our target is over 96%</b>
<b>Magnolia - %</b>	<b>Yew - %</b>
★ <b>Hornbeam - %</b>	★ <b>Redwood - %</b>
★ <b>Laburnum - %</b>	★ <b>Almond - %</b>
★ <b>Hazel - %</b>	<b>Walnut - %</b>
<b>Larch - %</b>	<b>Sycamore - %</b>



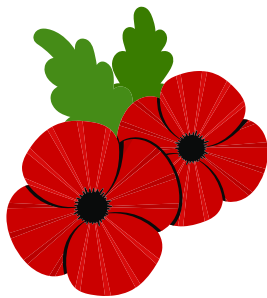
**Well DONE**

**Key Dates**

**Next week:**



Poppy donations - school office



**Forthcoming dates:**

**Parents Evenings:**

Wednesday 29/11/2023 -

3:45pm - 7:15pm

Thursday 30/11/2023

-3:45pm - 6:15pm

**29/11/2023 - Bexley CAMHS Mental Health Support Team on site during Parents Evening.**

Willow Bank Primary School

Tuesday 3rd October  
Tuesday 7th November  
Tuesday 5th December  
Tuesday 9th January

10:00 - 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

**SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT**  
A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From climate change to the war in Ukraine and the conflict in Israel, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to upsetting stories, images and ideas. Reassuring or concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news keeps on presenting. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

- FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS**  
There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both with their parents and without. Start by asking your child what they know already, then follow up with questions about what they have to say, practice active listening and show them how much your child has been impacted by what they've seen.
- RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE**  
Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is rushing for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose times when they're relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have time but also ensure you're not in a place where these conversations can become awkward or embarrassing. Remember your child feels safe and comfortable.
- KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE**  
With younger children, try and keep the questions more general and avoid leading questions and come over direct. You can go slightly deeper with older children where they're ready, but keep monitoring their responses. Children often feel nervous when they know they can do something to help, so offer them a way to get involved through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.
- EMPHASISE HOPE**  
Upsetting content can make origins feel awful, scary, and/or overwhelming. Try to find and emphasise the positive and strengths related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel nervous when they know they can do something to help, so offer them a way to get involved through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.
- MONITOR REACTIONS**  
All children react differently, of course, and young people may feel sad or overwhelmed. They're worried, angry, anxious, confused and they may have strong emotions in moments of stress. It's important that you're aware of these natural when discussing upsetting topics, to take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings as it's a really important space and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.
- CONSIDER YOUR OWN EMOTIONS**  
It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process: adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children sharing coping strategies by discussing those around them, so taking a bit of time outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.
- SET LIMITS**  
Managing screen-time and content can be difficult even in normal circumstances, but it's even more important that there's a limit at the start of the pandemic, for example. It's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try to limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screen-time limits.
- TAKE THINGS SLOWLY**  
Try not to overwhelm your child with information or to force them to look at the first conversation you have. You don't need to be the first conversation you have. It's important to be patient and willing to talk again. Opening the door to the conversation doesn't mean you're exposing your child to talk to you about this type of issue in the first place.
- ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS**  
Online, trending images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to ask you about what they've instead of being angry at you. Encourage them to ask you about what they've seen, and to focus on positive events instead of dwelling on what's making them feel overwhelmed by bad news.
- FIND A BALANCE**  
There's often a tremendous temptation to stay right up to date with events. Our phones are frequently used to push notifications and it's easy to get lost in a scroll of news. It's important to take a step back and focus on what's important to you and your family. It's important to take a step back and focus on what's important to you and your family.
- BUILD RESILIENCE**  
News has never been more accessible, while our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting content, it's important that they're aware of what they're exposed to. Talk about upsetting content, and encourage them to ask you about what they've seen, and to focus on positive events instead of dwelling on what's making them feel overwhelmed by bad news.
- IDENTIFY HELP**  
It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they're struggling. Encourage them to talk to an adult that they trust and to let them know they're aware of that help is available if and when they need it.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Corynne Jorgensen is the director of Future South Africa, which is a reporting system that is currently being used by schools and colleges to fight bullying across the world. Corynne helps give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up and get the help they need and not just stand by.

**NOS National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

@nationalonline\_safety | @national\_online\_safety