



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank You for Attending Parent Consultations



A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our consultation meetings this week. We had an excellent turnout and truly value the strong partnership we share with our families. Your support makes a world of difference to your child's progress, confidence, and overall happiness at school. It's wonderful to have such a collaborative community working together to help every child thrive.

Year 5 Visit to The British Museum

Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic day at The British Museum this week, linked to their History Big Question: "Why was the Benin Kingdom so important in West African history and culture?" The children had the opportunity to explore a range of fascinating exhibits, gaining a deeper understanding of the art, history, and achievements of the Benin Kingdom. Their curiosity and enthusiasm for learning were a real credit to the school!



World Mental Health Day



Today, we marked World Mental Health Day by wearing something yellow to raise awareness and show our support for positive mental health. Throughout the week, children were also invited to take part in a range of mindful lunchtime activities in our Inclusion Hub with Miss White – from calming colouring and breathing exercises to gratitude reflections. It was lovely to see so many children taking time to focus on their wellbeing and learning strategies to help them feel calm and positive.

Looking Ahead – Final Week of the Half Term

Next week will be our final week of this half term – how time flies when we are having fun learning! The children will be busy publishing their writing outcomes, which will soon be displayed around the school for everyone to enjoy.



We will also be saying a very sad goodbye to Miss Cooke, our wonderful School Business Associate, who is moving on to a new role. **Miss Cooke** has worked across several schools in the Trust, and we have been so grateful for her time, kindness, and dedication at Willow Bank. Her hard work and support of both staff and children have been invaluable, and she will be greatly missed by us all. We wish her every success and happiness in her new chapter.



Key Dates for Next Half Term

KS2 Class Assemblies

- Friday 14th November – Hazel Class
- Friday 21st November – Larch Class
- Friday 28th November – Redwood Class
- Friday 5th December – Almond Class

Other Dates

- 4th November – New Reception Open Morning
- 6th November – Reception Parents Coffee Morning
- 11th November – Remembrance Day
- Week beginning 10th November – Anti-Bullying Week
- 13th November – Anti-Bullying Parent Workshop
- 12th–14th November – Year 6 PGL Residential
- Week beginning 8th December – Year 6 Bikeability Week (sign-up required)
- 11th December – Christmas Jumper & Dinner Day / WBP Winter Wonderland
- 17th December – EYFS/KS1 Nativity to parents
- 18th December – KS2 Christmas Songs Performance to parents
- 19th December – Last Day of Term



Wishing all our families a lovely weekend as we head into the final week of this half term.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mrs Oldfield and The Willow Bank Team





I like going around the school to help children improve themselves and push their skills. For example, sometimes children don't think their work is good enough and I can help them improve and see they can achieve, which helps them get better.

I like going to different classrooms to give advice on how teachers can do things in a different way, so we help our whole community improve together.

AM, Year 4

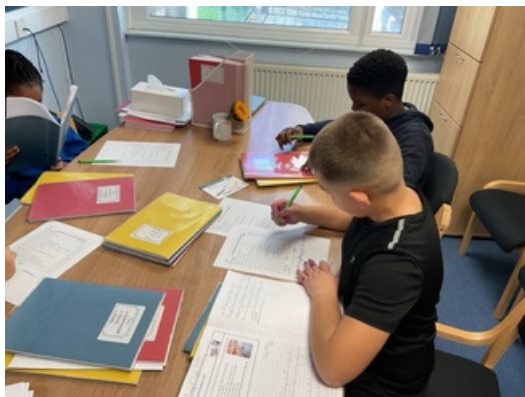
To me, being a school ambassador means being more like a leader because we get to do learning walks around the school, for example, in science, we get to see how lessons are taught in different year groups. We will report back to the adult subject leader who will then use what we tell them to help make our learning better. The important thing is the adults are then hearing what children think about the lessons.

VS, Year 6



WBP Presentation Panel

Each week, our School Presentation Panel meets with Mrs Oldfield to celebrate great effort and pride in children's written work. Class teachers put forward a selection of children's books for review, and members of the panel carefully assess them against a set of presentation criteria. This helps pupils understand what they are doing well and what their next steps are to improve even further. If a child meets all of the criteria — and the panel are known for being very fussy! — they are proudly awarded their pen licence in assembly. Children love being part of the panel and taking on this important responsibility. As Adeeva shared, *"I enjoy looking in other children's books,"* while Jaime added, *"I really like checking other people's writing."*



Willow Bank Pen Licence Checklist 2025 2026	
Name:	Class:
Writing is cursive and sits on the line	
The correct joins are used	
Capital letters are not joined	
Capital letters are the correct height and sit on the line	
Ascenders are the correct height	
Descenders are the correct size and are looped where appropriate	
Letters show the correct orientation	
Letters are consistent in size	
Mistakes are crossed out using a single straight line made with a ruler	
Beginning letters have lead-ins	
In maths books, children only write one digit per box	
All Learning Objectives to be stuck in neatly and in a straight line	
The date is written in appropriate size with capital letters for proper nouns	
All books show the expected standard	
Pen Licence granted: Yes/ No	
Date:	
Signed:	Name:



PLAYLEADERS / PUPIL VOICES



Hi I am the manager of the playleaders, we are here to make sure everyone is having fun and is safe outside. If anyone needs help or there is an issue I am ready to help, along with the other playleaders.

BY LARISSA

Hi I am one of the CEO's of the playleaders and my job is to make sure everyone is safe and having fun during lunch times. I also support all the other playleaders to do a great job.

BY EMMANUEL

JEREMIAH

How happy are you at school? Very happy was selected
 How safe do you feel at school? Very safe was selected
 How well do staff help you when you feel worried? Very well was selected
 How easy is it to make friends and get along with other pupils? Very easy was selected
 How well do staff help children behave well and follow rules? Very well was selected
 What do you enjoy most about school?
 I enjoy group activities the most.
 Is there anything you find difficult or stressful at school?
 I find art difficult because I cant always keep up.
 Do you feel your opinions are listened to at school?
 Always
 What one thing would you like to improve at school?
 I think more equipment
 Any other thoughts or suggestions?
 I don't have any as I think the school is fine



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

DEALING WITH TRAUMATIC & CHALLENGING EVENTS

Children and young people may face a wide range of traumatic or challenging events – from bereavement and illness to bullying, family breakdowns, or witnessing violence. These experiences can affect their mental health, behaviour, relationships, and academic progress. With the right support from trusted adults, children can begin to feel safe, rebuild resilience, and develop healthy coping strategies. This guide offers practical and empathetic ways to provide support and promote positive outcomes.

1 A PREDICTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Children who have experienced trauma often feel unsafe or uncertain. Creating routines, setting clear expectations, and maintaining consistency can help restore a sense of security. This structure offers reassurance and helps children feel more in control of their surroundings.

2 USE LANGUAGE THAT MATCHES THEIR AGE

Speak clearly and sensitively, choosing words that are appropriate for the child's age. Avoid overwhelming them with too much information at once. Offer gentle, honest explanations and focus on reassurance, especially when talking about difficult or sensitive subjects.

3 TRAUMA AND THE BODY

Mention briefly that trauma can show up in physical ways, such as changes in sleep, appetite, concentration, or as physical aches and pains. Consider this before labelling behaviour as 'difficult' or 'lazy'. Some children may become withdrawn, while others may be more outwardly challenging. Highlight that there's no 'one way' children respond.

4 AVOID RETELLING OR RELIVING TRAUMA

Children sometimes get asked to explain or repeat their experience multiple times. Striking a balance of when to listen and when to gently redirect can help to avoid unnecessary re-traumatisation. Acknowledge, but don't probe for detail unless safeguarding procedures require it.

5 AVOID DISMISSING OR MINIMISING FEELINGS

Seemingly well-meaning comments like "It's not that bad" or "You're okay" may shut down children's emotional expression and are often not helpful. Instead, acknowledge what they're feeling, even if it seems small. Validating a child's emotions helps them feel seen and encourages open communication in future.

6 UNDERSTAND HOW THEY'RE FEELING

Many children don't have the words to express their emotions, especially during distress. Supporting them to name what they're feeling – such as angry, scared or sad – builds emotional literacy. Tools like emotion charts, drawing, or storytelling can help externalise feelings in a safe, manageable way.

7 BE AWARE OF YOUR OWN RESPONSES

Children pick up on adult emotions and reactions, often mirroring them. Staying calm, even in challenging situations, helps children feel more secure. Practising your own self-regulation is an important way to model healthy stress management and encourages children to do the same.

8 SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

While many children benefit from everyday emotional support, some will need more specialised help. If symptoms persist, worsen, or disrupt their daily life, consult with school safeguarding leads, a GP, or a mental health professional. Early intervention can prevent long-term difficulties and support healthy recovery.

9 MAINTAIN CONNECTION

Isolation can worsen the impact of trauma. Encourage involvement in group activities, praise their efforts, and ensure they feel like a valued part of the school or family community. Meaningful connection with trusted adults and peers builds resilience and a sense of belonging.

10 BE PATIENT – HEALING TAKES TIME

There's no quick fix for emotional recovery. Children may have good days and setbacks, and progress may not always be visible or linear. Your ongoing support, patience, and presence can help them move forward at their own pace, knowing they are not alone.

Meet Our Expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school by integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture, and systems. She has been a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday

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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 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.



	Our target is over 96%
Magnolia - 98% ★	Yew - 96% ★
Hornbeam - 97% ★	Redwood - 98% ★
Almond - 96% ★	Hazel - 96% ★
Larch - 99% 🏆	
	🏅

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>