



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this newsletter finds you well and that you've had the chance to hear all about the exciting events taking place during our Storytelling Week. It was a week filled with enchanting moments, fostering a love for reading and storytelling among our children.



**Monday's Cosy Kick-off:** To start the week, on Monday, children gathered in the hall for a bedtime story read by their class teacher. The hall was transformed into a magical setting, adorned with fairy lights and a warming fire, creating a truly cosy atmosphere.

**Tuesday's Buddy Reading Session:** Tuesday brought a unique experience for our students with a buddy reading session. Children had the opportunity to share their favourite books with peers from another class, honing their reading skills by practising aloud with expression and fluency.

**Wednesday's Teacher Swap:** On Wednesday, teachers enjoyed swapping classes to read their favourite stories to children across the school. It added a personal touch, allowing students to experience the joy of storytelling from different perspectives.

**Thursday's Record-Breaking Parent Reading Morning:** A heartfelt thank you to all parents who joined us on Thursday for our Parent Reading Morning. We were delighted to welcome a record number of parents, and it was heart warming to see so many of you immersed in books with your children. Your participation contributes immensely to instilling a love for reading for pleasure.



**Friday's Special Assembly:** The week concluded with a special assembly where every class, including EYFS, showcased their storytelling prowess. Using emojis, live actions, and creativity, each class retold their favourite stories to the rest of the school, making for an entertaining and engaging end to Storytelling Week.



**Exciting Outdoor Makeover:** In addition to the captivating storytelling events, we are thrilled to share that our outdoor area has undergone a remarkable makeover, thanks to the generous funding and dedicated workforce provided by Peabody. We look forward to filling the new planters with vibrant flowers come spring, creating a beautiful and inspiring environment for our school community.



**Upcoming End of Term Reminder:** As we approach the end of Spring 1, we'd like to remind you that the last day of term for children is Thursday, 8th February. Please note that Friday, 9th February, will be a professional learning day for our staff.

Thank you for your continued support in making Willow Bank Primary School a place where the magic of storytelling and a love for learning thrive.

Kind regards,

Mrs Oldfield and the WBP Team



Next week we will have a special visitor from Children's University. Louise Chalkley will talk to the children about how they can earn credits through their clubs and visits that they participate in which will help them graduate.

Children's University is a charity that works in partnership with schools to develop a love of learning in children. We do this by encouraging and celebrating participation in extra-curricular activities in and outside of school. The impact of these activities is proven to be positive which is why we're committed to creating a level playing field of opportunity and opening up access to children of all backgrounds.

On Wednesday 7th February 2024, there is a parent workshop at 8:50am in the main hall. Please come along to meet with Louise and find out more about how you can add activities to your child's profile which will count towards their university passport.

### **A reminder that we have our Chance To Chat.**

All our children are able to write a slip and post it through the box, which is checked by the well-being team.



Each child is given a certain amount of time to talk to a member of wellbeing. In this time children are free to talk about what ever they wish.

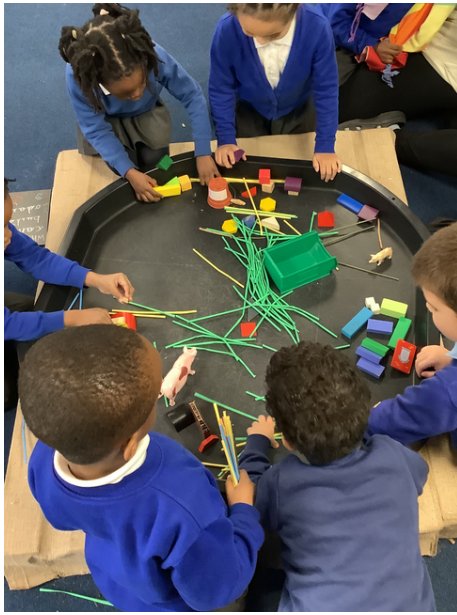
This gives each and every child to get that 1:1 time.







## Reception class



This week Magnolia have been experimenting with different materials to make houses for the Three Little Pigs. Did their house stay up after the Big Bad Wolf huffed and puffed? We made sure we used heavy and hard materials to keep the pigs safe.

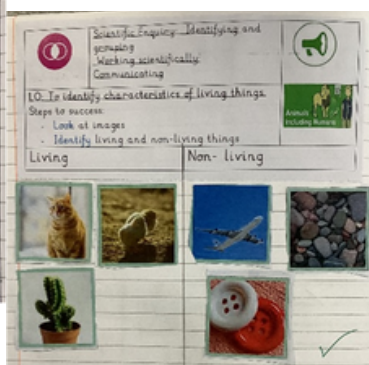
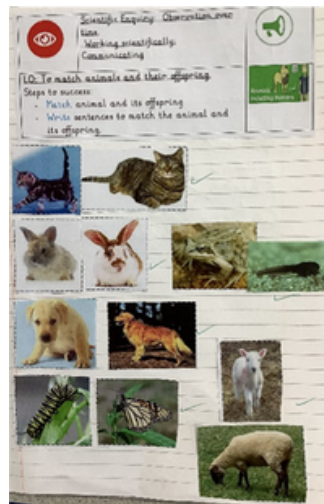
## Year 1

This term in Science the children in Year 1 have been exploring the topic of Seasons. The children had the opportunity to create their own rain gauges using plastic bottles. The children will then use these rain gauges for their scientific investigation where they will be checking (daily) and measuring the amount of rain that falls on each day and record their findings in a table.

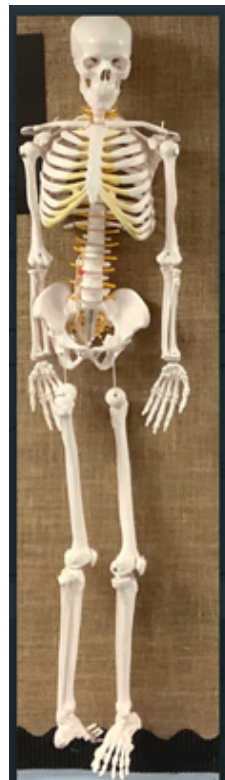


## Year 2

In Year 2 our topic is animals including humans. We began our topic by identifying objects that are living and non-living. We then explored the different animal groups, identifying similarities and differences between them. We have also been learning about the lifecycles of both animals and humans.



## Year 3



In year 3, we have been looking at animals including humans. Our focus this term has been to identify the three different skeleton types. Firstly, we needed to recognise the characteristics of each skeleton type. Secondly, we needed to classify different species of animals based on their skeleton's characteristics.

LO: To sort animal skeletons into groups.

Steps to Success

- Understand what vertebrates and invertebrates are.
- To know the different skeleton types.
- Identify the differences between each skeleton type.

Sort the animals into their correct skeleton groups.

Endoskeleton	Exoskeleton	Hydrostatic Skeleton
Fish ✓	Spider ✓	Flat worms ✓
Shark ✓	Crab ✓	Jelly fish ✓
Dog ✓	Poisonous spider ✓	
Cat ✓	Snails ✓	



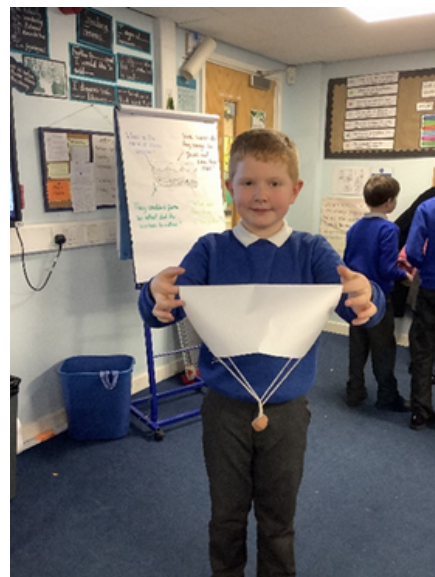
## Year 4

Exciting news from Year 4's science class! This term, our budding scientists are delving into the fascinating world of sound. They've been busy exploring how different instruments produce various pitches of sound. From tinkling triangles to booming drums, they're discovering the secrets behind the music we love. Stay tuned for more updates on their scientific journey!



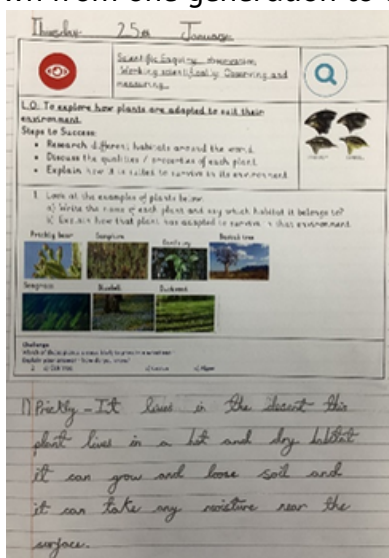
## Year 5

In year 5 we have been investigating forces and applying our knowledge through experimentation. This week we were investigating the effect that changing the surface area of a parachute would have on the rate of descent.

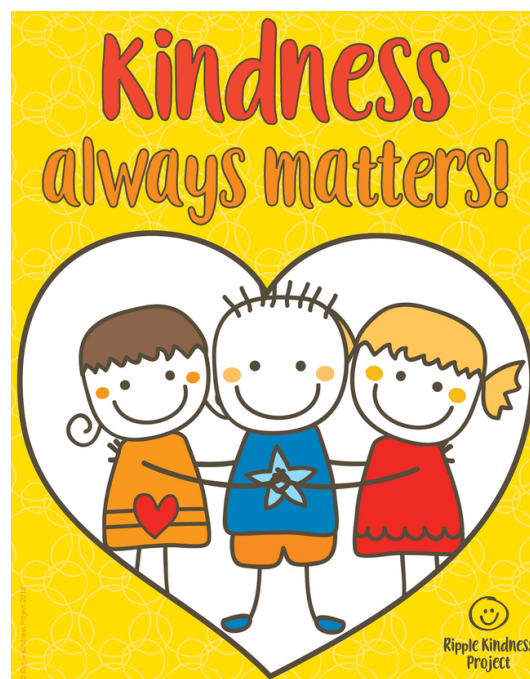


## Year 6

In Year 6, students delve into the fascinating world of evolution and inheritance, unravelling the secrets of life's diverse tapestry. From the awe-inspiring process of natural selection to the inheritance of traits that shape living organisms, young minds explore the interconnected web of life. Year 6 students developed a profound understanding of how species evolve over time and how traits are passed down from one generation to the next.



OUR CORE VALUE FOR  
SPRING 1 IS  
KINDNESS







## 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.

Well done to:	Our target is over 96%
Magnolia - 94.0%	Yew - 90.0%
Hornbeam - 89.0%	Redwood - 93.0%
Laburnum - 92.0%	Almond - 93.0%
Hazel - 95.0%	Walnut - 92.0%
Larch - 91.0%	★ Sycamore - 98.5%
 	

### Key Dates



#### Next week:

**Tuesday 06/02/2024:** - Coffee morning Speech And Language Team Coffee morning for Y1, Y2, Y3 parents.

**Thursday 08/02/24:** - Y6 Sycamore class Sharing Assembly.

Youth Unity Workshops for Y6

Also last day of term

#### Forthcoming date:

**Monday 19/02/2024:** - First day of Spring 2 term



## EYFS & KS1 PHONICS & READING WORKSHOP

With Mrs Lee



Thursday 22nd February  
@ 9am

Straight after parent reading morning in the school hall.



Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

### We will share:

- How we teach Phonics & Early Reading
- How to use the Big Cat books with your child
- The importance of daily reading & reading records







## GT CENTRE OF SPORT

# FEB HALF TERM CAMPS

**COURSE**

**1- SPORTS**  
(football, dodgeball, basketball, cricket, tennis & much more)

**2- DANCE/GYMNASTICS & TRAMPOLINING**

**VENUE**  
Trinity School, Belvedere, Erith Road DA17 6HT

**AGES 5-14**  
School Years (R-8)

**DATES**  
Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Feb  
Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Feb  
Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Feb

**TIMES & PRICES**  
10.00am-3.00pm  
(Early drop off free of charge)  
£15.00 per child  
Sibling/ Friend Discount  
£40 per child for all 3 days if signed with a sibling/friend

Join GT Centre of Sport for endless fun over half term. Our courses are designed to engage children so that they can gain skills, make friends and keep active throughout the holidays. All coaches are fully qualified, DBS checked, safeguarded and have up to date first aid. Children will need to wear suitable clothing, trainers and have a packed lunch.

**How to Book**  
For further booking instructions or alternately register your interest online

[f](https://www.facebook.com/gtcentreofsport) [i](https://www.instagram.com/gtcentreofsport) [t](https://www.tiktok.com/gtcentreofsport)

[info@gtcentreofsport.com](mailto:info@gtcentreofsport.com)  
01322-333157 | 07816537127  
[www.gtcentreofsport.com](http://www.gtcentreofsport.com)



## HALF-TERM CAMPS



£20 per day  
£80 weekly

MULTI-SPORTS AT OLD BEXLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL  
FOOTBALL AT DANSON SPORTS CLUB

12 FEBRUARY TO 16 FEBRUARY

09:00 TO 16:00 MONDAY TO FRIDAY | OPEN TO BOYS AND GIRLS

RECEPTION TO YEAR 8



FOR MORE INFORMATION, AND TO BOOK, VISIT

[www.concept4football.co.uk](http://www.concept4football.co.uk)

Photos of children may be taken for promotional purposes, if you do not give consent to this please state when booking.



## February Half Term

# FOOTBALL COURSE

**BOYS AND GIRLS**  
5-13 years  
All abilities

**£45 per week**  
or £15 a day

- Woodland Academy Trust Discount
- Sibling discount (non trust members)

**Friday Funday!**

Northumberland Heath Primary School,  
Wheelock Close, Erith, DA8 1JE  
(Brook Street entrance)

**12-16 Feb | 10am-3pm**

Please Bring: Packed Lunch, Drinks, Trainers & Shinpads.  
Rewards include: Certificates, Medals & Trophies.  
Coach Qualifications: UEFA and FA Qualified Coaches;  
FA Child Protection; Safeguarding & First Aid Training.

**Sam Cassell**  
**07539 016184**  
[Little.Achievers@outlook.com](mailto:Little.Achievers@outlook.com)  
littleachievers1 littleachievers\_

Photos of children may be taken for promotional purposes, if you do not give consent to this please state when booking.



## February Half Term

# MULTI-SPORT COURSE

**BOYS AND GIRLS**  
4-13 years  
All abilities

**£45 per week**  
or £15 a day

- Woodland Academy Trust Discount
- Sibling discount (non trust members)

**Friday Funday!**

Limewood Primary School,  
2 Sandy Road, Erith,  
Kent, DA8 1FJ

**12-16 Feb | 10am-3pm**

Please Bring: Packed Lunch, Drinks, Trainers & Shinpads.  
Rewards Include: Certificates, Medals & Trophies.  
Sports include: Basketball; Dodgeball; Handball;  
Motor Skills; Kick Ball; Benchball; Football; Tag Rugby;  
Racket Skills; Tennis; Badminton.

**Sam Cassell**  
**07539 016184**  
[Little.Achievers@outlook.com](mailto:Little.Achievers@outlook.com)  
littleachievers1 littleachievers\_