



Dear Families

Happy New Year to you all!



Mrs Beresford  
Head Teacher

It has been a real pleasure getting to know the children, staff, and wider community at Willow Bank over the past week. Thank you to everyone for such a warm and welcoming start, as well as for all the kind words and good wishes I have received. I am very much looking forward to working closely with you all as we move forward together this term.

This week, the children have been busy completing their launch activities for their new learning. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and curiosity, and I have particularly enjoyed listening to them talk about their ideas, share what they have learned so far, and ask thoughtful questions about the topics they will be exploring in class.



As the weather has turned colder, please ensure that children come to school with appropriate warm clothing, including coats and jumpers. We would also appreciate it if all items are clearly labelled with your child's name, as this helps us return any misplaced belongings quickly and easily.

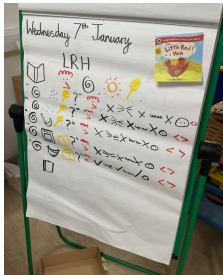
Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,  
Mrs Beresford  
Headteacher



## Year R

This week, the children have been learning all about The Little Red Hen as part of our topic on Traditional Tales. We started the week in our pyjamas and were very excited to welcome different visitors who came in to read stories with us. The children have really enjoyed exploring the story through printing activities, writing, and creating their own story maps, helping them to retell the tale in their own words and develop their storytelling skills.



## Year 1

This week Year 1 received a set of instructions on how to make a musical shaker from recycled materials. We worked together to read the instructions and make the instrument. We also read our core text – Ossiri and the Bala Mengro, and made predictions and inferences using the text to help us.



## Year 2

Year 2 had an exciting start to their new class text, The Very Last Castle. The children read a mysterious letter that sparked curiosity and set the scene for the story. Using a soundscape, they imagined the sights and sounds of a castle, from creaking doors to windy towers, before bringing their ideas to life by drawing the castles they could picture in their minds. It was a fun and imaginative lesson that captured their interest and prepared them brilliantly for the story.



## Year 3

This term, Year 3 has begun learning about natural disasters and why they occur. As a hook to the topic, the children participated in an exciting outdoor volcano experience related to "Escape from Pompeii." They worked in teams to build a model of Pompeii, act out daily life, and re-create a volcanic eruption.







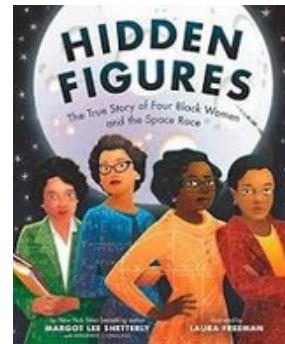
## Year 4

Almond Class enjoyed a tea-tasting experience inspired by our core textbook Cloud Tea Monkeys. Pupils sampled and rated five teas out of ten, discussing flavours, preferences and sensations while building curiosity, communication skills, and confidence in expressing their opinions.



## Year 5

This week, the children in Year 5 have been watching Hidden Figures as part of their reading and writing learning. The film has supported rich discussions about perseverance, equality and teamwork, while helping pupils develop inference skills and make meaningful links to our class text and wider curriculum



## Year 6

In Year 6 we had a speaker named Gerry Hahlo visit to tell us the amazing story of his family's escape from the Holocaust. Wanted for the crime of having Jewish ancestors, they were forced from their home and eventually separated and emigrated to other countries – His grandfather to Bolivia, and his aunt and uncle to England. The picture is of his grandfather and father in Germany in the early 1930s, before their lives were changed forever.



## OUR CORE VALUE FOR SPRING TERM 1 IS KINDNESS





### 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 attendance target is to reach over 96%

Magnolia - 93%	Yew - 98% ★
Hornbeam - 96% ★	Redwood - 90%
Almond - 95%	Hazel - 89%
Larch - 98% ★	 

### School Reminder

Children should not arrive earlier than 8.20am for Breakfast club, this runs 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>



**Happier January 2026**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
5 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths	6 Take five minutes to sit still and just breathe	7 Learn something new and share it with others	1 Find three things to look forward to this year	2 Make time today to do something kind for yourself	3 Do a kind act for someone else to help brighten their day	4 Write a list of things you feel grateful for and why
12 Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat	13 Take a different route today and see what you notice	14 Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today	8 Say positive things to the people you meet today	9 Get moving. Do something active (ideally outdoors)	10 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why	11 Switch off all your tech at least an hour before bedtime
19 Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough	20 Go to bed in good time and allow yourself to recharge	21 Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone	15 Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful	16 Contribute positively to your local community	17 Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes	18 Get back in contact with an old friend
26 Choose one of your strengths and find a way to use it today	27 Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside	28 Ask other people about things they've enjoyed recently	22 Plan something fun and invite others to join you	23 Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment	24 Take a small step towards an important goal	25 Decide to lift people up rather than put them down

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS** **Happier · Kinder · Together**



Support • Inform • Signpost • Empower



## Dyslexia

This workshop will aim to provide information and support to parents and carers who feel their child may be dyslexic or who have received a dyslexia diagnosis.

The workshop will be delivered by Educational Psychologists from Bexley Local Authority.

The workshop will include:

- What happens in Bexley regarding diagnosis and how dyslexia can be supported in school
- Aids that can help and how you can support your child
- Local help and support
- Questions and answers

[www.bexleyvoice.org.uk](http://www.bexleyvoice.org.uk)

### Parent Carer Workshop

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 26

10am-12noon

Danson Youth Centre  
The Garden Room  
Brampton Road  
Bexleyheath  
DA7 4EZ

Our free parent carer workshop series provides Bexley Voice members with the opportunity to get information relating to your child or young person's additional need and/or disability. We cover various topics according to parental demand.

Advance booking required at:

<https://bexleyvoice.org.uk/calendar/item/57900992>

or scan the QR code:

