



Dear Willow Bank Families,

Welcome back to a brand new term at Willow Bank Primary School! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a joyful start to the New Year. It's fantastic to see the children return with such enthusiasm and energy. Our core value this half term is kindness and this week the children have had a secret mission to perform a range of small acts of kindness across the school.

Exciting Big Bang Hooks Launch New Class Topics

The children have had an amazing start to the spring term with exciting Big Bang hooks that have ignited their curiosity and launched them into their new class topics. Please see the photographs and blurbs in this week's newsletter to see what your child has been learning this week.

EYFS and KS1 Parent Reading Mornings Every Thursday 8:40-9:10am

A big thank you to all the Magnolia and Hornbeam Class parents who joined us yesterday for our weekly parent reading morning. It was heart-warming to see so many of you sharing the joy of reading with your children. If you have a child in EYFS or Key Stage 1, remember that you are welcome to join your child every Thursday morning in their classroom to share a book together.



Reading Plus - An Exciting New Reading Program in Key Stage 2



Reading Solutions UK

In Key Stage 2, we have launched an exciting new online reading program called Reading Plus. Your child will now have three Reading Plus sessions each week, in addition to their daily whole class reading lessons. This program provides access to a range of interesting texts at your child's reading level, along with activities to develop their vocabulary and comprehension skills. Don't forget, they can also log in at home, so please support your child in making the most of this valuable resource.

Daily Breakfast Offer and Special Menu on Thursday 18th January

Don't forget, we provide daily breakfast bagels and cereals free of charge every morning from 8:25-8:35am in the hall. Next week, on Thursday 18th January, we have a special menu planned for our census day. Please check this week's newsletter for details. Our meals are free, so if you'd like your child to try a school meal on this day, please let the office know.

Spaces Available in KS2 Girls Football Club

For our sports enthusiasts, there are a few spaces left in our KS2 Girls Football Club, running every Wednesday from 3:20-4:15 pm with Coach Holly. If your child is interested, please call the office to secure a spot.



Thank you for your continued support, and here's to a fantastic term ahead!

Warm regards,
Mrs Oldfield and the Willow Bank Team

PANTRY CENSUS DAY

THURSDAY 18TH JANUARY 2024

CHICKEN HOT DOG OR
VEGGIE DOG
& NACHOS

WITH
CORN ON THE COB
AND
ICE CREAM

SCAN ME TO ORDER!





Reception class

This week Reception started their topic **Storytellers**. We came in dressed in our pyjamas and listened to lots of stories with our cuddly toys. We have learnt to tell the story of 'The Little Red Hen', painted red hens, baked the hen's bread and created our own classroom farm!



This term in writing, Year 1 will be exploring the book *Beegu*. For our hook lesson the children experienced the aftermath of a spaceship crash in our classroom. They looked carefully to identify what could have caused it? What had happened? Where had it come from? And who it belonged to? We used all of this information to make predictions about our core text.



Year 1



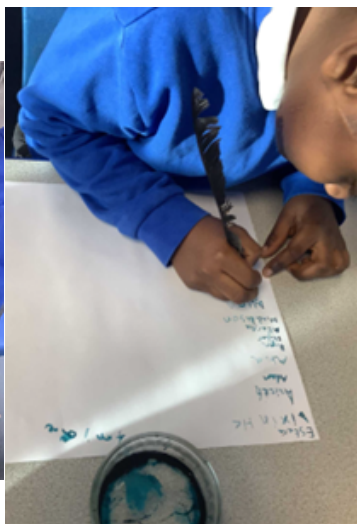
Year 2



Hornbeam's big bang lesson was to discover the history of HMS Windrush. The children waited patiently in a queue to board HMS Windrush, each child had their own ticket. 'The Captain' directed them to their dormitories, which were extremely cramped. The children were excited and nervous to board the boat. We then proceeded to have a discussion about the 22 day journey that people took from the Caribbean to England and how it must have felt. The children could not believe that it took 22 days!

Year 3

During our hook lesson, we became archaeologists exploring different types of Roman artefacts. We were focusing on identifying the different uses of each artefact. It was fascinating seeing what objects the Romans would have used for their everyday lives. We even attempted writing with our very own quill which we really enjoyed and were able to perfect our handwriting whilst using it.

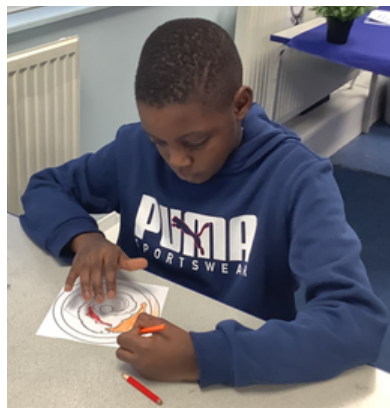




Year 4



In Year 4, history came to life as children embarked on a creative journey to explore the fascinating world of Vikings. As part of their hands-on history lesson, the children enthusiastically delved into the Viking Age, where fierce warriors roamed the seas with their iconic shields.



Here are some pictures from our Big Bang day. The children were archaeologists, digging up Egyptian artefacts to see what we could learn about this ancient civilisation.

Year 5



Year 6

Year 6 began the new year looking at the topic of migration through our core text, *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan. We discussed what it would be like to find ourselves in danger, who we would usually turn to, and what would be our 'safety net'. We then considered what it would be like if all our support systems were withdrawn and we suddenly found ourselves in the position of having to flee to another country if a dangerous situation, like a war, occurred. The children reported back on how they would feel and what treatment would they expect from others to help them.



OUR CORE VALUE
FOR AUTUMN 2
IS KINDNESS

Kindness

MAKES THE WORLD

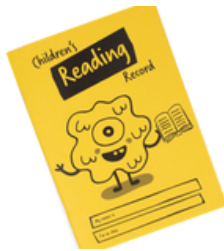


A BETTER PLACE

 Ripple Kindness Project
— For Schools —



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.

Key Dates

Next week:

Wednesday 17/01/2024: - Y4 Almond class trip to British Museum

Friday 19/01/2024 : - Young Voices at the O2.

Forthcoming date:

TBC





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.



Well done to:	Our target is over 96%
Magnolia - 93.0%	★ Yew - 96.5%
Hornbeam - 95.0%	★ Redwood - 99.0%
★ Laburnum - 98.0%	★ Almond - 99.0%
★ Hazel - 96.0%	★ Walnut - 97.0%
★ Larch - 98.0%	★ Sycamore - 96.0%
 	

Free School Meals for All Primary Aged Children Until 2025



We are delighted to share the news that free school meals are now available to all primary-aged children until 2025. This announcement from the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, brings great relief to many families. A letter has been sent home with more details, so please look out for it.

