



Welcome Back!

Dear Parents and Carers,



We hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer break! We are delighted to welcome all our families back to Willow Bank Primary School for the Autumn Term. The children have returned to school full of energy, ready for learning, and looking smart in their uniforms. Thank you for your continued support with this

Meet the Teacher Sessions

A big thank you to all the parents who attended the Meet the Teacher sessions on Wednesday. We hope you found them informative and helpful in getting to know your child's new teacher and classroom expectations for the year ahead. If you were unable to attend, the information shared has been emailed to all parents via the Arbor platform for you to refer back to as needed



School Uniform & PE Kit



We appreciate your efforts to ensure the children come to school wearing the correct uniform. A gentle reminder about PE kit on PE days: children should wear a plain white T-shirt with black, navy, or royal blue shorts or jogging bottoms, and a plain black or navy sweatshirt. Hoodies should not be worn as part of the PE kit. We have sent several text reminders this week, and we appreciate your cooperation in ensuring the children are dressed appropriately.



Key Dates for the Autumn Term

**DATES TO
REMEMBER**

Half-Term Break:

Monday, 28th October to Friday, 1st November 2024

Autumn Term Class Sharing Assemblies:

- Larch Class: Friday, 25th October 2024
- Walnut Class: Friday, 8th November 2024
- Redwood Class: Friday, 15th November 2024
- Sycamore Class: Friday, 22nd November 2024
- Hazel Class: Friday, 29th November 2024
- Almond Class: Friday, 6th December 2024

Y6 Secondary School Application Deadline:

Please note that Year 6 parents must submit their secondary school applications by **31st October 2024**.

EYFS and KS1 Nativity Performance:

Parents are warmly invited to the EYFS and KS1 Nativity performance on **18th December 2024**. More details will be shared closer to the time.

Exciting Learning Ahead!

The children have had a fantastic first week back, and we are thrilled to see them engaging in their new topics. Please keep an eye out for more detailed information about what your child will be learning this term, which will be sent out by their class teacher soon. We are excited to see how they progress in the coming weeks.

We look forward to a successful and enjoyable Autumn Term ahead! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the school office.

Warm regards,

Mrs Oldfield and the WBP Team



Year R

This week we welcomed our new children to Magnolia Class! We have spent time getting to know our new friends and classroom. We have enjoyed painting ourselves and drawing our family members and can't wait to explore more of our environment!



Year 1

We received an exciting letter and packages in the post. We were given clues and had to use our previous knowledge on fairytale books to solve who the packages were from. We then read different fairytales and discussed who our favourite characters were and why.



Year 2

In year 2, we've been crafting magical tales inspired by Richard O'Neill's book Yokki and the Parno Gry. The story features an enchanted white horse that brings inspiration and joy to a Traveller family in need. We've focused on collaboratively retelling the story and using story maps to sequence the events in chronological order.



Year 3

For our hook lesson in year 3, we travelled back to the Stone Age. We built shelters similar to what people of that time period would have lived in. Whilst building our shelters, we needed to show resilience as the weather proved to highlight the adversity people of the Stone Age would have faced when building their own shelters.





Year 4

Year 4 students had an amazing hook lesson where they became marine biologists, using facts, research, and maps to investigate how a whale ended up in the River Thames. They also developed their own theories on how to save the whale.



Year 5

This term, the Year 5 children are exploring the fascinating history of the Benin Kingdom. As part of their hook lesson, they had an exciting hands-on experience by creating their own Benin-inspired necklaces. Through this activity, the children are beginning to understand the rich culture and craftsmanship of the ancient kingdom.



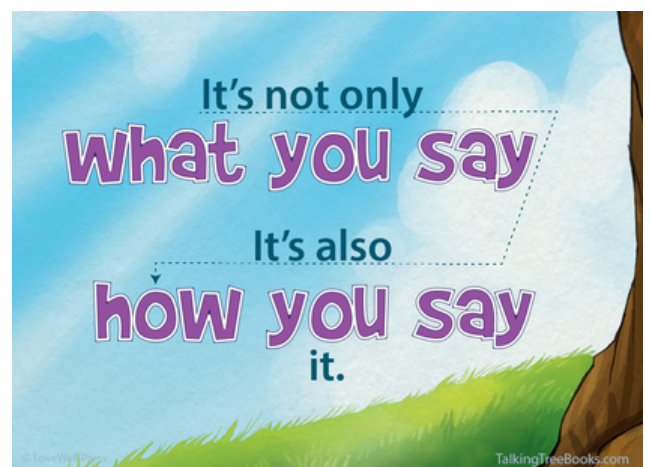
Year 6

This week, year 6 returned to school to find a crime scene in Sycamore class. The children had to look at the clues spread around the scene and create a hypothesis for what they think happened. Who could the body be? What happened? Why?

This term the children will be considering the Big Question, "Is it appropriate to celebrate law breakers" as we look into the qualities of the main character in our core text as well as people who have been considered law-breakers in the past.



**OUR CORE VALUE FOR
AUTUMN 1 IS
RESPECT**





Huge congratulations to our children, Zainab, Daniel and Love who participated in the Young Writers Ancient Adventure Creative Writing competition! They crafted 100-word stories based on historical events, and we're proud their work has been chosen for publication. A fantastic achievement for these young writers! #YoungWritersCW #WillowBank

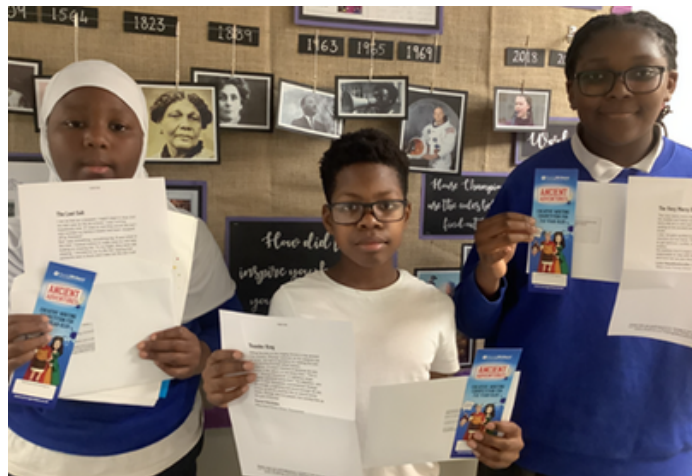
We will be featuring their winning short stories in the next three newsletters. Daniel's winning entry is below:

Thunder King

Sitting fiercely on his mighty throne in the ancient Oyo empire, Shango watched as his subjects ran errands. He had a reputation for spitting fire and commanding thunder when furious.

Suddenly, a subject dashed in because he was injured in the attack on the King's farm. "This is war!" Shango thundered. In righteous anger, Shango appeared at the farm. The attackers, who were in their thousands, overwhelmed Shango. Shockingly, a lightning bolt struck through his axe. It blew up all the enemies like an atomic bomb. Sadly, Shango died but people now worship him as the god of thunder.

By Daniel



We are extremely proud of two of our Y5 children, Kinfe and Nife, who have been awarded a four-year scholarship by the London Music Fund! Scholars are nominated by their school or instrument teacher because they have shown potential, commitment and enjoyment in their music -making. Many congratulations to them both. We know this will enable them to continue to develop their musical prowess in playing the trumpet and keyboard.



Y1 and Y2 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.



Well done	Our target is over 96%
★ Magnolia - 100%	Yew - 94%
★ Hornbeam - 95%	Redwood - 93%
	★ Almond - 96%
★ Hazel - 96%	★ Walnut - 97%
★ Larch - 100%	★ Sycamore - 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>



**Bexley are carrying out their annual
childcare sufficiency survey.
Please scan the barcode**

Bexley Early Years Entitlement
Parent Questionnaire 2024



www.bexley.gov.uk

**EMOTIONAL BASED SCHOOL AVOIDANCE (EBSA)
PARENT/CARER SUPPORT GROUP**

To take place on: **Monday 30th September 10am – 11.30am**

Venue: **Bexleyheath Central Library in the Dickens Room.**

Bexley Educational Psychologists are providing parent/carers the space to share their experiences, hear from others and gain support as part of a network for those supporting children and young people who are experiencing anxiety-related difficulties around attending school (including Emotional Based School Avoidance).

If you are interested in joining this group, please email:
parentebsasupport@bexley.gov.uk

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