

The Willows Primary School – Spring (ii) Newsletter

This half of term has flown by, but it has been full of good things, not least the re-opening of school for all children. It was wonderful to welcome everyone back and we have all been delighted to have the school full and busy again. The children have settled well, which is a positive reflection on their great attitude and resilience.

Congratulations: These children have shown exemplary behaviour before and since their return to school and have been nominated as ‘Unsung Heroes’ by their Bubble adults.

Nursery: Daniel and Evelyn

Elm: Ava and Bobby D

Beech: Dexter L and Lowri

Fir: Layla and Oliver

Spruce: Harvey and Shalikh

Cabin: Tabby and Murtaza

Hawthorn: Max and Izzie L-V

Oak: Nancy and Evie T

Ash: Robin and Josephine

Chestnut: Luca H and Lorelai

Pine: Penny and Dominic

Maple: Martha and Bobby

Larch: Isaac W and Kwun-Nam

New member of the Willows Family: It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce the birth of Miss Jones’ baby. Ottilie Ruby Star Curran arrived at 5.23am on 18th March 2021, weighing a healthy 7lbs 7oz. Mother and baby are both doing well and we can’t wait to meet her. Unfortunately current restrictions mean we have only seen photos so far!

School Council News (Mrs Unwin): We have finally managed to have the first School Council Meeting for this academic year! The Councillors met, as a team, to discuss our school Values, and think about how we demonstrate the Values of **Care, Responsibility, Challenge** and **Self Belief** at the Willows. The children are getting excited about demonstrating their leadership skills to share the information with their classmates and teachers and ask them for their ideas next term. Keep an eye out on the school website for more news.

Sports News (Mr Codd): We are delighted that as we emerge from the latest restrictions, that we are once again able to place PE and School Sport at the heart of our efforts in school to inspire and encourage children to live healthy active lifestyles. It was fantastic to see families using some of the suggested physical activities that teachers sent out via SeeSaw during the recent period of restrictions, as well as getting creative themselves with movement and activities, within these difficult limitations. Now however, Mr Codd is excited to get back to leading the schools PE and Health and Wellbeing efforts. Our range of high quality sport-specific curriculum coaches have begun to teach in school again, with Dodgeball, Hockey, Football and Lacrosse being enjoyed. We have more to look forward to in the summer term, with Athletics, Cricket, Rounders and Tag Rugby being added to our curriculum work. Some of our providers are offering bubble lunch clubs, in line with the current COVID guidance. It’s been great to see the children making the most of these opportunities.

Mr Codd recently had a meeting with the School Sport Crew to discuss our plans for the summer term, including some exciting events to inspire the school community through sport. He also joined a group of PE coordinators and leaders to develop the plans for schools return to competition in the coming term. We hope to have more information on this soon.

Ever since the 2012 London Olympic Games, we have tried to develop an enjoyment of physical exercise in our children through the Olympic education programme slogan of the need to **‘Inspire a Generation.’** As you will perhaps already know, we are incredibly passionate about providing children with a variety of inspirational opportunities to develop a passion themselves for physical activity and wellbeing in general. With this in mind, we would like to inform you about a very exciting project that will look to develop even further, what we believe is already an outstanding PE and School Sport offer at The Willows.

In the coming weeks a 'Multi Use Games Area' (MUGA) will be installed on the school grounds. This will be a multi-purpose, artificially surfaced fenced area, which will ensure high quality curriculum sessions can take place as well as providing space for lunch and after school clubs, on a surface that will be usable all year round, in all weather conditions. Over the years, it has been incredibly frustrating to have PE lessons, clubs, inter school matches, competitions and festivals cancelled or postponed because of inclement weather and the results of such weather on the school field. We hope that with this exciting addition to our PE and School Sport provision, children will continue to be inspired to take part in physical activity for many years to come. We already have lots of plans for how we can use the facility to enhance our children's experiences of physical education, which is vital for children as they emerge from the aforementioned restrictions, and for their health and wellbeing in general. Look out for more on this in future newsletters.

Eco Focus for Spring 2021 (Mrs Mitchell: World Wildlife Awareness: Learning about animals around the world and sharing our knowledge to raise awareness and respect for a range of different species. This term we have:

- Learnt about wildlife charity and campaigner, Margot Raggett, in a whole school assembly. (This can be found on the eco page of the school website)
- Discovered how we can help to raise awareness of the plight of different animals.
- Been given the opportunity to participate in a poster competition to show off our wildlife knowledge of some of the amazing creatures who share our planet. (See below for details)
- Learnt about charities that support nature conservation, including WWF, Born Free and Remembering Wildlife.
- Understood how we can help to protect animals by spreading the word about banning poaching and the trade of ivory/rhino horn and about ways we can teach people to live alongside animals in harmony.
- Found out about careers in conservation, animal health/science/research, wildlife photography, charities, social media, etc.

Website of the month – <https://rememberingwildlife.com/>

The Willows World Wildlife Eco Poster Competition

Can you create an eye-catching poster to raise awareness of a special animal? Decide which animal you would like to feature. Then do some research: Where does it live? What does it eat? Does it need help to survive? How does it help the planet? What makes it special? Is it endangered? Why should people save it? What can we do?

Competition Rules:

1. Your poster should educate others and raise awareness of a particular animal.
2. It should be titled, '**Save the**'
3. Your poster should be A4 and can be created on a computer or written by hand. You can use photographs or drawings.
4. Either email it to **ecowillows@gmail.com** or hand it to your teacher who will put it in Mrs Mitchell's tray.
5. The closing date is **Wednesday 21st April 2021**. The results will be announced in the next Eco assembly in the first half of the summer term. There will be prizes for an overall winner and runners up.
7. All posters will be displayed in a book on the Eco table, which can be found in the main corridor.



World Book Day: We celebrated World Book Day by 'snuggling up' and sharing books. The children (and staff!) came to school in their pyjamas (comfy clothes) and brought their favourite bedtime story with them. We had a new and novel event 'The Masked Reader' which went down a storm (still available to view on the school website <https://www.willowstimperley.co.uk/masked-reader/>) A huge thank you to all staff but especially Mrs Merrell (and her technical support from home) for this incredible creation. Our greatest wish is that the children continue to develop a real love of books and reading.

Sports Relief Day: The children were very keen to wear red for Sports Relief. We are proud to announce that we raised £258.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Parents' Evenings: These will take place via Zoom once again on Tuesday 27th April from 3.30pm to 7.30pm and Thursday 29th April from 3.30pm until 5.30pm. Invitations letters will be sent out on Monday 19th April 2021. The purpose of this term's meeting will be:

- a) To discuss how your child / children have settled back into school after lockdown
- b) To focus on your child's / children's attitude to learning
- c) To focus on your child's attainment and progress

Breaktime Year Group Bubbles: With the continued progression through the 'Road Map out of Lockdown' we are planning to allow year group bubbles to mix at break time, under close supervision of their teachers. This will be a welcome return for children in mixed age classes to be able to see and interact with their friends in different bubbles.

PTA News (Jo Jeffery & Claire Kilgariff):

School Virtual Disco: Our first virtual disco has been arranged and will be taking place on Thursday 1st April 2021. Timings as follows:

Nursery / Reception - 4pm

Year 1 / Year 2 - 5pm

Year 3 / Year 4 - 6pm

Year 5 / Year 6 - 7pm

The sweet bags / zoom codes should have now been received. We hope the children have an amazing time. We will update the amount raised after the disco but after such a difficult start to the year, we are hoping that this will be an amazing way to end this term. We have received an amazing response and once again, thank you so much for your support.

Willows Rainbow Hoodies: These are a limited edition and the last batch of hoodies were sent into school in February so hopefully you should by now have received yours. The PTA have raised £936.00.

School Uniform: Donations to the second hand uniform shop are gratefully received throughout the year. We are also now accepting Christmas jumpers. We have lots of uniform in stock of various sizes, makes and styles in both yellow and green. There will be shops but dates to be announced nearer the time. We have a large stock of summer dresses at just £1 each too. As the weather is picking up, there will be an opportunity to buy these over the Easter break so you have them in time for when the children return to school. You can order any item of uniform via Michaela on 07956 509 280.

Lease The Piece: Bored of the puzzles in your own cupboard, you can hire from our very own Isaac who is in Year 6. We would love to receive donations of 200-500 piece puzzles to add to the exciting collection. So far we have raised £60.00. To hire a jigsaw puzzle please visit the following website for further details. <https://sites.google.com/view/leasethepiece/home>

Amazon Smile: Willows PTA are now on Amazon Smile. If you shop with Amazon and go through Smile first, Amazon will donate a % to us! No costs to yourselves just need to remember to go through Amazon Smile first when doing your shopping. The donations are received on a quarterly basis and the first payment for 1st October to 31st December 2020 was received in February for the amount of £37.63 so once again thank you. Here is the link for more information: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1094324-0>

Easy Fundraising: The PTA has just received a payment of £121.99. This is the donation raised up until 31st December 2020. Once again, thank you so much for your support. Please remember to activate your fundraising before you visit online retailers and help raise some cashback for the Willows PTA at no cost to yourself! If you haven't already signed up please do so, it only takes a couple of minutes and really helps boost our fundraising - please click on the following link to

register: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/willowsprimary/>

Match Funding: Does anybody work for Barclays, HSBC, Aviva, Astra Zeneca or Vodafone to name but a few? If so you may be entitled to register to match fund what we raise at PTA events. Please get in touch if this is something you think your company offers and you can help. It really makes a massive difference to our fundraising with lots of companies offering up to £1000. Please contact our Information Officer, Michaela Pashley if you can help or require further information.

School Lottery: The School Lottery is open to all family, staff and friends, tickets cost just £1! The Willows will receive 40% of all ticket sales for our school funds! A GUARANTEED cash prize to one of our supporters EVERY week! Only takes a minute to sign up, please share with your friends and family members. <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/willows-primary-school-pta>. A massive thank you to all those that have donated their winnings back to the PTA. We really appreciate it.

Date of next meeting: The last year has been a very difficult year for everyone and we would like to thank you for your continued support. Our next PTA meeting is on Tuesday 18th May 2021 at 7pm. The meeting will be held virtually. If you would like to attend, please email joannejeffery2@googlemail.com and you will be sent the login details nearer the time.

Holiday Covid Arrangements: Please inform Mrs Warren via the email address admin@willowstimperley.com if your child/ren test positive for Covid from Thursday 1st April to Tuesday 6th April 2021. Please remember that we are still in lockdown and should continue to follow the Government guidelines of social distancing and no mixing of households indoors.

All that is left to say is I hope you have a lovely break and a happy Easter (with lots of chocolate)

Mrs Warren

Summer Term Dates

19.4.21	School reopens
19.4.21	Year 5 First Swim (Group A) First Tennis (Group B)
21.3.21	Wellness Wednesday
3.5.21	BANK HOLIDAY
28.5.21	School closes for Whit Holiday
14.6.20	School reopens
16.6.21	Wellness Wednesday
16.6.21	Year 6 Robinwood
17.6.21	Year 6 Robinwood
18.6.21	Year 6 Robinwood
22.6.21	Year 5 Puzzle Club

24.6.21	Key Stage 2 Clubs start – 4 weeks (TBC)
29.6.21	Year 5 Puzzle Club
30.6.21	Class Photos & Year 6 Leavers' Photos (TBC)
1.7.21	Key Stage 2 Clubs Clubs
1.7.21	New Starters' Nursery & Reception Information Evening (TBC)
5.7.21	Sports Week (including Sports Days) (TBC)
6.7.21	Year 5 Puzzle Club
6.7.21	Years 1-6 Music Extravaganza
6.7.21	Open Evening (TBC)
7.7.21	Sports Day (EYFS/KS1 am & KS2 pm - TBC)
8.7.21	Key Stage 2 Clubs Clubs
8.7.21	Secondary Transition Day
9.7.21	Freestyle Footballer visit (TBC)
12.7.21	Year 5 Puzzle Club
12.7.21	Year 6 Show dress rehearsal for school
13.7.21	Year 6 Show (evening times to be confirmed)
14.7.21	Year 6 Show (evening times to be confirmed)
15.7.21	Key Stage 2 Clubs Clubs
20.7.21	Year 5 Puzzle Club
22.7.21	Year 6 Leavers Disco (7.00-9.00pm)
23.7.21	Year 6 Leavers Assembly (9.15am)
23.7.21	School closes
26-28.7.21	INSET (Twilights)