

The Willows Primary School Newsletter – Summer (i) 2024

Needless to say we have continued to be very busy and have packed a lot in!

Welcome back: We were pleased to welcome Mrs Arnold back after her maternity leave. She is covering teachers' PPA (Preparation, Planning and Assessment) time, so is teaching different age groups on different days. We are looking forward to welcoming Miss Jones (our SENCo – Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) back to school at the end of June.

***OFSTED:** The beginning of this term started with a bang after we received the OFSTED call on the first day. All staff and children worked so hard to show the inspector the best version of the Willows and we were delighted with our report. It can be found on the school's website.

<https://www.willowstimperley.co.uk/ofsted-performance-data/> Thank you to all those who took the time to email in positive comments.

***Learning:**

School Value: CHALLENGE – We have the courage to accept challenges and show resilience in all we do.

Everyone settled back into school smoothly at the beginning of term and quickly got down to their new learning; themes were as follows:

Nursery: Down on the Farm / It's a Bugs' life

Reception: How to be a superhero

Ash, Beech and Chestnut: Around the World

Fir and Pine: Biome in a Box

Spruce and Sycamore: Building Britain

Year 5: Crack the Code

Year 6: Full Steam Ahead

More information is available under the curriculum tab on the school's website

<https://www.willowstimperley.co.uk/curriculum/>

***Unsung Heroes**

School Value: SELF BELIEF – We strive to grow in confidence and belief in ourselves

These children have shown exemplary behaviour during the first half of term and have been chosen by their class teachers as Unsung Heroes. Their photos in the picture gallery for all to see.

Nursery : Summer.W / Tally.L

Elm: Hugo.B / Rohaan.A

Oak : Nancy.S/ Hugo.L

Ash: Mariko.R / Sofia.D

Beech: Stephen.D / Mithra.S

Chestnut: Sri.C / Mazin.N

Fir: George.Y / Venus.W

Pine : Harry.D / Isobel.w

Spruce: Henry.I/ Grace.D

Sycomore: Robin.M / Elliot.C

Cedar : Sarah.MG / Louis.A

Maple: Lewis.B / Elizabeth.M

Hawthorn : Rory.F/ Niamh.G

Larch: George .W / Lenah .M

RSHE (Relationship, Sex and Health Education)

School Value: RESPONSIBILITY – We take personal responsibility for our learning, our actions and our words.

At the Willows we use 'Kapow' as our whole school scheme of work to support our PSHE learning. As we approach the end of the year, we will be beginning our final unit called 'Changing Me' which explores the way children's bodies grow and develop in an age appropriate manner, using the correct terminology, child friendly language and diagrams. It approaches these changes in a positive way and includes the following:

Year 1: Know that they should speak to an adult if they are ever worried or feel uncomfortable about another adult. Understand ways to keep safe and not get lost and know the steps to take if they do get lost. Know the number for the emergency services and their own address. Understand that some types of physical contact are never acceptable. Know what can go into or onto the body and when they should check with an adult. Understand that there are hazards in houses and know how to avoid them. Understand and name jobs that people do to help keep us safe.

Year 2: Understand how the internet can be used to help us. Create a poster with clear information about how to remain safe online and what to do if something online makes them feel uncomfortable. Understand what a secret is and what a surprise is. Know the name of parts of the body, including those of the private parts for their gender. Explain the NSPCC PANTS rule.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/> Understand how to keep safe near roads. Explain the rules for crossing the road. Understand when we should take medicines that can help us feel better when we are unwell.

Year 3: Valuing different family structures. Creating and maintaining positive friendships. Developing safe and respectful relationships. Understanding the changes that take place during puberty. Promoting good health and carrying out first aid. Learning to make independent choices and not be influenced by others. Operating safely in a digital world.

Year 4: Understand the reasons for legal age restrictions. Understand how quickly information can spread on the internet and some of the risks associated with that. Assess and give first aid to a casualty who is having difficulty breathing due to an asthma attack. Understand the difference between private and public, and secrets and surprises. Understand how search engines work and whether information is useful. Understand the changes they have already gone through and be aware of some changes to come. Understand that they will change physically as they develop into adults. Understand some of the risks of smoking and the benefits of being a non-smoker.

Year 5: Understand what is safe to share online and what to do before sending a message. Identify possible dangers online, suggesting ways to stay safe, using the web to research relevant information. Accurately name all the relevant parts of the body. Understand the changes their own gender will go through during puberty. List the range of changes they will go through during puberty. Assess a casualty's condition; calmly, comfort and reassure a casualty who is bleeding; and seek medical help if required. Understand that other people can influence our decisions but we have the right to make our own choices.

Year 6: Understand some of the reasons adults decide to drink or not drink alcohol. Understand some ways to check that a news story is real. Understand how they should behave online and the impact negativity can have. Understanding of changes that take place during puberty. Understand the menstrual cycle and that a male and a female are needed to conceive a baby. Understand that a baby changes in the womb and some of the baby's requirements during the first months of life. Recognise when someone is choking; administer first aid to a casualty that is choking; and seek medical help if required for a choking casualty. Conduct a primary survey; place a casualty who is unresponsive and breathing normally into the recovery position; and identify when it is necessary for CPR to be given.

An outline / Knowledge Organiser for each year group can be found on the school's website under the Curriculum and then RSE- PHSE tab. <https://willowsprimaryaltrincham.secure-primariesite.net/rse-phse/>

If you have any questions please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance then Mrs Arnold who is our PHSE lead teacher.

***Robinwood Information Meeting:**

School Value: CHALLENGE – We have the courage to accept challenges and show resilience in all we do.

A Robinwood information session was held for Year 6 parents and carers. Mums, Dads and carers got the opportunity to view a powerpoint presentation about Robinwood as well as the opportunity to ask any questions that they may have had. The children are very excited about their visit after the Whit Holidays.

***SATs:**

School Value: RESPONSIBILITY – We take personal responsibility for our learning, our actions and our words.

All the children have worked very hard at their end of year assessments. We are especially proud of Year 6 who have taken their SATs papers under strict exam conditions. Their attitude has been exemplary and we are confident that they will have done very well. The results will be received at the beginning of July. The Year 2 children have also completed 'special booklets' and have performed well.

***Sports News – From Mr Codd**

School Value: CHALLENGE – We have the courage to accept challenges and show resilience in all we do.

It has been a busy half term of PE and School Sport at the Willows.

The half term started with our girls' football team playing in the finals night after winning the small schools league earlier in the year. We played against another small school and two other larger schools to see who would become champions of the Altrincham and Timperley League. After winning our first game and drawing our second, it all came down to the final game. Having lost a goal to the opposition, we knew we had to keep driving forward, and our play was simply outstanding. Sophie grabbed a goal to make it 1-1. Mr Codd realised that it was all or nothing, we needed one more goal...if we got it we would be champions! With this message communicated to the team, the girls found even more determination and pulled together as a team, every member of the team worked so hard, before Neve scored with the last kick of the game to crown the girls champions! Well done to all who have represented the boys and girls teams throughout the season. Children were offered a chance to enter a competition by our school community partners from Altrincham FC, to become a mascot for their final match of the season. Huge well done to Steven and Luca H for winning the competition. Altrincham goalkeeper Ethan Ross, along with our school football coach AJ, made a surprise visit to announce the win to the boys. I think they enjoyed their day!

As you may know, our school hockey coach, Jim McCall sadly passed away last year, and in memorial of his work in school sport in the local area, The Willows take part in an annual Hockey tournament. Our team did both the Willows and Jim proud with some outstanding performances, all games were incredibly close. Well done to all players.

Since Mr Alexander joined the Willows, we have added his Rugby expertise to not only our staff talents, but also the opportunities for our pupils! He has trained a squad that took part in a recent tournament, with both teams playing exceptionally well, demonstrating all of the school games values.

One of our teams brought home the medals, winning their event! Well done to all who took part. Our Year 5 'Leadership Academy' sports leaders hosted a sports festival for children in Year 2 and 3 recently. They created a fun game which they took responsibility for teaching to children from our school and three other local schools. I was so proud of their responsibility and inventiveness as they delivered their activity. They all felt they had learned valuable lessons in leadership after the event. Finally, we were invited to a football friendly tournament with several other schools at Broadheath Primary, towards the end of the half term. Our team played some of the best football I've seen at The Willows in recent years and narrowly lost out in the final against a very impressive Stamford Park team.

It has already been such a successful year in inter school competition; and there are plenty more events to come after the holidays.

***Eco Council – Led by Mrs Mitchell**

School Value: CARE – We care for and respect each other, ourselves and the environment.

We have not had a big Eco assembly focus this half term, but the Eco Council have still been very busy! We dug up the turf from a patch of the field to prepare it for rewilding. We then moved the turf to the EYFS to repair some of the grass in their outdoor area. It was an exhausting day!

Rewilding is a **progressive approach to conservation**. It's about letting nature take care of itself. We plan to encourage biodiversity in this small area by cordoning it off with native hedging (donated from the Woodland Trust), adding a shallow tray to collect rainwater to attract wildlife and closing it off to little footsteps and gardeners. We hope to build on it each year and improve the natural eco system, air quality and biodiversity of our school grounds.

If there are any parents who would be interested in helping the Eco Council with this project, please email the school FAO Mrs Mitchell. Finding the time for projects like this is our biggest challenge, so any help or advice is much appreciated!

Finally, here's a quick reminder of some of the recycling programmes we run in school. Please send any items in with your child and they can take them to our Recycling Centre on the main corridor.

- Old glasses and contact lenses (cases and packaging too)
- Any pens (not pencils or glue sticks)
- Printer ink cartridges
- Batteries
- Milk carton lids (no other kinds of lids)

As always, thank you to all who help The Willows to be as eco friendly as we possibly can!

***School Council – led Mr Jennings**

School Value: SELF BELIEF – We strive to grow in confidence and belief in ourselves

In support of children's 'right to play', the School Council decided to host a whole school 'play day', whereby children were free to bring in games and toys from home and play with them all day long! Accompanied by a small donation, this helped the school raise money to replenish and update the wet play equipment in school and ensure that our children were entertained on rainy days and weren't so reliant on technology. It has been very refreshing to walk down the corridor these past few weeks and see children lost in a variety of different games and interacting more with one another.

***Visits and Visitors:**

School Value: RESPONSIBILITY – We take personal responsibility for our learning, our actions and our words

On Wednesday 8th May KS1 visited the Maritime Museum in Liverpool to learn more about life on board the Titanic. They had great fun taking part in an immersive workshop based on the story of 'Polar the Titanic Bear.' The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and came away understanding what it was like to have been a survivor on the Titanic. The children behaved beautifully throughout the day. We were very proud of them all.

Nursery went on their first trip out of school to Smithills Farm. Had a wonderful day looking at and feeding the animals and their babies. We saw the cows being milked in the dairy and tried some of their delicious milk in a milkshake back at school.

On Friday 17th May Year Three took over the Blue Planet Aquarium and had a wonderful day. All sorts of creatures were discovered and several types of sharks spotted! Most interestingly, we all learned

that the Coral Reef's needs were not that different from the Rainforests in terms of conservation. Everybody had a great day and did themselves, and school, proud!

On Tuesday 21st May, Year 6 had a visit from the magistrates. Three volunteers came in to tell us all about their role and how the judicial system works. It was incredibly interesting to learn all about who is involved, the different courts and how sentences are decided. We were especially surprised to know that magistrates don't actually get paid - they are all volunteers!! We then had a go ourselves at spotting different 'offences' on a cartoon picture and seeing how many people/professionals are involved in certain crimes.

Year 4 Trip: As part of our Building Britain Topic we went on a treasure hunt around Timperley village using OS maps, looking at architecture and land usage. We also had a local architect in to visit us and talk to us about their job.

The Timperley Astronomy Society kindly delivered a presentation to our Year 5 classes, showcasing their impressive knowledge of space. The children found the experience highly engaging and were particularly captivated by the photos of the local night sky. The society was extremely impressed with the children's knowledge and reported that it was a pleasure to conduct the presentation. On behalf of the Willows staff and children, we would like to extend our thanks for their time and support in enhancing our children's learning.

In EYFS, we were fortunate to have a special visit from Evan's mummy who shared her experiences as a doctor. The children were extremely fascinated and it has sparked a lot of excitement about becoming doctors in the future, so watch this space! On behalf of the EYFS team, we'd love to express our gratitude to Evan's Mum. We're always grateful to anyone who takes the time to help extend the children's learning. Thank you.

Thank you from Mrs Merrell and Mrs Unwin

School Value: CARE – We care for and respect each other, ourselves and the environment

Thank you so much for the contributions which have been made so far to support our Reading Amazon Wish List. As a result we have been able to add resources to many of our curriculum areas as well and create a library of tailored levelled 'real' books. We really appreciate your generosity and your books are being used all the way through school in a variety of ways by so many of the children

***Clubs**

School Value: SELF BELIEF – We strive to grow in confidence and belief in ourselves

The teachers have organised a lovely range of activities for KS2 children to choose from. These will commence the week beginning 19th June.

Mrs Mason – Makaton sign language, **Mr Jennings** – Pokemon, **Mr Byrne** – Computing, **Mrs Merrell and Mrs Riley** - Ray Mears, **Mrs Warren and Mrs Arnold** – Cooking, **Mr Codd** – Multisports, **Miss Peek** – Yoga, **Mr Alexander** – Tag Rugby, **Miss Kellett** – Photography, **Mrs Odell** and Ms Pickering - Gardening, **Miss Richardson** – Brilliant Books, **Mr Villarrubia** – Spanish, **Mrs Harry** - Craft and **Mrs Unwin** – Art

I hope you have a lovely Whitsun break

Dates for the rest of the summer term

10.6.24	School reopens
10.6.24	Phonics Screening
10.6.24	Maple - swimming (last session 22nd July)
12.6.24	Year 6 residential to Robinwood
13.6.24	Year 6 residential to Robinwood
14.6.24	Year 6 residential to Robinwood
17.6.24	Reception class visit to Blue Planet
18.6.24	Full Gobs
20.6.24	Sports Day EYFS/KS1 - 13.30 - 15.00 - (parents welcome) KS2 - 9.30 - 11.30 (parents welcome)
21.6.24	Year 1 Assembly (9.00am Year 1 parents welcome)
24.6.24	Clubs week 1
27.6.24	Class photos
1.7.24	Clubs week 2
3.7.24	EYFS & Reception Information Evening (7.00pm new nursery and new reception parents welcome)
8.7.24	Clubs week 3
10.7.24	Year 4 music concert - AM - (Year 4 parents welcome)
14.7.24	PTA Circus – see PTA communications
15.7.24	Clubs week 4
16.7.24	Year 6 production 6.30pm (Year 6 parents invited)
17.7.24	Year 6 production 6.30pm (Year 6 parents invited)
19.7.24	Feel Good Friday
23.7.24	Leavers Disco (7.00-9.00pm)
24.7.24	Leavers Assembly (9.15am - Year 6 parents welcome)
24.7.24	School closes
25.7.24	INSET (Twilights)
26.7.24	INSET (Twilights)