

The Willows Primary School – Spring 2024 (ii) Newsletter

Congratulations:

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

These children have shown exemplary behaviour this half of term (and always!) and therefore have been nominated as 'Unsung Heroes' by their class teachers.

Nursery:	Ellis. B and Esty.M	Elm:	Oliver.J and Hattie.M
Oak:	Henry.W and Thea.J	Ash:	Aran.B and Ivy.C
Beech:	Olive.T and Ronnie.D	Chestnut:	Fiona.C and Ibrahim.U
Fir:	Olive. W and Blake.D	Pine:	Harry.D and Eden.G
Spruce:	Ahmed.A and Elsie.M	Sycamore:	Sophia.C and Finlay.LS
Cedar:	Lyla.D and Charlie.P	Maple:	Evie.O and Henry.E
Hawthorn:	Haavish.P and Cadence.C	Larch:	Robin.H and Layla.W

Farewell and Welcome back:

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

On Thursday 21st March we said goodbye to Mrs Rodrigues, who had worked across the school releasing teachers for planning time on Wednesdays and Thursdays. She was a wonderful addition to our school family and was quickly part of the team, contributing positively wherever she taught. Her role was maternity cover for Mrs Arnold who will be returning to work part time on Wednesday 10th April 2024. Miss Rothwell (Vicky) will also be returning to work after her maternity leave after the Easter holidays.

Visits and Visitors

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

Year 6 walked up to Christ Church in Timperley as part of their RE work looking at 'Art and Architecture' in sacred buildings. Father Steve, the vicar and one of our governors, gave them lots of interesting information about stained glass windows, wood carvings and many other features. The children asked excellent questions and conducted themselves beautifully all afternoon.

Year 5 took part in Trafford Music Service's Singing Festival on Tuesday 5th March at Sale Waterside. The children sang beautifully to a packed out auditorium, filled with very proud parents and relatives. Cedar dazzled with *Parts of the Body* and *In the Bin*, while Maple shone with *The Sun Comes Up* and *I'm Feeling Happy*. Both classes also joined two other local schools in singing *Big Crazy World*, *Gospel Melody* and brilliantly performed *Together* in two languages at the same time: English and British Sign Language! Everyone who took part should be very proud of themselves! What singing superstars!

To finish our World Book Day celebrations we welcomed Stu Rowson into our school to share the motivating tale of how he became an author after being inspired by his daughter and the love of Harry Potter. Stuart led workshops with the children in Year 3 to Year 6 after doing an assembly, which was enjoyed by all of the children

Assemblies:

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

On Friday the 15th March, Year 5 performed an astonishing assembly full of flair and excitement in front of their keen and expectant family members. This assembly show cased all Year 5 learning, from Copernicus, Galileo and outer space, to planet Earth, newspapers and even riding a bike! Children demonstrated fantastic acting and rapping skills, as well as self-confidence and self-belief.

On the last day of term Year 4 presented their learning to date this year. They used their computing work

on pod casts as a theme and we were presented with 'episodes' on Artic exploration, Romans, the water cycle and PE learning. All of which was accompanied by incredible singing finishing with a 'new boy band'!!

Sports News (Mr Codd):

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

It has, as always, been a busy half term of school sport at The Willows!

The half term started with our amazing Sports Hall Athletics team representing our school at a local event. The athletes were superb and revelled in the noisy and energetic atmosphere! We were so close to finishing in first place; eventually finishing the event in second place. A wonderful achievement. I was so proud of our athletes, they all showed every single one of our school games values. A huge thanks should go to our school athletics coaches, Mrs Welch and Mr Joseph. Their dedication to training the team was a huge part of our success.

Our football teams were back in league action this half term, with two league nights each for both boys and girls teams. There were some superb performances and wonderful team play that saw our boys' team finish joint second in our league. We unfortunately missed out on the finals night on goal difference! Unlucky boys, your football has been a joy to watch this season. The girls' team finished top of their league, again with some outstanding play, and will now compete in the finals night after half term. They will be strong candidates to lift the trophy! We will update their progress in the next newsletter. Huge thanks to all members of staff that have helped to support and supervise the teams this season.

Our girls' football team was also asked to represent Altrincham FC in a regional tournament this half term. The team travelled in style on a coach to Wigan to play with the passion, commitment and teamwork that Willows teams are known for! With nine wins and two losses, the team were so unlucky not to make it through to the national finals. Well done everyone!

Keeping on the football theme; on the 8th March we joined in with a national initiative to get as many girls to play football as possible. Named 'The Biggest Ever Football Event,,,' girls were encouraged to just come and play football at lunchtime. Supervised by Mr Codd, Mr Warbrick and the sports crew, lots of girls came and just enjoyed playing. (Lots of the year three girls especially enjoyed scoring penalties against Mr Codd and Mr Warbrick) We hope to hold a similar event for the boys next term.

Unfortunately, some events had to be postponed in the last weeks of the half term due to poor weather / pitch conditions. Look out in future newsletters for updates on our Tag Rugby team, as well as a 'first ever' event for us at The Willows as we take a team to play 'Boccia!' As the weather hopefully improves, we can also look forward to many more sporting opportunities for our children in the summer term.

Eco Focus for Spring 2021 (Mrs Mitchell)

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

Our Eco Focus for the second half of the spring term 2024 was '**Plastic: Can we become more accountable and show RESPONSIBILITY for the single use plastic we use?**

At The Willows we already:

- Have a 'Single Use Plastic Policy,' written by The Willows Eco Council 2019-20. It is displayed in classrooms and around school and we do our best to follow it.
- Have a recycling centre in school to recycle plastic waste such as pens, soft plastic, hard plastic, printer cartridges, glasses/contact lens cases and milk carton tops.
- Often reuse materials or plastic waste for art projects and we currently have a willow tree sculpture made from rubbish displayed in the library.
- Our caretaker, Scott, refills existing plastic soap dispensers, rather than buying new ones.
- Learn about the importance of responsibility for our actions through our school values.

- Do regular litter pick-ups around school, particularly around the edges of the field where rubbish blows in.
- Use re-useable water bottles.
- Learn about which materials objects are made from in our Science lessons.

Through this focus we will:

- Learn about 'The Great Plastic Count' 2024 and use the principles to monitor and review the plastic we use, recycle and throw away at school.
- Learn more about different types of plastic and how tricky plastic is to recycle. And therefore, encourage people to use less to start with and then to recycle what they do use.
- Remind our school community about what we recycle at school and encourage them to use it, eg putting plastic snack packets in the recycling bin instead of the general bins in the playground.
- The Eco Council will review the information collected from monitoring plastic use in school and rewrite the school's 'Single Use Plastic Policy' before Easter. Then they will share it with their class and the Willows community.
- The Willows Eco Council will regularly monitor and maintain the recycling station.

For more information and a copy of the eco assembly, please look at our eco council page on the school website. <https://www.willowstimperley.co.uk/eco-council/>

World Book Day:

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

World Book Day was a brilliant day! The school was buzzing with book talk as we welcomed the children in to school dressed as their favourite book characters. We were thrilled to see such a wide range of books represented and we are sure this inspired the children to read. We were also delighted by the response to our 'Character on a Spoon' competition. We received over a hundred entries. The creativity and imagination on display was fantastic. The competition was judged by Stu Rowson, a local author who visited our school. He was incredibly impressed and found it hard to choose the winners but after much deliberation the winners were: Aria EYFS, Arthur KS1, Isabelle LKS2 and Bea UKS2. All of the spoons are now on display in our school library. Thank you for your support.

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

8.4.24	School reopens
9.4.24	Year 5 Puzzle Club (Tues for rest of summer term)
6.5.24	BANK HOLIDAY
13.5.24	Year 6 SATs week
17.5.24	EYFS / KS1 Sports am
17.5.24	KS2 Sports pm
24.5.24	School closes for Whit Holiday

10.6.24	School reopens
10.6.24	Phonics Screening
12.6.24	Year 6 Robinwood
13.6.24	Year 6 Robinwood
14.6.24	Year 6 Robinwood
21.6.24	Year 1 Assembly
24.6.24	Clubs week 1
1.7.24	Clubs week 2
3.7.24	EYFS & Reception Information Evening
8.7.24	Clubs week 3
14.7.24	PTA Circus
15.7.24	Clubs week 4
16.7.24	Open Evening
19.7.24	Feel Good Friday
23.7.24	Leavers Disco (7.00-9.00pm)
24.7.24	Leavers Assembly (9.15am)
24.7.24	School closes
25.7.24	INSET (Twilights)
26.7.24	INSET (Twilights)