

The Willows Primary School – Spring 2024 (i) Newsletter

This half term seems to have flown by especially as it was only 5 weeks long!

***New learning:**

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

The children started new themes once again after the Christmas holidays and have been very enthusiastic about their learning. Please see this half of term's topics questions below:

Nursery	Starry Night
Reception	Farmyard Fun
Years 1 & 2	Location, Location
Year 3	The Journey of a Banana
Year 4	Who pays the Price?
Year 5	The Boy who Biked the World
Year 6	Fair Trade?

Next term children will be focussing on the following:

Nursery	Puddles and Rainbows
Reception	How does your Garden Grow?
Years 1 & 2	Unsinkable
Year 3	The Anglo Saxon Chronicles
Year 4	Untangling the Greeks
Year 5	Maya Civilisation
Year 6	A Prehistoric Puzzle

Unsung heroes

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

We are pleased to announce that the following children have been nominated by their teachers as an unsung hero. This means that they have shown exemplary behaviour this half of term. Their pictures are in the library for all to see. Congratulations.

Nursery:	Reuben.H / Seng.T	Oak :	Louis.BM / Brianna.AY
Elm :	Amber.L / Jimmy.H	Beech:	Tilly.K / Harry.B
Ash:	Lennie.A / Kiyomi.R		
Chestnut:	Erin.LS / Bertie.R		
Fir:	Belle.W / Bobby.D	Pine:	Woody.B / Lyla.W
Spruce:	Lexi.W / Adam. S	Sycamore:	Soha.U/ Ruariah.D
Cedar:	Harry / Ruby	Maple:	Ben.T / Neve.W
Hawthorn:	Penny.I / Joe.H	Larch:	Jazi.N / Jemima. R

Whole School Well Being Strategy:

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

As you will probably be aware, this past week has been Children's Mental Health Week.

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/>

- If you have any concerns about your child's mental health, please feel free to contact Mrs Hirst - her working days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

***Sporting News:**

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

It has been a short half term to start of 2024, but it has been a busy half term of school sport at The Willows!

Our talented Hockey team took to the pitch recently to complete our league matches. We recorded some impressive results and as always, it was great to see the pride that our team took in putting on the Willows kit and representing our school so well. Huge thanks to Ms Pickering for taking the team to the event. We have many more competitive events planned for the future, and we can't wait to share them with you in future newsletters! (Watch this space...)

Back in school, we are very excited to start using our new Outdoor and Adventurous learning materials. This links closely to the theme of Orienteering and gives the children the chance to use our school grounds to explore, solve puzzles and continue to be active. Classes have been out and about in the last week of term, exercising and enjoying finding all of the Orienteering 'checkpoints' around school. I hope the children can tell you a little about it!

As you will hopefully know, we work closely with Trafford School Sport Partnership to promote physical activity in school. They challenged our pupils to take part in a personal fitness challenge... '5 A day Fitness' an online tool that teachers can use to ensure that pupils achieve the recommended 60 active minutes per day. It gives pupils the chance to get up and move in their classrooms throughout the day, with 5 minute dance routines, as we can take a short break from our work in learning in other curriculum subjects. We danced to the routines in our classes through the week, before some children were chosen to attend a 'Dance Off' final. (A highlight for the children is an annual appearance from Mrs Warren to dance along and compete...will she be one of our top three dancers this year in the 'Dance Off Final?..')

Mr Codd and the School Sport Crew are already planning events for the last three half terms of the year. We are excited to share them with you soon.

***Eco-Council News:**

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

Our Eco Focus for the first half of the spring term 2024 was **'What is Climate Change and what can we do to help?'**

At The Willows we already:

- Participated in an assembly led by Trafford council about the importance of recycling how they recycle our waste.
- Give eco warrior certificates to those who demonstrate how to help look after the environment.
- Recycle soft and hard plastic, tins, paper, batteries, printer ink cartridges, milk carton lids, pens, glasses and contact lenses at our Recycling Station in the corridor.
- Use reusable water bottles and reuse hand soap bottles.
- Encourage everyone to walk to school and have held 'Silly Socks and Happy Shoes' days to promote this.
- Replaced most of our lighting to LED and installed hand dryers.
- Make bug hotels to encourage wildlife, hold gardening clubs and grow produce to share with the community.
- Compost our fruit waste, have made and use a leaf mould composter.
- Encourage everyone to eat more plant based food and hold meat free Mondays in the school canteen.

Through this focus we will:

- Learn about what Climate Change is through a whole school assembly and find out what simple things we can all do to help slow down global warming.
- Continue to build a collection of books about the environment for each class to access during ERIC time.
- Inform parents of our current focus and projects through the school newsletter and website.
- Link our environmental beliefs to our school values; **Responsibility, Care, Challenge** and in particular, **Self-Belief** that we can make a difference to global issues such as climate change.
- Continue to monitor our new curriculum and ways we can link environmental issues to our learning.

“ WE ARE THE FIRST GENERATION TO FEEL THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE LAST GENERATION THAT CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. ”

- BARACK OBAMA

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/>

*Other news

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

- Year 3 shared their learning in their class assembly where they have incorporated their dance lessons with their love of stories to inform us all of an important Eco message.
- Year 6 presented a highly entertaining assembly on their learning about Ancient Egypt. They even included a 'live' mummification as well as songs, beautiful sculptural art work and lovely writing.
- This term Y3 have been learning about the journey of a banana in Geography. They were also very lucky to have Mrs Horan come to talk to us about the journey of the Chilli; from Africa to Nando's! We all learned so much and were very grateful to her for providing us with so much knowledge! They have also been excited to look at forces and work with Mrs Mason (Reception Elm teacher and the school's Science lead) in Science to investigate magnetic forces and consider how roads have been improved over the years to help keep vehicles safe. They saw some fabulous roads!
- The Reception classes have been learning about special and holy places. To enhance their learning, Father Steve visited the class and shared his experiences and knowledge about churches. The children enjoyed asking him questions and sharing their own experiences. We would like to express our gratitude to Father Steve for taking the time to visit us. If any parents are interested in sharing their experiences of their own holy places, please contact the office to organise a visit.
- All Key Stage 1 children in Ash, Beech and Chestnut have been studying the local area as part of their Geography learning. Each class walked into Timperley village to identify the natural and human features.
- This week has been Children's Mental Health week and we have been very busy in school! The theme this year is My Voice Matter and the week started with a special assembly on Monday.
 - On Tuesday, EYFS, KS1 and Y3 took part in Mindfulness with Rosy workshops to explore how to express themselves. The children enjoyed taking part in yoga, meditation and making affirmations.
 - On Thursday, Year's 4, 5 & 6 worked with Sunny the Worry Wizard to identify worries, what might cause them and how they can support themselves when they are worried.
 - KS2 children have taken home a My Voice Matters leaflet, which I hope you have enjoyed reading together.

All this could not have happened without your generous donations, so thank you very much! If you haven't donated and would like to, the link is still open on ParentPay.

Mrs T Hirst Mental Health Lead

- Lunar New Year Celebrations - We took part in a whole school celebration to mark the Lunar New Year. This year is the year of the Dragon. We are lucky to have such supportive parents who came into school to share with the children how this festival is celebrated. Our usual school colours were changed for the day, everyone came in wearing something red, which is a symbol of good fortune and joy. The children had so much fun taking part in the Chinese dance workshop. They made traditional Spring Couplet decorations and had a go at Chinese calligraphy. To re-fuel on such a busy day our school cook put together a delicious menu for the children to try some Chinese dishes. Sun Nian Fai Lol Happy New Year.

- We continue to be extremely grateful for the generosity of our community for their book donations, thank you! And we look ahead to celebrating World Book Day on a spoon! Look out for more information!

Dates for the rest of the Spring Term

19.2.24	School reopens
12.3.24	Parents' Evening (Face to face)
14.3.24	Parents' Evening (Virtual)
15.3.24	Year 5 Assembly
22.3.24	Year 4 Assembly
22.3.24	Feel Good Friday
22.3.24	School closes for Easter (3.15/3.20/3.25pm)