



Dear Families

It has been a wonderful week in school as we celebrated National Storytelling Week. The children thoroughly enjoyed spending time reading with a partner class and listening to a wide range of engaging stories shared by their teachers and I enjoyed sharing my favourite picture book 'Rascally Cake' with the school in assembly. It has been a pleasure to see such enthusiasm for reading across the school.



In mathematics, our Year 6 pupils have been developing their understanding of algebra. I was particularly impressed when they proudly came to share their work with me, confidently explaining their reasoning and demonstrating great progress in their learning.

It was also a pleasure to welcome so many parents to our Parents' Evening. Thank you for taking the time to meet with staff to discuss your child's achievements and next steps – strong partnerships between home and school are vital in supporting every child to succeed. Thank you to those parents who completed the survey – your views are important to us. Please scan the QR code if you haven't had a chance to complete the survey yet.



We have shared highlights of the fantastic learning taking place across the school on our social media platforms this week. Please do take a moment to have a look:

- Facebook: [Willow Bank Primary](#)
- Instagram : [willow_bank_primary](#)



Looking ahead to next week, we will be marking Safer Internet Day. Children will participate in a range of activities designed to help them understand how to stay safe online. We encourage you to talk with your child about what they have learned and how they can apply this knowledge at home.

We will also be recognising Children's Mental Health Week. On Friday, all children and staff are invited to wear something bright or something that makes them feel happy, as we come together to promote positivity, wellbeing, and the importance of looking after our mental health. We kindly ask for a £1 donation per family, which will go towards supporting wellbeing initiatives in school.



Yours sincerely
Mrs Beresford and the Willow Bank Team

Respect Integrity Kindness Resilience Aspiration Curiosity



Year R

As part of 'Story Telling Week', Magnolia class enjoyed buddy reading with Year 6 children. We shared our favourite traditional tales with them, and they read some of our favourite stories back to us.



Year 1

Year 1 have really enjoyed story telling week. Not only did we have our weekly parent reading morning, we also had an opportunity to share a story with children from Year 2! We love reading!



Year 2

In Year 2, Hornbeam have been reading books together as well as whole class during story telling week. They focused on reading with expression and sharing their favourite part of the book.



Year 3

This term, Year 3 have been reading and developing their fluency, expression, and understanding of a range of texts. They've been practising comprehension skills, learning new vocabulary, and building confidence with every book. It's wonderful to see their love of reading growing each day!





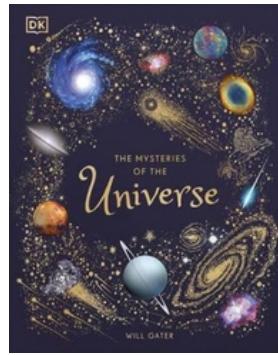
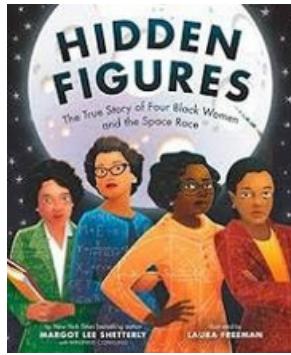
Year 4

This week, the whole school has been taking part in Storytelling Week and year four had a Reading Buddy swap with Year 6. The children really enjoyed spending time with their older peers and sharing different stories.



Year 5

This term in reading, Year 5 have enjoyed exploring a range of exciting and inspiring texts. We began with *Hidden Figures*, learning about perseverance and the achievements of women in science. More recently, pupils have been reading *The Mysteries of the Universe*, developing their understanding of space. Children have shown great enthusiasm and growing confidence in discussing and responding to what they read.



Year 6

In Year 6 we loved having almond class visit and read with us. It gave us a wonderful opportunity to practice our oracy skills.



REMINDER.

This Friday 13th of February we will be inviting children to wear **bright and colourful** '**what makes you happy**' in support of **Childrens mental health week**. £1 donation.





EYFS & KS1 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.



OUR CORE VALUE FOR SPRING TERM 1 IS
KINDNESS



Our attendance target is to reach over 96%

Magnolia - 98.5%	Yew - 99%
Hornbeam - 97%	Redwood - 91.5%
Almond - 96%	Hazel - 94%
Larch - 97%	3 gold stars

School Reminder

Children should not arrive earlier than 8.20am for Breakfast club, this runs 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>



London South East Children's University February 2026 Challenges



This month's challenges are all about the upcoming Winter Olympics and Paralympics, which are taking part in Milan, Italy, starting on Friday 6th February 2026!

You can choose to complete as many of these challenges as you wish – simply email your evidence (a photo is absolutely fine!) to Louise at Bexley.CU@Bexley.gov.uk and she will send you your stamp code!

Create a fact sheet about Milan!

The 2026 Winter Olympics and Paralympics are being held in Milan! For this challenge, I would like you to create a factsheet for Milan – you can either create a booklet or a powerpoint with at least 10 facts about Milan. This might include information about some of the famous monuments and attractions you can visit there, share some of the history or even create a map of the different places where the Olympics and Paralympics games will be held!

Design an Olympic or Paralympic torch

Each Olympics and Paralympics has a different torch and it's really interesting looking back at the designs over the years. For the challenge, we would like you to design and make your very own 3D Olympic or Paralympic torch.

You can use inspiration from previous designs if you would like but this should be your design. You can use whatever material you have at home and if this is too tricky, you can simply share your drawing!

Recreate the flags of 5 countries taking part

For this challenge, I would like you to recreate the flags of 5 different countries taking part. You can choose how you recreate this, whether you want to create it Rangoli-style, colouring or using different coloured objects.

Please also remember to let me know which countries you have chosen!

Try out an Olympic or Paralympic sport!

There is such a variety of different sports at the Winter Olympics and Paralympics. For this challenge, I would like you to try out at least one Olympic or Paralympic sport.

Try to get a photo taken of you trying out the sport and then share a few sentences telling me what you thought of it. You can write this or send me a video of you talking – whatever works best for you!



APPS AND THEIR AGE RATINGS

13+



Facebook



Snapchat



Instagram



Twitter



TikTok



Kik



YouNow



Yubo



House Party



Monkey

16+



WhatsApp

17+



Sarahah



YOLO

18+



MeetMe



LiveMe



APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR **JUNIOR BAKE OFF**

**Aged between 9-15 and love to bake?
We'd love to hear from you!**

WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK



APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH MARCH 2026



Photos of children may be taken for promotional purposes, if you do not give consent to this please state when booking.



LITTLE ACHIEVERS
Little Achievers because big achieves

February Half Term FOOTBALL COURSE

BOYS AND GIRLS
5-13 years
All abilities

£50 per week
or £15 a day

- Woodland Academy Trust Discount
- Sibling discount (non trust members)

Northumberland Heath Primary School, Wheelock Close, Erith, DA8 1JE (Brook Street entrance)

Please Bring: Packed Lunch, Drinks, Trainers & Shinpads.
Rewards include: Certificates, Medals & Trophies.
Coach Qualifications: UEFA and FA Qualified Coaches; FA Child Protection; Safeguarding & First Aid Training.

16-20 Feb | 10am-3pm

Sam Cassell
07539 016184
Little.Achievers@outlook.com
f littleachievers1 @littleachievers_

Running of the day

10-10.30am	Arrival and registration
10.30-10.45am	Warm up games
10.45-12 noon	Technique and skill based learning
12 noon-1pm	Lunch time
1.00-1.30pm	Morning recap
1.30-2.45pm	Themed tournament
3pm	Home time

Photos of children may be taken for promotional purposes, if you do not give consent to this please state when booking.

What to bring

- Packed lunch
- Lots of drink
- Comfortable clothing
- Football boots, Astro turfs, Trainers (No metal studs or blades)
- Shinpads

Rewards

- Little Achievers attendance certificate
- Medals
- Trophies

Coaches qualifications

- UEFA and FA Qualified Coaches
- FA Child Protection
- FA Safeguarding
- First Aid Training

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