



# WILLOWS NEWS

Date: 29.11.2024

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[www.thewillowsschoolacademy.co.uk](http://www.thewillowsschoolacademy.co.uk)



Dear Parents/Carers,

The weeks are going by at a cracking pace and, as we head towards the winter season, there is a definite drop in temperature and the frost is hitting the ground. I know I have mentioned this before but please ensure your child has warm things to wrap up in when they go into the playground. In addition, I know it can be frustrating when your child comes home with missing pieces of uniform. To this end, I have asked staff to remind children to go home with the same clothing they wear into the school, and support them in finding bits and pieces before the end of the day. However, this can be tricky if clothing is not named. Would you please help us to help the children by ensuring all clothing is labelled, which means that wherever articles are left, they can go straight back to the children. Thank you also because the children, for the most part, look very well turned out in their uniforms.

The dining room is now closed for the next two and a half weeks as it gets decorated for Christmas and this year's Christmas theme; I don't know if it is a secret or not, so I had better not say anything.

Finally, thank you to all who turned up to the Christmas decoration painting session. It is always encouraging to see parents and carers in the building, and I hope you enjoyed the morning.

Have a safe and peaceful weekend.

Paul Gregory-Hunt  
(Head of School)

## Lime – No Pens Day

Lime Class enjoyed a day without using pens and pencils. They started the day off in a fun way by engaging in creative activities using play-dough and corn flour which allowed them to strengthen their fine motor skills.



## Chestnut – No Pens Day

Chestnut had a great day on Wednesday celebrating No Pens Day! They launched their virtual classroom 'Google Classroom', practised telling the time, did African drumming and made their adults proud sharing in front of the class for Show and Tell.



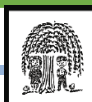
## Ash Class - PSHE

This week in Ash Class, we were learning about bullying in our PSHE lesson. We were put into different groups and roleplayed different scenarios.



## Elm Class - Literacy

This week, Elm class made their own paper puppets, and used them to retell the class book we are reading!



## OAK – No Pens Day

Oak participated in No Pens Day. We did a range of activities such as show and tell. We also baked our own flapjacks. YUMMY!



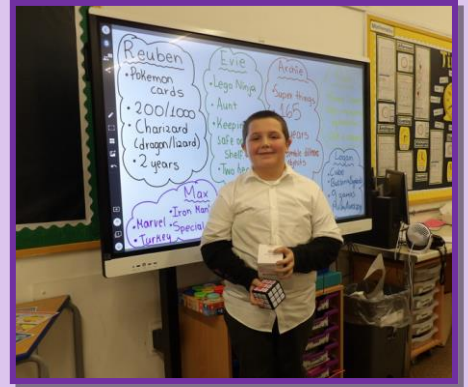
## Maple – No Pens Day

As part of No Pens Day, Maple class took part in an oral activity where children spoke about their favourite item from home. This included a show-and-tell component, allowing them to present to their peers, promoting verbal expression, active listening and creativity in a hands-on, pen-free environment.



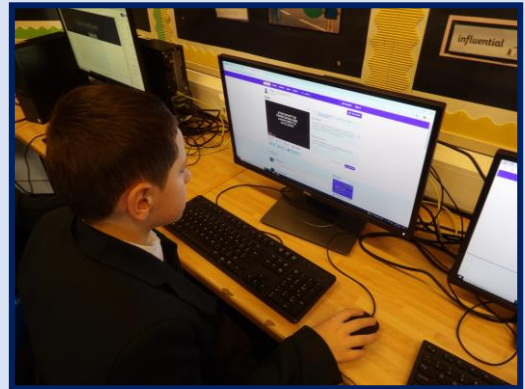
As part of *No Pens Day*, Pine Class had a special opportunity to bring one of their favourite items from home. During one session, each student took turns presenting their chosen item to their classmates. They described why their item was special to them, shared interesting details, and answered questions from their peers.

## Pine – No Pens Day



## Beech – Website Design

Beech Class have been designing their own websites using Google Sites. This week we looked at the 'embed link' feature, which allows us to have external videos or pictures show up on our own website page.

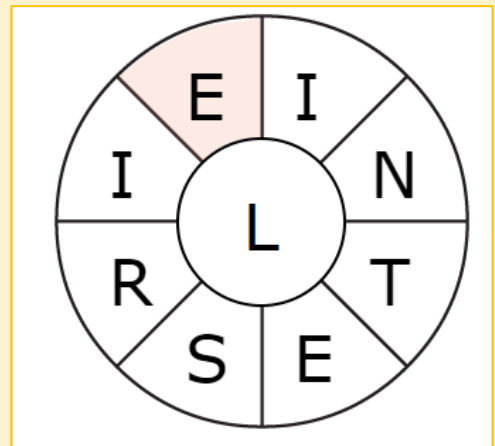


## COMPETITION ALERT!

See how many words you can make.  
Use the word wheel to make words...  
**Bring in your words on a named piece of paper and hand it in to your class teacher.**

Over 20 words earn you a special dip.  
Make a nine-letter word and earn a special dip.

The highest number of words a special prize!



# Speech, Language and Communication at the Willows



We recognised the ability to communicate as the most fundamental life skill for children.

In school we have daily morning speaking and listening sessions. We encourage talk throughout all areas of the curriculum and this year are having an increased focus on describing, explaining and debating as well as roleplay and drama.

We held *No Pens Day* on Wednesday, where we asked children to talk about an object of their choice from home and prepare to talk about their object in class. Many children across the school successfully took part in this 'Show and Tell' activity.

Listening is also very important in the development of Speech, Language and Communication skills and we continue to encourage and promote these important skills.

Alongside the school, parents and carers have the most important role in supporting Speech, Language and Communication development and are best placed to provide language rich environments for the children.



## Enrichment – Gardeners World



Thank you to Mr Dunne and the supporting staff who took our young gardeners to visit Missenden Gardens last Friday.

What a wonderful time they all had. After a tour of the grounds and the walled garden area they had the opportunity to do some planting in the greenhouse as well as experiencing the varied tastes of the herb garden - Rosemary, Thyme, Basil and Mint. The bee hive caused a lot of interest and excitement!

The Missenden staff were so complementary about our children who showed their very best behaviour.



# Christmas Is Coming...



The Willows Christmas Post Box is now officially open and we welcome Christmas cards from any children who would like to send a card to someone in the school.

Children simply post cards into the post box, situated in the entrance corridor, and then post will be delivered around the school.

## Term Dates 2024/2025

### Autumn Term

First Day of Term	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2024
Staff only - INSET day	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024
First Day of Term for Students	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
Half Term	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 - Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2024
Last Day of Term	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024 1:30pm Early Finish
School Holiday Dates	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024 - Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025

WORD  
of the  
WEEK

stupendous

amazing

e.g. The views were stupendous!



The Willows School  
Academy Trust

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