



WILLOWS NEWS



Date: 26.09.2025

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www.thewillowsschoolacademy.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an Indian summer it is turning out to be. Cool mornings and mild days I suspect will make for a fiery autumn palate.

Meanwhile The Willows Academy is ticking along. I was out on duty in the playground today and impressed with how the children were playing together and running around on the field and through the butterfly garden. Play is so important. I often think we forget about how important it is for healthy development. It allows children to express feelings, explore creativity, regulate anxiety, and connect with others. The same can be said for children taking part in P.E. activities and dance. It accelerates the neural development in the brain, creates strong connections between the two brain hemispheres and leads to increased learning ability.

As you can see in today's news letter, there is a wide variety of learning taking place across the school in many areas of the curriculum. All-in-all, it is this variety of experiences, along with the building of self-esteem and confidence that creates successful learners. In essence, it is not so much the quantity of learning as it is the richness of the learning experiences that lead to school success, and I remain encouraged by the quality of what takes place at The Willows. Have a great weekend

Paul Gregory-Hunt (Head of School)



Lime Class - PE



This week, we continued practicing our sending and receiving ball skills as part of our current unit – tag rugby. We then took part in small team games and did some exercises to develop our agility.



Pine Class - IPC



This week in Pine Class, we explored how the human brain works and how learning happens through the formation of neural connections. To help us understand this process, we created model neurons out of Play-Doh. This hands-on activity allowed us to see the different parts of a neuron—such as the cell body, dendrites, and axon—and how they work together to send messages throughout the brain.



We learned that every time we practice a new skill or gain new knowledge, our brains strengthen these connections, helping us learn and remember more effectively.

Maple Class had a really fun Art lesson this week. Inspired by the book 'Where the Wild Things Are', the children created their own wild creatures and enjoyed sharing their imaginative ideas.

Maple Class – Art





Oak Class – PSHE



Oak Class did a great job in PSHE this week, we explored the United Nations Global Goals and explored the importance of a Quality Education and the impact it can have on a child's life.



Chestnut – Tesco Trip

Kalimera!



In preparation for our International/European Day of Languages on Friday, Chestnut class headed off to our local Tesco to buy ingredients for a Greek Salad. On Friday we will be preparing our own salads and learning some key Greek words.



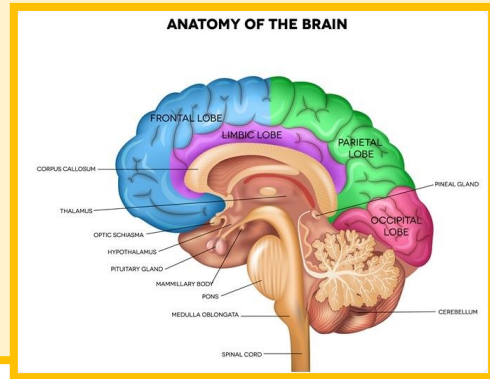
Beech Class – Our learning

We have had an amazing week of learning in Beech class.

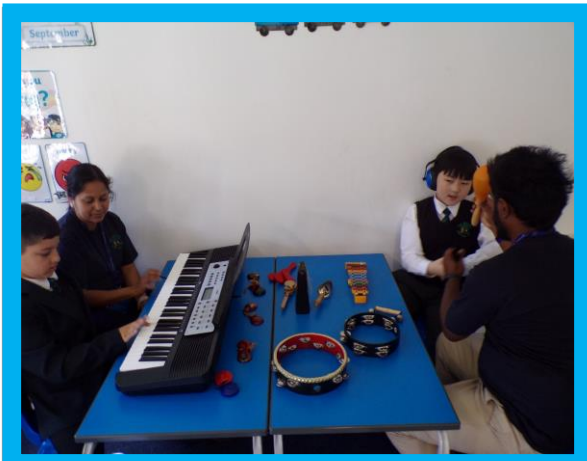
In Maths, we have continued with our place value comparing and ordering numbers.

In English, we took a deep dive into what it means to be “ordinary”.

In IPC, we continued with our work into the brain and looked at what different lobes of the brain and what they do.



Hazel Class - Music



This week in Hazel class, the children explored playing different musical instruments.

They were introduced to some basic rhythmic patterns and experimented playing both harmonic and dissonant chords with support.

They also go the opportunity to toggle between different sounds on the keyboard, and closely listen to the various timbres.



Ash Class - Art

Ash Class have been busy being creative during Art this week using different medias and building a collage.



Elm Class - Maths



This week in Elm class the children worked together to find images of insects in soil and then completed puzzles that matched to the image. They also built aeroplanes and had fun throwing them outside with the wind at times making them fly wildly.



Enrichment Learning – The Willows Litter Pickers



Working alongside Hillingdon Litter Pickers, The Willows are out every Friday collecting litter in our local area. The children are quickly developing a sense of community, responsibility and pride.



15 LIFE ON LAND



Global Goal 15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.



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Global Goals Week 2025

Calling all Global Citizens!

A global citizen is someone who is aware of and understands the wider world. They are a citizen of the world.

At The Willows, we love to take an active role in our community and work with others to make our planet more peaceful, sustainable and fairer. An example of this is our link with Hillingdon Litter Pickers and we litter pick every Friday in our local area.

On 25th September 2015, the United Nations agreed to 17 Global goals to end extreme poverty and improve our world by 2030.



To mark Global Goals Week this year, we focused on Goal 4: A Quality Education.

Each class learnt about why a Quality Education is important and made a poster to let the world know!





A huge congratulations to Kairo who won our poster competition!

Remember a Quality Education is your right!

Be at school
Do your best learning



Please ensure packed lunches do not contain any food items that contain nuts.



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Autumn Term

First Day of Term (Staff Training Days)	Monday 1st September 2025
INSET Days (Staff Only)	Monday 1st September 2025 Tuesday 2nd September 2025 Tuesday 30th September 2025 Monday 3rd November 2025
First Day of Term (for students)	Wednesday 3rd September 2025
Half Term	Monday 27th October 2025 - Friday 31st October 2025
Last Day of Term	Friday 19th December 2025 1pm Early Finish
School Holiday Dates	Monday 22nd December 2025 – Friday 2nd January 2026

School Uniform

Children attending The Willows Academy are expected to wear the correct uniform. This is:

- Grey shorts or black trousers
- White shirt
- School tie
- School blazer
- School Sweater
- Black school shoes (not trainers)

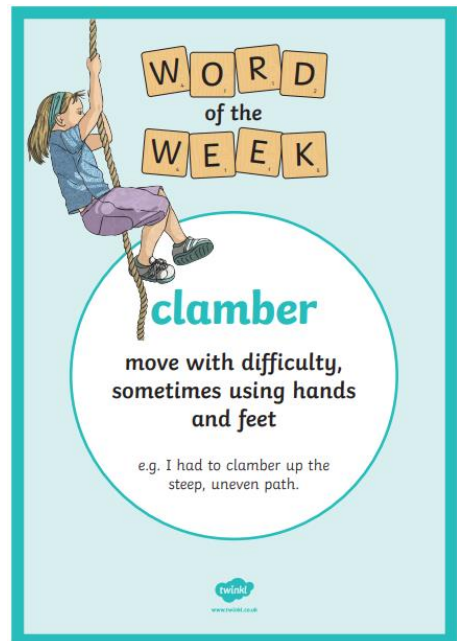
Purchased from school: Blazer £30, Sweater £15 and Tie £5

P.E.

It is expected that your child changes for P.E. and other sports-oriented classes.

- The school provides a blue t-shirt and black shorts.
- Please ensure that you provide a pair of suitable trainers for your child

If your child does not wish to wear the P.E. kit provided by the school, you will need to ensure they come with sports clothing.



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