



# WILLOWS NEWS

Date: 14.11.2025

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



Dear Parents and Carers

This week has been one of reflection, joyful celebration, and meaningful learning across the school. We began the week with a powerful assembly introducing the theme of anti-bullying. We also welcomed Jonathon, from Education Group, in role as Captain Greyson-Brown, a soldier from World War II. His storytelling brought history to life, sparking curiosity and empathy in our pupils. Follow up workshops on rationing and wartime life were rich in learning, helping our children connect past and present in thoughtful ways.

On Tuesday classrooms fell silent for two minutes as we honoured those who served and sacrificed. The children then laid hand-made poppies on our Remembrance table – a moment of quiet dignity that moved many of us. Their respect and maturity were truly commendable.

Thankyou for your kind and generous support today of Children in Need. From yellow clothing/accessories to coin donations, your contributions helped us raise £80.63 ( a record) for this important cause.

Warm regards

The Willows

## Pine Class – IPC (History)



This week, Pine class started investigating what life was like for people living in the Stone Age.

Did you know that The Stone Age is the longest time period in the human timeline?

You could take all the following time periods (to the modern day) together, multiply them several times, and the Stone Age would still be longer!



## Ash Class – Speaking and Listening



Ash class had an amazing speaking and listening session on Tuesday morning.

Creating structures using magnets and enjoying each other's company playing games – excellent communication and interaction.



## Elm Class - Literacy

This week in Elm room the children used their hearing to follow a voice around the room to try and find a friend. This linked to the story of this term, 'What the Ladybird heard'. They also played a maths game, with the challenge to find the matching number card to the one they were given. With the children needing to use communication to ask each other what card they have and need so that everyone ended up with two cards that were the same number.



## Chestnut Class – Maths

During Maths this week, Chestnut Class began their Addition and Subtraction unit.

At The Willows, our Maths lessons follow the:

‘I Do’ (teacher model),

‘We Do’ (partner practice) and

‘You Do’ (independent work) structure.

During the ‘We Do’ stage, Chestnut Class worked beautifully with their partners. They first used counters on a place value mat and then applied the formal written method. Their positivity and support for one another meant that every child experienced success in their learning.



## Lime Class – IPC (Science)

This week, Lime Class investigated how sound travels through different mediums. We learnt that sound travels through vibrations.



## Maple Class - Literacy

Maple class brought “Where the Wild Things Are” to life this week with a fun and imaginative role-play. The children took on the characters roles brilliantly, exploring emotions, movement and storytelling as they journeyed to the land of the Wild Things.



## Oak Class - Science

In science, Oak have been developing their knowledge of 'electricity'. Their focus this week was to learn how to conduct an investigation by creating a simple circuit.



## Beech Class – Our Week



We had a fantastic week in Beech class! We had a guest visitor come to the school to talk about life in Britain during the second world war and we did a little role play of a cockney family as a German pilot crashed into the home. In mathematics we continued our multiplication work and are using ever increasing numbers. In English we have read more of Wonder and hot seated the feelings of characters at certain chapters. In History we looked at the hierarchy of ancient Chinese society and in Science we explored the different chambers of the heart and the connecting blood vessels.



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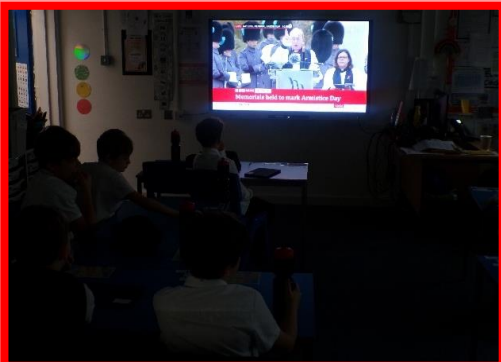
REMEMBRANCE DAY  
*Let Us Forget*



Remembrance is a time to reflect and at The Willows we were fortunate to welcome Captain Greyson-Brown for a special visit. During our assembly, the children listened beautifully as he spoke about life in World War I and the vital roles people played in ensuring victory and protecting our freedom.



Back in class, the children watched the live coverage on BBC News and took part in the two-minute silence. They spent this time thinking about their loved ones and reflecting on how fortunate they are to live with freedom.



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After the silence, each class walked respectfully to our Remembrance display to place a poppy they had made.

Our Year 6 pupils then deepened their understanding of World War I through a workshop with Captain Greyson-Brown titled *A Soldier's Tale*.



*In Flanders Fields*  
BY JOHN MCCRAE

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from falling hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.





## UNCRC United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child

### Article 2

#### Non-discrimination

Every child has the right to be treated fairly, regardless of their characteristics or background.

### Article 15

#### Freedom of association

Children must be free to form friendships and groups without fear of intimidation.

We take bullying very seriously at The Willows so children learnt that bullying is **repeated** and **on purpose**.

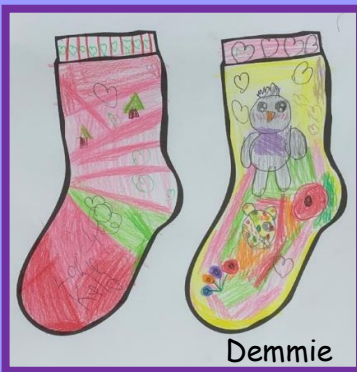
They learnt that it can happen in different ways. It might be physical (hitting), verbal (name-calling), social (leaving someone out), or online (unkind messages).

To mark Anti-Bullying week, the children decorated their own 'odd socks' for a competition.

One sock represented the children's **Inner Superpower** - something they're good at. This might be... listening, staying calm or being brave.

The other sock was their **Action Superpower** - how they can use that strength to help others, like including people, standing up for someone or caring for others.

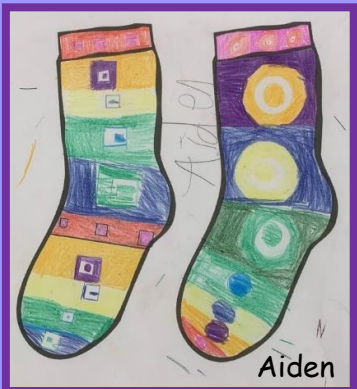
Congratulations to our competition winners Demmie, Jesse, Aiden and Katelyn.



Demmie



Jesse



Aiden



Katelyn

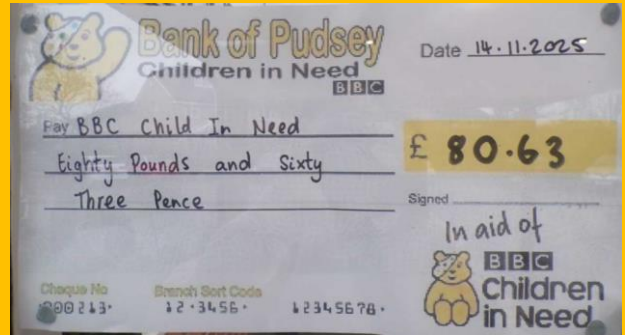
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We raised a total of £80.63 for children in need. Thank you to everyone who contributed!



## Reminder:

### ONLINE SAFETY AND SOCIAL MEDIA COFFEE MORNING



Wednesday 19th November  
9:30am - 11am

At  
The Willows School Academy Trust

ONLINE SAFETY IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE



Growing up online offers limitless opportunities for our children. These opportunities can come with serious risks. However, when used in the right way, it can broaden horizons and ignite creativity.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

## **Please take time to speak with your child about:**

**Appropriate online behaviour:** Children should treat others with respect and never use hurtful, threatening, or inappropriate language online.

**Sharing images:** Children must never share indecent images of themselves or others. Sending or receiving such images is illegal, regardless of age.

**Reporting concerns:** Encourage your child to speak to you or a trusted adult if they see anything online that worries or upsets them.

**Age restrictions:** Many platforms have a legal minimum age. For example, WhatsApp is legally for 16+. Children below this age should not be using it.

## **Advice for Monitoring and Supporting Your Child Online**

**Be involved:** Talk regularly with your child about their online experiences and who they interact with.

**Set clear boundaries:** Agree rules for internet use, including time limits and which websites or apps are appropriate.

**Use privacy settings:** Support your child in creating strong passwords and activating privacy controls on devices and accounts.

**Know the signs:** Watch for sudden changes in behaviour, reluctance to use devices, or secretive online activity.

**Report concerns:** Encourage your child to speak to you or a trusted adult if they see anything upsetting or inappropriate online.

## **Resources for Further Information and Support**

**Thinkuknow:** Guidance for parents and children about online safety

**NSPCC Online Safety:** Practical tips and advice

**Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP):** Report concerns or seek advice

**UK Safer Internet Centre:** Tips, advice, and resources



## Autumn Term

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

### 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.

W O R D  
of the  
W E E K

**monstrous**

frightful or hideous  
in appearance

e.g. The creature was monstrous,  
with sharp claws and  
fiery breath.



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Thank you for reading our  
newsletter!

