



# WILLOWS NEWS



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

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was hard to imagine how we could top last week's Christmas fun and festivities, yet this week has been equally incredible and full of celebration here at The Willows.

We began on Monday with our nativity play, beautifully followed by The Willows Choir, whose Christmas medley set the perfect tone for the week. On Tuesday, the whole school was treated to a magical pantomime performance of *Beauty and the Beast*, which brought laughter, excitement and wonderful audience participation. As if that was not enough, we then had a very special visit from Santa himself bearing gifts.

Throughout the week we have been judging a range of competitions including attendance, the Christmas door competition, uniform competition and the ever-popular Christmas tree challenge. Each event has showcased the enthusiasm and spirit that makes The Willows so special.

We wish to thank our children, families and staff for making this first term of this academic year such a positive and memorable one. Together creating moments that will stay with us long after the decorations come down.

Merry Christmas and Happy new Year. We look forward to seeing the children back at school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Warm wishes,  
The Willows

## The Willows Choir



On Monday, following our Nativity play, the choir took to the stage and filled the hall with the joyful sounds of a Christmas medley.

We look forward to on-going choir rehearsals in the spring term and new opportunities to perform. Thank you to all the enthusiastic singers that for The Willows Choir and thanks to Mr Sam Leo for his hard work and dedication.



# Christmas Door Competition



The Willows School  
Academy Trust

Learning - Achieving - Succeeding

## Nativity Story

On Monday, The Willows gathered for our final assembly of the term, and it was truly special. The children beautifully retold the Nativity story, reminding us all of the real meaning behind Christmas. Between scenes, traditional carols created a warm and festive atmosphere. The children looked absolutely wonderful in their costumes, bringing the story to life with charm and authenticity.



## Santa Clause Visit

On Tuesday, Santa took time out of his busy schedule to stop by and surprise the children with gifts ahead of Christmas Day. It was a heart-warming reminder of the magic of the season and the joy of giving.



## Beauty and the Beast Panto

As part of our Christmas festivities, The Willows was treated to a spectacular performance of *Beauty and the Beast* on Tuesday. From the very first "Oh yes it was!" the audience was swept up in the magic of pantomime, with laughter, cheers, and plenty of participation throughout.

A cast of 15 children took on various roles, bringing the beloved story to life with energy and enthusiasm. The pantomime captured the spirit of Christmas perfectly—fun, festive, and full of joy





A big thank you, by Miss Locke and Mrs Downie on behalf of the school, to Reverend Alan at St John's Baptist Church for accommodating all classes in the last weeks of term during the festive season.

## Attendance

We are pleased to share that our whole-school attendance for the Autumn term stands at **90.8%**.

As a special school supporting children with SEMH, we recognise that every day in school can bring its own challenges, and this figure reflects the commitment, resilience, and teamwork shown by our pupils, families, and staff. Regular attendance plays a vital role in supporting emotional wellbeing, learning, and positive routines, and we are proud of the progress being made together.

A huge congratulations also goes to **Lime Class**, the winners of the **Willows Race** this term! Their fantastic effort and consistency have earned them a well-deserved **restaurant lunch** – we hope they enjoy every bite!

## Spring Term

First Day of Term	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Half Term	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 - Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Last Day of Term	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 1pm Early Finish
School Holiday Dates	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 - Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2026

