



# WILLOWS NEWS



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

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Welcome back to the Spring Term 2026, and a very Happy New Year to all our families.** It has been lovely to see the children return to school this week looking well rested, refreshed, and smart in their uniforms. We are also delighted to welcome several new pupils who have joined The Willows—our warmest welcome goes out to them and their families. We look forward to getting to know you and hope to see you at our upcoming coffee mornings and working closely with you. Our first Coffee Morning of the Term will take place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January – *Puzzle Day* – details to follow.

The children have had a very settled and positive start to the term, showing great enthusiasm and curiosity as they engage with their new topics. As the weather has turned particularly cold, please ensure that your child brings a coat to school each day, as we cannot allow pupils outside for playtimes without appropriate outerwear. A gentle reminder too that black school shoes should be worn as part of our uniform expectations.

It has been wonderful to see such focused learning and excitement across the classrooms already, and we look forward to a productive and enjoyable term ahead.

Please inform the School Office if any contact details have changed.

Wishing you a restful weekend.

Warm wishes

The Willows

## Hazel – Weather and Seasons

This week Hazel class, as part of their new science topic -Weather and Seasons - enjoyed making rain droplets with foam. This experiment was not only fun but helped the children's awareness of how rain forms:

1. Fill a glass or jar about two-thirds full of water to create the 'sky'.
2. Use shaving foam to create a 'cloud' on top of the water.
3. Use a pipette to add food colouring to the shaving foam 'cloud' one by one.
4. When the food colouring falls through the 'cloud', it will resemble rain.



## Elm - Pupils Step Into the Teacher's Role

The first week of 2026 in Elm Class has been a great success. We started by welcoming two new students to our group! The class quickly made them feel at home, spending time playing introductory games to learn about their new peers.

A highlight of the week was our "Student as Teacher" activity. The children confidently took turns leading the class, teaching a topic of their choice. Using the smartboard with impressive knowledge and presentation skills, they guided the lesson, facilitated discussions, and managed the question-and-answer session with their classmates like true professionals.



## Maple – Making Predictions

Maple Class has made a fantastic start to 2026 following the Christmas break. We were delighted to welcome two new pupils to our group; the class was incredibly welcoming and attentive as our new arrivals introduced themselves and shared their interests. In English, we launched our new class book by focusing on the art of prediction. Using the front cover as a guide, the children displayed excellent engagement and active listening, sharing a range of thoughtful and creative ideas about the plot. We are very proud of their excellent behaviour and positive attitude toward their learning this week.



## Ash – Exploring rocks

This term, Ash Class is studying geology. The students enjoyed exploring various rocks to identify their unique properties, such as origin, texture, and durability (strength versus brittleness). They also closely examined the diverse range of colours and physical sensations of each specimen.



## Chestnut - Yoga

Happy New Year from Chestnut Class!

We kicked off 2026 with a fantastic yoga session. Mr Oscar was so impressed with our focus that we were even able to move on to learning some more challenging positions!



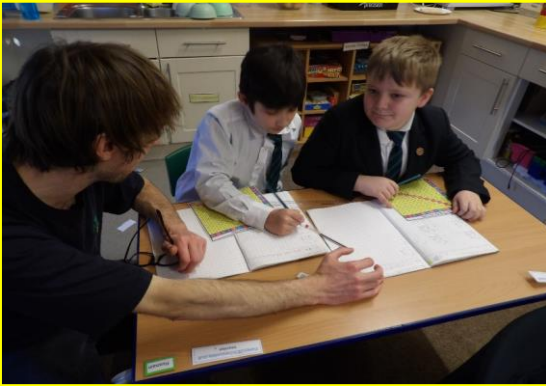
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## Lime – Long Multiplication

This week, Lime Class expanded their multiplication skills by mastering the column method for long multiplication.

By applying their knowledge of place value and times tables, they successfully tackled increasingly complex calculations.



## Pine – Exploring the United Kingdom

This week, Pine Class began an exciting new Geography topic: "The United Kingdom." In our introductory lesson, the children identified the four countries of the UK and their capital cities. To develop their mapping skills, the pupils used tracing paper to create detailed maps of the UK, which they then carefully labelled. It was a fantastic start to our geographic studies!



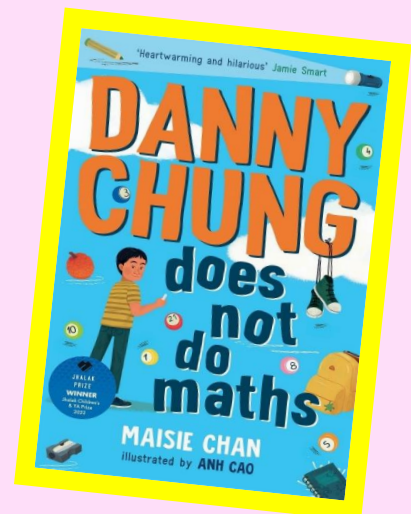
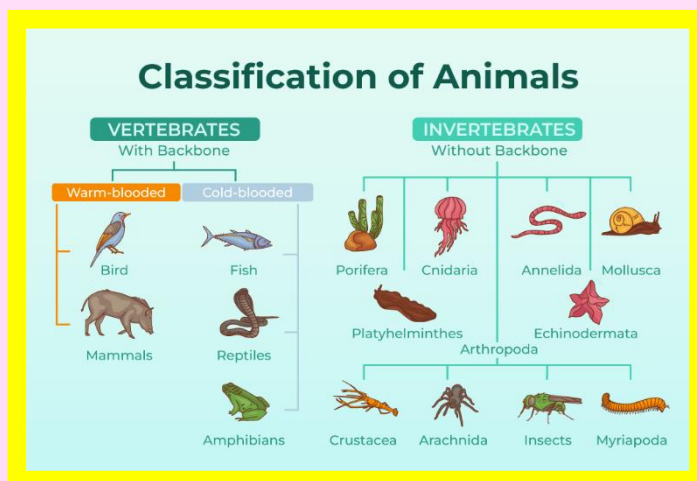
## Oak – Multiplication and Division

This week Oak class commenced with learning about division and sharing in equal parts. During this learning they spent some time refreshing and testing their knowledge of their multiplication tables.



## Beech - Highlights from Our First Week Back

We have had an amazing first week back! The students have already dived into some incredible learning, starting with our new class book, *Danny Chung Does Not Do Maths*, in English and a new unit on fractions in Maths. In Science, we are exploring "Living Things and Their Habitats," specifically focusing on classification systems and the animal kingdoms. Our foundation subjects are also off to a great start, with Outdoor Adventure Activities in PE and a new unit on Hinduism in RE.





# Family Liaison News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!

We are delighted to welcome all our children and families back after the Christmas break and we hope you had a restful holiday. A very warm welcome to our new families joining us this term – we are so pleased to have you as part of our school community.

As the Family Liaison Worker, I am here to support all families, whether you are new to the school or have been with us for many years. Coffee mornings will be resuming this term, with our first taking place on **29 January**, focusing on **Puzzle Building with your child**.

Debbie Downie

## Getting Back into Routine

After the Christmas break, routines can take a little time to rebuild. Please be aware that this is normal. Small things can really help:

Gradually returning to earlier bedtimes.

Keeping your mornings calm and predictable.

Reassuring your child that school is a safe and supportive place.



**Please remember that it is okay if this does not happen straight away. We will work together to support your child.**

## Attendance – Support First

**ATTENDANCE  
MATTERS**  
ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

Being in school helps children feel safe, settled, and ready to learn. We understand that for some children, getting into school can feel overwhelming, especially after having a break.

**If you are finding attendance difficult for any reason, please let us know as early as possible.**

**We are here to help you and can look at support together.**



## School Uniform

At our school, wearing school uniform is an important expectation for all pupils. Uniform helps children feel part of the school community and creates a sense of belonging. It also supports a positive start to the day, helping children feel ready to learn and focused when they arrive at school.

If uniform is a worry for any reason – **please do not struggle in silence**. Let us know, so that we can do our best to support where we can.

## Family Group Coffee Mornings

Our Family Group Coffee Mornings will be restarting this term!

The first one will be: **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January – 09:15 to 10:45 – Celebrating World Puzzle Day – Parents and Carers welcome to join their child in school for some fun puzzle-building.**



**If you have any worries, questions, or concerns – please get in touch – Debbie Downie – 0208 841 7176**

## 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

### 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

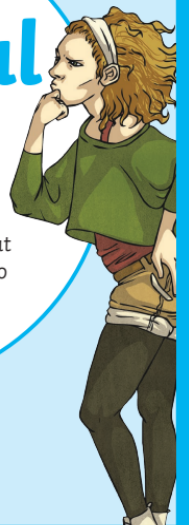
If your child does not wish to wear the P.E. kit provided by the school, you will need to ensure they come with sports clothing.

WORD  
of the  
WEEK

doubtful

unsure

e.g. Anna was doubtful that her friend would be able to come to her party.



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