



WILLOWS NEWS



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Tel: 020 8841 7176

www.thewillowsschoolacademy.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been filled with wonderful learning across the school, as pupils immersed themselves in new topics and units with great enthusiasm. Classrooms have been alive with curiosity, creativity, and a real sense of purpose.

Yesterday we came together for Cultural Diversity Day, a joyful celebration of the many cultures that enrich our community. Pupils enjoyed a fabulous Italian-themed menu, took part in cooking experiences inspired by countries around the world, and explored a vibrant array of activities in the school hall.

A huge well done to our Year 4 pupils who completed the Multiplication Timestable Check this week. They showed real focus and determination as they worked against the clock, and we are very proud of their efforts.

Next week, a small group of pupils will be taking part in exciting sporting events off site, and we look forward to sharing photos and celebrating their achievements in our next newsletter.

We are also delighted to share that the school has now received its new Green Flag status with distinction. Our certificate, plaque, and flag have arrived, and our new flag can be seen flying proudly at the school entrance. This is a fantastic achievement for our Eco Warrior Committee and the whole school community.

A gentle reminder that children should arrive in full school uniform each day, including black school shoes. Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain high standards across the school.
The Willows

Elm - Stencils

This week, Elm Class combined art and storytelling in a creative activity. The children used stencils of different dinosaurs and animals to create their own story pictures, which they then presented to the class.



Pine - Geometry

This week, Pine Class began an exciting investigation into different types of lines as part of their maths curriculum. The children explored three key concepts:

Parallel lines are lines that run alongside each other and never meet, no matter how far they extend.

Perpendicular lines are lines that meet at a right angle (90 degrees), forming a perfect corner. **Intersecting lines** are lines that cross over each other at any point. Unlike perpendicular lines, they don't have to meet at a right angle – they can cross at any angle.

Parallel



Perpendicular

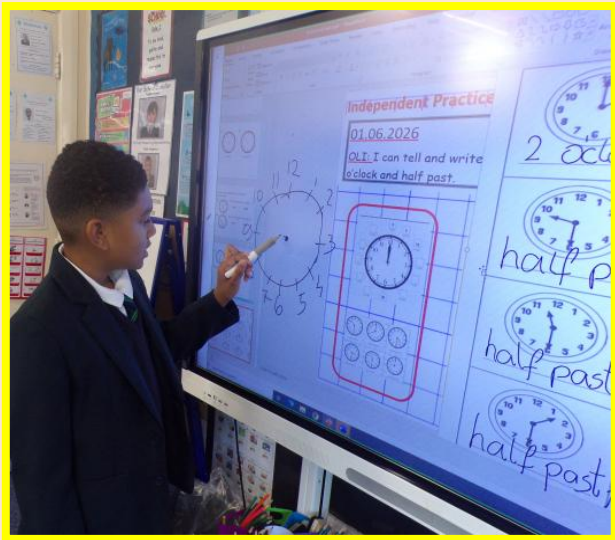


Intersecting Lines



Maple – Telling the Time

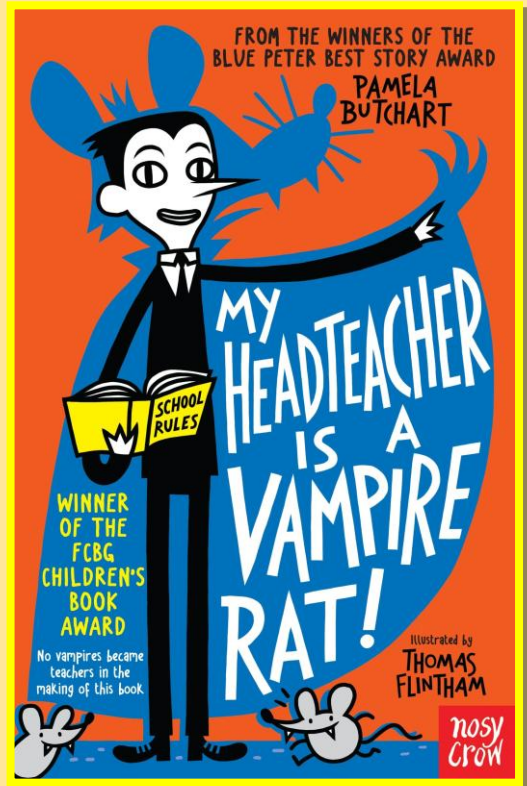
This week in Maple Class, we began learning how to tell the time. We have been focusing on o'clock and half past, while also introducing the concepts of quarter past and quarter to.



Ash - Literacy

This term, Ash Class has started reading “My Head Teacher Is a Vampire Rat”. The children have been exploring the opening of the story, making predictions about what might happen next and using clues from the text to support their ideas.

They also enjoyed creating freeze frames of key moments from the first part of the book, using facial expressions and body language to show the characters' thoughts and feelings. This helped develop their understanding of the story and its characters.



Lime – Making Pastry

This week, we have been celebrating different cultures, foods and languages. As part of our learning, we made our own cheese and chocolate pastries from scratch. Did you know that France is renowned for its exquisite pastries, from buttery croissants to delicate macarons?



Beech – An overview of our week

Beech Class has had another wonderful week of learning across the curriculum. In English, we have been writing up our day-to-day recounts of the PGL trip from last half term, capturing all the exciting memories and experiences from our adventure. In Maths, we continued our exploration of angles, including investigating the angles inside quadrilaterals and triangles. In Science, we began our new unit on looking after the environment, exploring climate change and learning about how rubbish is disposed of. In History, we started our fascinating new unit on the Ancient Maya civilisation.



Hazel Explores “The Little Island”

This week in literacy, Hazel Class explored the book "The Little Island". As part of our learning, pupils worked together to build a bridge using toy animals to help them recreate the front cover of the storybook. This hands-on activity encouraged teamwork, problem-solving, imagination and storytelling skills.



Chestnut – Making Samosas

To celebrate World Day for Cultural Diversity, Chestnut Class researched Pakistani culture and learned about the traditional samosa. The children then made and tasted their own version of this popular snack. Throughout the activity, they developed important skills including following instructions, measuring ingredients, food preparation and safe cooking practices. They also used teamwork, communication and fine motor skills while preparing the samosas, helping them to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of different cultures and traditions.



Oak – Understanding Self-Esteem

For our PSHE topic this term, 'Changing Me', the children have been exploring the meaning of self-esteem and what society considers 'beautiful'. The children were tasked with identifying a range of positive emotions that they can feel about themselves.



Cultural Diversity Day at The Willows

On Thursday, we celebrated Cultural Diversity Day, and it was a wonderful occasion that brought our whole school community together. Staff and children were invited to come to school wearing traditional costumes from their own cultures, and it was fantastic to see such a vibrant and colourful display of clothing throughout the day.

The children loved sharing their outfits with each other and learning about the different traditions and meanings behind them. Throughout the day, pupils took part in a variety of activities designed to celebrate and explore different cultures.

The children were fully engaged and showed great curiosity and respect when learning about cultures different from their own. To complete our celebration, we enjoyed a delicious Italian menu for lunch today, giving everyone the opportunity to experience food from another culture.



Thank you to all the families who supported this event by helping their children prepare their traditional costumes and sharing their cultural heritage with us.



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School Council Meeting

The School Council met along with Mrs Downie to discuss the suggestions that pupils have been placing in their class suggestion boxes.

Each class has a School Council book, and before each meeting, the School Council representatives take the suggestions from the box and discuss them with their classmates. The ideas and opinions shared during these class discussions are then recorded in the School Council book.

At the School Council meeting, representatives brought their class books and share the suggestions and feedback from their classmates. The School Council then discussed the ideas together and decided which suggestions can be taken forward to the Head teacher for further discussion. Pupils shared lots of fantastic ideas, including having a playground gym, introducing new playground equipment, and finding ways to make playtimes even more enjoyable for everyone.

School Council plays an important role in promoting pupil voice and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to share their views and contribute to school life. This links directly to Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which states that children have the right to express their views freely in matters affecting them and for those views to be listened to and taken seriously.

We are very proud of how our School Council representatives listen to their classmates, share their views, and help ensure that all pupils have a voice in making our school an even better place to learn and play.





Article 2

We have the right to be treated fairly.
(non-discrimination)

Article 12

We have the right to be heard.
(respect of views)

Article 28

We have the right to learn.
(education)

Article 19

We have the right to be safe.
(protection from violence)

Article 24

We have the right to be healthy.
(health & services)

Article 31

We have the right to play.
(leisure, play & culture)

PSHE/RSHE

At The Willows

This half term, as part of our PSHE curriculum, children will be learning about 'Changing Me'. This unit covers aspects of Health Education, which forms part of the statutory Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) curriculum that all schools are required to teach.

As a specialist setting, we carefully adapt our teaching to match the developmental needs and understanding of our pupils. During this unit, children will learn about how bodies change as they grow and develop. This includes learning and using the correct names for body parts in an age-appropriate and respectful manner.

We would also like to remind parents that, as a school, we have chosen not to teach the non-statutory Sex Education elements of RSHE. Our teaching focuses on the statutory requirements for Relationships and Health Education, including body changes, personal hygiene, growing up, keeping safe and developing healthy relationships.

We encourage all children to speak to a trusted adult if they have any worries, questions or concerns about growing up. Alongside this learning, we continue to teach the NSPCC PANTS rules, helping children understand body safety, privacy and how to seek help if something makes them feel uncomfortable.

Further information about our PSHE curriculum, including our PSHE and RSHE policies and the PANTS rules, is available on the school website.



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