

Message from Mrs Branton

As a school, we have been very lucky to have been able to update our stock of library books with lots of wonderful, exciting new books for the children to enjoy. Our wonderful PTFA ladies are currently running the 'AMAZ-A-THON fundraising whilst reading challenge' to support us by raising money for even more new books. You also have access to the 'Collins Big Cat eBook library' which is perfect for children to practise reading books at the right level at home. If you need a reminder of your child's login details, please let the school office know. With your support at home, we want to inspire all of our children to have a love of reading. It remains important to remember that it will make a big difference to every area of their education as well as giving them a source of enjoyment that can last a lifetime.

New research from The National Literacy Trust reveals the impact that the cost-of-living crisis is having on children's access to books and the vital role that school libraries are playing in the current economic climate. The research, which surveyed over 3,000 parents and carers across Great Britain has been published and you can find the results at <https://literacytrust.org.uk/> as well as lots of resources and activities for parents and families. The research underlines the central role of school libraries in supporting families with access to books and inspiring spaces for children to read. A quarter (26 per cent) said they were visiting their local library more as a family now. Our nearest Library is Shenfield, which is currently located in Bishops Hill Adult Community Learning Centre, whilst the old library is revamped. A new and exciting, modern, energy efficient library will be built on the existing site. <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/>

Improving school attendance is a key priority for all schools across Essex. Where families choose to take a family holiday during term time, this can detrimentally impact a pupil's progress and can prevent them from fulfilling their true academic potential. Our school attendance policy, available via our school website, clearly sets out the process that parents should follow if they wish to apply for leave during term time. Please note that applications should only be made, if you feel that there are exceptional circumstances which mean that the leave cannot be taken during the school holidays. **We would ask all parents to note that, where families choose to go on holiday during term time and the absences are coded as unauthorised, Essex County Council may not issue penalty notices and may instead proceed to prosecution and place the case directly before the Magistrates for their consideration in court.** If found guilty by the Magistrates, parents could face a fine of up to £2,500 and/or 3 months imprisonment.

Our netball team have been very busy this week, they hosted a friendly match on Monday against Woodlands school and on Tuesday went over to St Joseph's school for another friendly match. Both matches gave the girls the opportunity to practice their skills and team work, well done girls!

On Monday, Hawthorn class went out on a local walk as part of their geography and English learning. The children took a look at the environment and the traffic calming measures that are in place in preparation for writing a persuasive letter.



A very exciting mystery was waiting for the children in Beech class on Wednesday morning. As you will see from the photos below, some unexpected visitors had made their way into the classroom, leaving lots of clues for the children to investigate! These unexpected visitors even visited my office, leaving an array of clues.



Have a lovely weekend. Mrs Clare Branton, Headteacher.



Weekly Newsletter

Friday 10th March 2023



15th March - wear funky socks to school in support of Young Carers Action Day



15th March - Parent Coffee Morning drop-in 08:50-10:00 in the school hall. The theme is Supporting children's emotions.



16th March- 9-10:30am Second Session for Understanding Anxiety (KS2 parents) ACL course

16th March - KS2 mums (Pine, Oak, Cherry and Hawthorn)– Mother's Day tea and cake after school in the hall.



17th March - Mother's Day assembly for Beech, Whitebeam and Chestnut class parents at 9:15am in the school hall



Our Core Values: **INDEPENDENCE** - HAPPINESS – **TEAM WORK** - CARING - **RESPECT** – HONESTY
Join us on Twitter for the latest results and news: [@Willowbrk](https://twitter.com/Willowbrk)



Weekly Newsletter

Friday 10th March 2023



Science in the News

Another great week of Science investigation at Willowbrook Primary School!

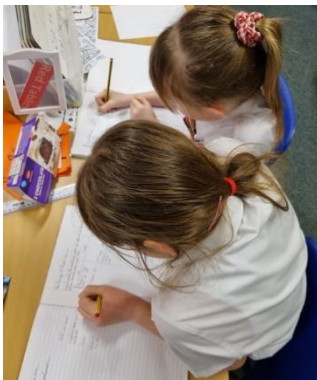
Find below what Beech and Pine have learnt in Science. Fantastic work, children! Well done!

Mrs Cirdei - Science Co-ordinator



Beech class enjoyed being nature detectives this week. They were encouraged to connect with local nature; observe their environment; explore their surroundings; and ask focused questions about what they could see, hear, touch and smell. The children had to think about what happened and come up with their own questions to try and find out key scientific information. They enjoyed exploring the interesting mess that they found in the classroom, designing and setting traps and linking it to their environment. I wonder who left all the mess?

Well done superstars!



Pine class learnt that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition to stay healthy. We have read and compared various nutrition labels and discussed the importance of healthy eating.

Well done, Pine class

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This week's Headteacher superstars are:

Albie and Evelyn



Well done

Word of the week

'Wonderful words of the week'

Key Stage 1

Whitebeam - rotates

Chestnut - wobbly

Key Stage 2

Pine - extreme

Oak - imperative

Cherry - prophet

Hawthorn - fundamental

Our core value pupil

Willowbrook Primary School
Each Working For All



Happiness
Independence
Respect
Teamwork
Caring
Honesty



Well done to the core value pupil from Pine class who received this week's award for team work in the celebration assembly

Thank you so much for all the Easter Eggs that have been handed in so far, we would still like lots more if you are able to donate one!



Raffle tickets are now on sale

All monies raised from raffle ticket sales will go towards a whole school event



Please donate an Easter egg or Easter chocolate for our Easter assembly from Monday 30th January.

Raffle tickets will be on sale from Monday 20th February. They will be taken around to class for the children to purchase during the school day.

20p a ticket or £1 for a strip of 5 tickets, please send money in a named envelope.

All chocolate donations to be in by Monday 27th March.

Last date to purchase raffle tickets will also be Monday 27th March.

Thank you for your generosity and support.



Weekly Newsletter

Friday 10th March 2023



WE STILL NEED LOTS MORE VOLUNTEERS TO GET 3PR BACK UP AND RUNNING



Dear Parents and Carers,

Pre Covid, with the help of our regular parent and child volunteers we were able to run a '3PR Parking Scheme'. Some of you may have seen the large green 3PR alien mascot that sits in the school office.

By following the 3PR 3 parking rules we are able to create a 3PR Zone in Rosen Crescent, which in turn reduces the traffic and congestion, which unfortunately builds up at drop off and pick up times.

We encourage the children to enter the 3PR zone by foot and in doing so they are rewarded with a token that they collect from a bucket each morning. The token is then taken to their class and put in a collection box. Each half term we have a count up of the tokens to see which class is our 3PR winners. They will be presented with the 3PR cup by the Alien himself in assembly.

How do we create the 3PR Zone?

This is where our regular team of parent/carer 3PR volunteers come in.

There are several ways in which we can achieve this: -

- Asking our families to walk, cycle or scoot to school.
- Our volunteers will be visible in their high viz tabard and present at the start and end of the school day to encourage anyone parking in the zone to move on and find a parking spot away from the zone.
- Then finally, we would like to be able to go back to offering a drop off point. The drop off point would be available each morning from 8.35am. Parents can drive to the allocated point in Rosen crescent, where one of our volunteers will help your child/children out of the car, leaving you free to drive off and not have to worry about finding a parking spot. Your child/children would then be walked safely down to their classrooms with one of the volunteers.

The 3PR team of volunteers seems to have worked best when we were able to have lots of volunteers covering one morning or afternoon session each. During the morning session your own child/children will be able to be part of the team by holding the buckets from which the children collect their tokens.

Morning volunteers will be required from 8.40am until 9am and afternoon volunteers from 3pm to 3.15pm.

Please contact the school office if you are able to volunteer and together let's work on making a safer environment with less traffic and congestion for the children.

Thank you for your support

Mrs Branton

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Weekly Newsletter

Friday 10th March 2023



Children's lunch menu

WK 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week commencing 13 th March 2023					
Main Meal RED	Ham & Pineapple Pizza	Beef Bolognese with Spaghetti	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Chicken Fajita Wrap	Breaded Fish Fingers
Main Vegetarian GREEN	Margherita Pizza (V)	Vegan Bolognese with Spaghetti (Ve)	Macaroni & Cheese (V)	Vegetable & Bean Burrito (Ve)	Vegetable & Bean Chimichangas (V)
Alternative YELLOW	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans (Ve)	Jacket Potato with Cheese (V)	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans (Ve) or Salmon Mayonnaise	Pasta with Roasted Tomato & Basil Sauce (Ve)	Pasta with Cheese Sauce (V)
Accompaniments	Sweetcorn (Ve)	Peas (Ve)	Seasonal Greens (Ve)	Steamed Carrots (Ve)	Chips & Baked Beans (Ve)
Cold Option	Cheese, Tuna or Ham Sandwich	Cheese, Tuna or Ham Sandwich	Cheese, Tuna or Ham Sandwich	Cheese, Tuna or Ham Sandwich	Cheese, Tuna or Ham Sandwich
Dessert	Chocolate Rice Krispie Cake (V) Fresh Fruit (Ve)	Carrot Cake (V) Fresh Fruit (Ve)	Vanilla Ice Cream (V) Fresh Fruit (Ve)	Maryland Cookie (V) Fresh Fruit (Ve)	Chocolate & Courgette Sponge Fresh Fruit (Ve)
(V) suitable for vegetarians (Ve) suitable for vegans & vegetarians Salad Bar available daily					



Weekly Newsletter

Friday 10th March 2023



Parent Coffee Morning!



Wednesday 15th March 08:50-10:00am
To be held in the school hall

You are warmly invited to join us in the hall from 08:50 onwards for free tea/ coffee and biscuits.

It is a chance to have a catch-up with fellow parents from across the school. There will be a play area for your younger children whilst you have a cup of tea and a chat!

Does your child find it difficult to manage their emotions? Are they able to verbalise how they feel? Would you like to know what we do in school to support emotional wellbeing? Miss Cox will be dropping in to talk about our, 'Zones of Regulation.'

Feel free to join us and leave at any time between 08:50 and 10am.


The PTFA will have Southend Adventure Island tickets and second-hand school uniform on sale. There will also be a chocolate tombola stall.


Every adult who joins us will enter a raffle to win a prize!



Weekly Newsletter

Friday 10th March 2023



 Essex County Council
Special Educational Needs
and Disabilities (SEND)

SEND Roadshow

Are you the parent/carer or family member of a child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)? Do you have questions about accessing support in your area or questions about SEND support available in Essex through Health, Education and Social Care? Would you like to link up with other parents in your area?

If you do, please come along and see us at the Roadshow. There will be representatives from Essex Family Forum, SENDIASS, health, social care as well as representatives from the education teams, SEND Navigation Leads and local support groups. The roadshow is a drop-in event with no need to book.

In South it will be taking place on:

Wednesday 26th April from 9.30am to 3pm

Address: The Holiday Inn, Festival Leisure Park, Waterfront Walk, Basildon, SS14 3DG
Free parking all day

Throughout the day there will also be FREE parent/carer workshops. The workshops running are:

- Behaviour and communication in children with SEND with Tasha from Dream Box Education
- ADHD and coexisting conditions with Steve Challen from ADHD plus
- Planning for educational transitions with Hannah Knight from Essex SEND IASS
- Mindfulness with Relax Kids

Please go to the Essex Local Offer to find out more and book your place (link below).
Booking opens on February 20th.
Places are limited so please sign up



Weekly Newsletter

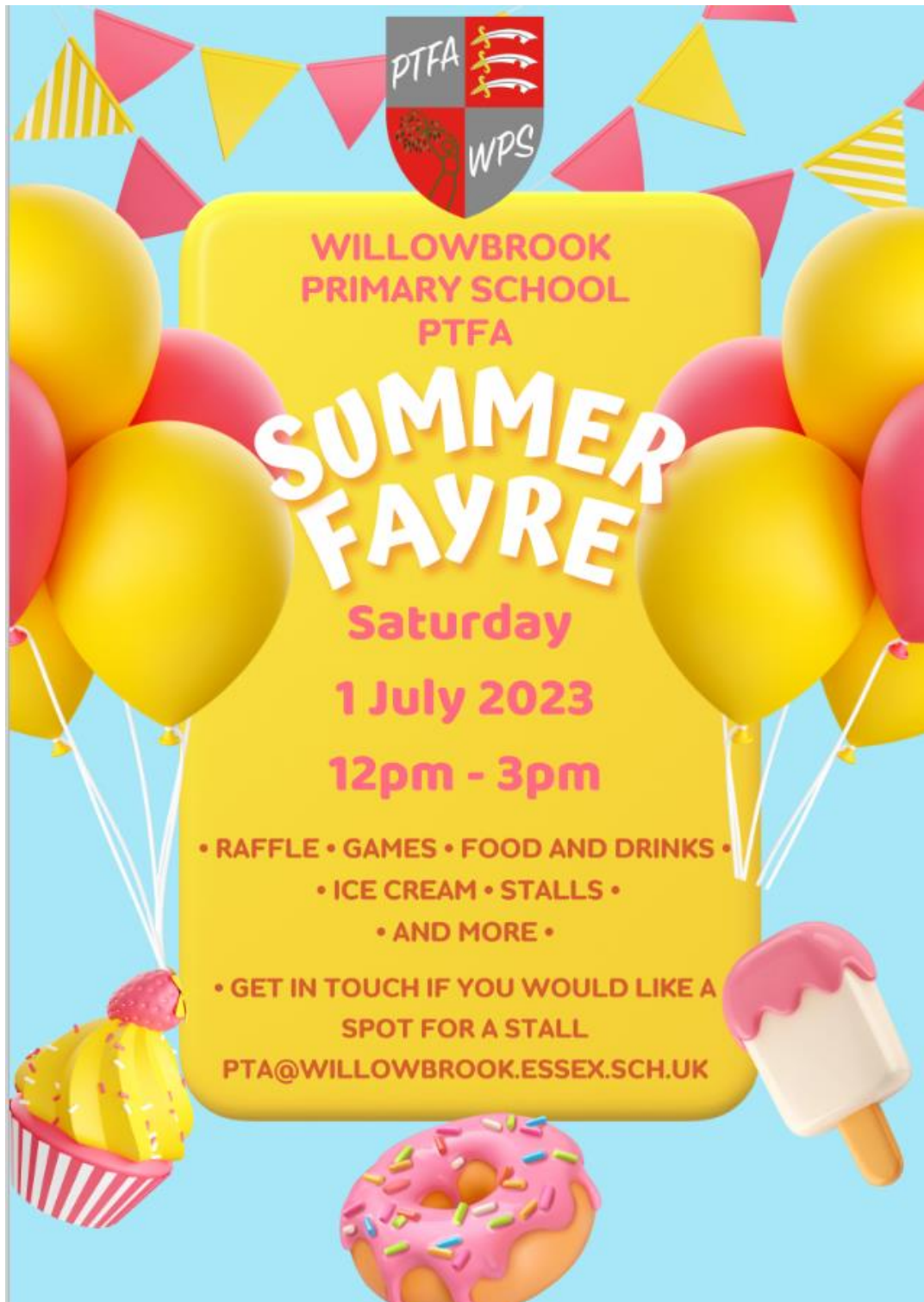
Friday 10th March 2023



Diary Dates

Please note dates and times are subject to change, please check the weekly newsletter and the website for updates. Thank you.

	SPRING TERM 2023
10 th to 19 th March	British science week
15 th March	Young Carers Action Day – Theme for 2023 is Make Time for Young Carers – wear funky socks to school
15 th March	Parent Coffee Morning drop-in 08:50-10:00. Supporting children’s emotions.
16 th March	9-10:30am Understanding Anxiety (KS2 parents) ACL course
16 th March	KS2 mums (Pine, Oak, Cherry and Hawthorn)– Mother’s Day tea and cake after school in the hall Further information to follow
16 th and 17 th March	One Plan Meetings
17 th March	Mother’s Day assembly for Beech, Whitebeam and Chestnut class parents at 9:15am in the school hall
17 th March	Year 5 to St peters Church for the Love Easter lesson
23 rd March	EYFS class trip to Marsh Farm
27 th March	The RockSteady concert at 2:15pm
30 th March	Easter hat and Easter egg assembly
1 st April to 16 th April	Easter Holidays
17 th April	Back to school



The poster features a central yellow rounded rectangle with text. Above the rectangle is a crest with 'PTFA' and 'WPS' and a tree. The background is light blue with yellow and pink triangular bunting. Yellow and pink balloons are on either side. At the bottom are a cupcake, a donut, and an ice cream bar.

PTFA
WPS

WILLOWBROOK
PRIMARY SCHOOL
PTFA

SUMMER FAYRE

Saturday
1 July 2023
12pm - 3pm

- RAFFLE • GAMES • FOOD AND DRINKS •
- ICE CREAM • STALLS •
- AND MORE •

• GET IN TOUCH IF YOU WOULD LIKE A
SPOT FOR A STALL
PTA@WILLOWBROOK.ESSEX.SCH.UK