



# Weekly Newsletter

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026



## Message from Mrs Branton

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break. A big thank you from myself and all staff for your wonderful Christmas gifts, we really appreciate your kindness and generosity.

The children have had a fantastic first week back and have settled into school routines very well. Thank you for your continued support in helping them return so positively.

## Attendance

As you know regular attendance is vital for children’s learning, wellbeing and progress. Being in school every day allows children to build strong routines, develop friendships and make the most of every learning opportunity. Good attendance habits formed now also help children develop positive life skills, such as punctuality and commitment, which are essential for future success in secondary school, gaining qualifications and eventually in the workplace.

This week, we have seen a higher number of absences than usual and our overall school attendance currently stands at **93.25%**. This is below our school target of **97%** and improving attendance will be a key focus moving forward.

We appreciate your support in helping us improve attendance wherever possible. Please be reminded that, in line with our attendance policy, parents will be invited to meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team if their child’s attendance falls below **90%**. Working together, we can ensure every child has the best possible start to the term.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and commitment to your child’s education.

## PE Days

As per the email sent out last week, please see below details of PE days this term:

<b>Class</b>	<b>Indoor PE</b>	<b>Outdoor PE</b>
<i>Maple</i>	Monday	Thursday
<i>Holly</i>	Wednesday	Monday
<i>Elm</i>	Tuesday	Thursday
<i>Beech</i>	Swimming	Friday
<i>Whitebeam</i>	Swimming	Thursday
<i>Chestnut</i>	Friday	Tuesday
<i>Pine</i>	Monday	Thursday

## Clubs

A reminder that clubs are starting from next week. The club timetable which was emailed out to all parents details which classrooms to collect children from for after-school clubs, please also be reminded that you will need your child’s password as coaches and teachers who are unfamiliar with the collecting adults will ask for the password. If there is a club that your child would like to join but all spaces have been filled, please contact Miss Gadd to add your child to the waiting list.

## Sport News

The 1st sporting event of the 2026 calendar was all about dodgeball. Dodge, duck, dip and dive, key skills needed for this game. We all enjoyed the afternoons fun competition, competing against 10 other schools in the borough, thank you to Shenfield sports partnership for organising this event for our children.



## Author Visit – KS2

We are delighted to be bringing author, Eve Wersocki Morris, into Willowbrook on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 to visit our KS2 children. Eve will share stories about her life as an author and answer questions. The children can purchase her latest books 'Clem Fatale has been Betrayed' and 'Clem Fatale has been Upstaged', which she will be very happy to sign. These books must be purchased through Chicken and Frog bookshop as we work alongside this organisation and support them promoting new and exciting authors. Please complete the slip attached to the letter that your child has taken home with them today and provide the correct amount of money. Please put the cash in an envelope with your slip and return to the office.

Each book will cost £7, please note that at our last author event, the books sold out very quickly. The books will be delivered to school and we will give them out on the day.

## Community News

Please see the link below to our community news page, lots of new and exciting events have been added this week: <https://www.willowbrook.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Community+News&pid=85>

## Share a thank you

Please see link below to share a special thanks for a member of staff:

<https://forms.gle/1uMKprmxmHRbe5CK8>

Your kind words make a real difference, brightening staff members' days and recognising their hard work. These messages will be shared with them next week and will be a wonderful gift to take into the holidays. Thank you for helping us spread positivity and support throughout our school community!

## School Lunch

Dolce, our catering team, have prepared a new menu for Spring term. This is now available to view and book via SchoolGrid. Please ensure all meals are booked in advance

<https://app.schoolgrid.co.uk/>

**Dinner Times**

**CHOICE SPRING**

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

V = Vegetarian -VG = Vegan  
GF = Gluten Free \*NEW RECIPE for 2025\*

	Week 1 5th Jan, 26th Jan, 16th Feb 9th Mar, 30th Mar	Week 2 12th Jan, 2nd Feb 23rd Feb, 16th Mar	Week 3 19th Jan, 9th Feb 2nd Mar, 23rd Mar
	Margherita Pizza & Potato Salad (V) (VG) Spinach & Potato Curry with Steamed Rice (VG) (GF) Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Soft Roll with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)	Margherita or Pepper Pizza (V) (VG) Cheesy Bean Wrap (V) Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Baguette with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)	Margherita or Sweetcorn Pizza with Coleslaw (V) (VG) * Veggie-Ball Curry & Steamed Rice (VG) * Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Sandwich with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)
	Mixed Salad, Sweetcorn Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread	Baked Potato Wedges, Mixed Salad, Peas Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread	Mixed Salad, Sweetcorn Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread
	Ice Cream & Fruit (V) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt	Chocolate Mousse (V) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt	Crispy Cake (VG) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt
	Oven Baked Sausages or Plant-based Sausages (VG) Fisherman's Pie (GF) Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Soft Roll with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)	Spaghetti Bolognese Seasonal Vegetable Hot Pot (VG) Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Baguette with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)	All Day Breakfast English Veggie Breakfast (V) (VG) Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Sandwich with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)
	Mashed Potatoes, Savoy Cabbage, Carrots, Gravy Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread	Broccoli, Sweetcorn Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread	Hash Brown, Baked Beans, Peas Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread
	* Peach & Forest Fruit Cobbler with Custard (V) * Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt	Fruit Crunch & Custard (V) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt	Fresh Fruit Salad (VG) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt
	Roast Chicken (GF) * Fish Finger or Quorn Dipper (VG) Wrap * Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Soft Roll with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)	Roast Chicken (GF) * Butternut Squash Wellington (V) (VG) * Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Baguette with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)	Roast Chicken (GF) Roasted Vegetable & Stuffing Tart (VG) Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Sandwich with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)
	Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas, Gravy Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread	Mashed Potatoes, Cabbage, Peas, Gravy Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread	New Potatoes, Carrots, Broccoli, Gravy Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread
	Chocolate & Orange Cookie (VG) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt	Jelly & Fruit (V) (VG) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt	Hot Chocolate Fudge Pudding (V) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt
	Mild Chicken Korma (GF) Tomato & Herb Pasta Bake (V) (VG) Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Soft Roll with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)	Cheese Topped Cumberland Pie Shepherdess Pie (VG) Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Baguette with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)	Chilli con Carne & Steamed Rice (GF) * Pasta Bar with a Choice of Toppings * Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Sandwich with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)
	Steamed Rice, Broccoli, Sweetcorn Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread	Green Beans, Carrots Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread	Sweetcorn, Carrots Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread
	* Jam Roly Poly & Custard (V) * Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt	Yorkshire Parkin & Custard (V) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt	Dorset Apple Cake & Custard (V) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt
	Breaded Fish Fingers or Fishless Fingers (VG) * Cheddar & Broccoli Qulche (V) * Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Soft Roll with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)	Breaded Fish Fingers or Crispy Crumb Vegetable Grill (VG) Baked Sweet Potato Omelette (V) (GF) Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Baguette with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)	Breaded Fish Fingers or Crispy Golden Dippers (VG) Cheddar Cheese Pie (V) Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Sandwich with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)
	Chips, Peas, Baked Beans, Ketchup Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread	Chips, Peas, Baked Beans, Ketchup Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread	Chips, Peas, Baked Beans, Ketchup Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread
	Banana Cake (V) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt	Lemon Cookie (VG) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt	Lancashire Cookie (VG) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

If your school has dietary requirements, such as halal, this will be automatically applied to your menu via SchoolGrid and does not change the type of menu you select here. Please contact your Area Manager if you ever need to change this.

Have a lovely weekend.  
Mrs Branton



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*This week's Headteacher superstar is:*

*Lincoln WS*



*Well done*

## Words of the week

*'Wonderful words of the week'*

### Key Stage 1

Year 1 Holly – adventure

Year 2 Elm – traditional

### Key Stage 2

Year 3 Beech - scavenger

Year 4 Whitebeam - trepidation

Year 5 Chestnut – dense

Year 6 Pine - hemisphere

## Core value pupil

Willowbrook Primary School  
Each Working For All



Happiness  
Independence  
Respect  
Teamwork  
Caring  
Honesty



Well done to the core value pupil from Chestnut class who received this week's award for Teamwork in the celebration assembly.



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## DIARY DATES

	<b>SPRING TERM 2026</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Children return to school
6 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Swimming starts years 3 and 4 for 11 weeks
9 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Whitebeam Class overnight stay on the school grounds in year 5 parent meeting on TEAMS at 4pm. Link to follow.
14 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	EYFS Maths Workshop 9-10pm for parents
22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026	Drama 4 All – Midnight in the toy shop themed workshops for EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 EYFS/ KS1 dress-up ‘Toys’ theme
14 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	<b>Chestnut class – ‘Meet the Teacher’ parent session 3pm</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2026	Pine Fabulous Finish- Parents invited into the classroom to take part in activities with their children.
29 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Elm Fabulous Finish- Parents invited into the classroom to take part in activities with their children.
9 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Children’s mental health week
2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2026	Reception class height and weight checks
3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026	Year 6 height and weight checks
6 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Holly Fabulous Finish- Parents invited into the classroom to take part in activities with their children.
9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Book Fair to run alongside parents evening
10 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Chestnut visit to St Martins to watch We Will Rock You
10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Parents evening week- further information to follow
11 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Safer Internet Day
<b>11<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>	<b>Author visit -Eve Wersocki Morris KS2 AM</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Maple Fabulous Finish- Parents invited into the classroom to take part in activities with their children.
16 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	HALF-TERM
25 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Core Value Day- Caring. Whole school workshops for each class to be held at St Peter’s Church.
27 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Beech Class Assembly for parents 9:00am
3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026	Whitebeam One Plan meetings am
4 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Pine One Plan meetings pm
5 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	World Book Day- Dress up as a book character
6 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Maple One Plan meetings am
6 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Chestnut Fabulous Finish- Parents invited into the classroom to take part in activities with their children.
10 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Elm One Plan meetings am Chestnut One Plan meetings am
11 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Beech One Plan meetings pm
12 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Beech One Plan meetings am and pm

Our Core Values: **INDEPENDENCE** - HAPPINESS – **TEAM WORK** - CARING - **RESPECT** – HONESTY  
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13 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Whole school Mother’s Day breakfast 8:00am. More information to follow
16 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	British Science Week
19 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Whole school science workshops for children
20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Holly One Plan meetings am
20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Whitebeam Fabulous Finish- Parents invited into the classroom to take part in activities with their children.
20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Red Nose Day – further information to follow
20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Beech visit to Hutton View
23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026	RockSteady Concert for parents at 2:20pm
25 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	House Morning- World Poetry Day
25 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Maple and Holly visit to St Peter’s Church- To learn about Easter
27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Easter Egg Raffle and Easter hat assembly
27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Last Day of Term

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