



Weekly Newsletter

Friday 27th March 2026



Message from Mrs Branton

Chestnut overnight stay

Our Year 5 children had an amazing time on their overnight stay, enjoying a mix of singing, adventure activities and the excitement of experiencing a night outdoors. They loved gathering around the campfire to share stories and songs, creating memories they'll never forget. A huge thank you to The MAD Team, Mr Shrimplin and Mr Mulvaney for staying overnight to look after the children and helping to make the trip such a wonderful experience for everyone. Thank you to the PTFA for arranging the tuck shop too.



Rocksteady Concert

On Monday afternoon, Willowbrook Rock Steady pupils performed in their bands to the rest of the school and their parents. They had a great time and showed progression in their skills, from playing an instrument to showing confidence when performing. Well done to all the children involved and thank you for all your hard work.



House Morning

On Wednesday, Willowbrook held a poetry house morning. The children thoroughly enjoyed the session and had the opportunity to write and perform a variety of poems. Each class took part in a different activity, and it was wonderful to see the children's excellent behaviour and positive attitude throughout. Hopefully they were able to share some of the things they did during the morning at home, as they certainly had a lot of fun!



Maple and Holly visit to St Peter's Church

Maple and Holly Class visited St Peter's Church on Wednesday afternoon with Reverend Lisa. They were learning about the Easter story and why it is celebrated so widely around the world. The church had set up a number of activities for the children to take part in, and they all had a wonderful time. They learnt about the meaning of the cross during Easter and what happened to Jesus, and they also enjoyed eating some bread and juice to reenact Jesus's Last Supper. The children demonstrated all of Willowbrook's core values and represented the school brilliantly.



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Clubs

We still have spaces available in all of the clubs running during the summer term. If your child would like to take part in any of the activity clubs, please make payment via your School Money account and we will add them to the list. A reminder that clubs start again w/c Monday, 20th April.

Easter Egg Raffle and Hat Assembly

What a wonderful morning! Each class looked fantastic. Thank you all for your hard work in creating such beautiful Easter bonnets. The classes paraded their bonnets in a catwalk-style event, taking turns to walk down the hall and show off their creations. After this, we randomly selected raffle tickets, and the lucky children were able to choose an Easter egg from your generous donations. Once again, thank you so much for your support. We were even lucky enough to have a visit from Peter Rabbit today – a huge thank you to the PTFA for organising this.



Visit to Hutton View – Beech Class

Beech Class did a fantastic job today entertaining the elderly residents of Hutton View Care Home. They retold the Easter story with confident, clear voices and sang beautifully. The children also gifted the residents an Easter card and enjoyed some squash and biscuits with them. Thank you to Rev. Lisa for helping to organise this for the children.



PE timetable summer term

Class	Indoor PE	Outdoor PE
Maple	Monday	Thursday
Holly	Swimming	Thursday
Elm	Tuesday	Thursday
Beech	Friday	Tuesday
Whitebeam	Friday	Wednesday
Chestnut	Swimming	Friday
Pine	Monday	Thursday

BASC

Please note that we can only accept same-day BASC bookings if they are made before 12 noon. In cases of extreme emergency, or on the rare occasion that you are unable to collect your child on time, a space may be offered, but this will only be available until 4:15pm.

Sport News

Tuesday afternoon was all about basketball! For some of our year 5&6 children it was their first experience playing competitive matches against other schools in the borough. We thoroughly enjoyed this fast-paced game and improved with each match played, with a win in the last match. Well done, everyone!



What a great way to end a Wednesday—with a win for our boys' football team! We showed great determination and strength against a strong West Horndon side, and we battled through the hailstones too. We came away with a 2–1 victory. Well done, boys!



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/1uMKprxmHRbe5CK8>

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!

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Branton



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This week's Headteacher superstars are:

Bisma A, Rosie M, Talullah S, Beaux W, Ava H



Well done

Words of the week

'Wonderful words of the week'

Key Stage 1

Year 1 Holly – narrow

Year 2 Elm – swish

Key Stage 2

Year 3 Beech – purchase

Year 4 Whitebeam – vibrant

Year 5 Chestnut – atrocious

Year 6 Pine - persuasion



PTFA COMMITTEE UPDATE

Two current committee members will relinquish their positions in September as their children will have completed their journey at Willowbrook.

With this in mind, we wanted to be proactive in ensuring the PTFA had a full committee from the start of September to ensure we can continue to run all the events to raise funds for the children/school.

So, we are excited to announce new members of the PTFA Committee who were recently voted in at our AGM (Feb 2026).



Effective immediately, we're pleased to welcome Kirsty Bright from Elm Class as our new Social Media Lead, bringing valuable expertise to enhance our Instagram presence and keep you better updated.



From September, we welcome Lianne Waring, from Beech and Maple Class as our new Secretary.



From September, we also welcome Lizzie Enever from Maple as our new Co-Treasurer.

Jenny Cox will step up to be the new Treasurer of the PTFA. In addition, Kit has kindly agreed to remain on the committee (as she continues her MDA role in the school) to support the existing and new committee members to ensure good continuity for the team.

All really exciting times for the PTFA committee with new members brings new ideas and energy to the team!

As always, thank you for all your support,
Kim Griffin (Chair) on behalf of the PTFA Committee



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PTFA funds raised...

Pop Ups - Hot Choc raised £128

School Lottery raised £176

Pop Up - Popcorn raised £60

Quiz raised £390

Olivia's Brownie Charity Badge Stall raised £193

Tesco Stronger Start Fund £138**

PTFA funds used for...

Science Day £495

Easter Bunny & Treats £300

Class Funds £83

Eco Area £102

Books £185

Pinocchio Dance Workshop £600***

Year 5 camping snack

THE WILLOW

SPRING TERM – MARCH 2026

Another fantastic term for the PTFA – thank you to everyone who supported us in our events. A big thank you to our wonderful Olivia who raised nearly £200 for the PTFA from her Easter Treat Game and earned her Brownie Charity Badge. Thank you to our volunteers who came up with the idea of regular pop-up stalls. Both the hot chocolate and popcorn stalls have gone down a treat and raised valuable funds for the school. Massive well done to our quiz winners – 'we googled it'!

**Additional funds raised by family & friends
** From the Stronger Start Budget
*** As part of World Book Day Celebrations



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Science in the News – Science Week

Curiosity – What's your question?



Dear parents and carers,

Once more, **Science Week** was a great success at Willowbrook Primary School. The children have had various opportunities to investigate what change and adapt is in different activities planned by their teachers. As a school, we are very happy that this week was an amazing celebration of Science.

We would like to say a huge thank you to **PTFA** for their fantastic support in making this inspiring and memorable week possible!

Well done, everybody! 😊

Mrs Cirdei - Science Co-ordinator





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All the children had an amazing time with **Emma** from **Fab Science Company**—it was a truly unforgettable experience that brought learning to life in the most exciting way.



In EYFS - How are animals similar and different?



Year 1 - Why do some things float and some things sink?



Year - 2 What is the best design for a paper aeroplane?



Year 3 - How do birds build their nests?



Year 4 - Does the way food looks change how it tastes?



Year 5 - What sort of vehicle would be best on the moon?



Year 6 - How can I tell black inks apart?



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DIARY DATES

	SUMMER TERM 2026
20 th April 2026	Clubs start
21 st April 2026	Swimming starts Holly Class and Chestnut Class for 11 weeks
22 nd April 2026	Maths Work With Me- parents invited. Letter has gone out.
27 th April 2026	Last Year 6 Grammar booster
29 th April 2026	Maple class trip to Marsh Farm- letter has gone out.
8 th May 2026	Year 1 parents phonics screening meeting for parents TEAMS 3:40pm
11 th 12 th , 13 th , 14 th , May 2026	KS2 SATS Week
12 th May 2026	Parent Coffee Afternoon 2:40pm. A paediatric Registrar will be present to talk about a topic based on parent's choice. Beech class performance.
13 th May 2026	Holly class visit to Shenfield library pm
14 th May 2026	Chestnut visit to Shenfield library am Whitebeam visit to Shenfield library am
15 th May 2026	Whitebeam Class Assembly for parents 9:00am
21 st May 2026	Beech visit to Shenfield library am Elm visit to Shenfield library am
22 nd May 2026	PTFA Colour Run
21 st May 2026	Elm Class Assembly for parents 9:00am
25 th -29 th May 2026	Half-Term
1 st June 2026	INSET Day
2 nd June 2026	Soccer Aid Teachers Vs School team football match for children
2 nd – 12 th June 2026	Year 4 multiplication check
5 th June 2026	Beech Class Fabulous Finish. Beech class parents invited.
8 th – 12 th June 2026	Phonics Screening
9 th June 2026	Pine One Plan Meetings- PM
9 th June 2026	Pine Class RSE parent meeting- TEAMS 3:45pm
10 th June 2026	Chestnut class visiting St Martins to watch High School Musical
10 th June 2026	Pine Class- Its Your Move workshop for children
11 th June 2026	Elm One Plan Meetings- AM Chestnut One Plan Meetings- AM
11 th June 2026	Maple visit to Shenfield library am
12 th June 2026	Holly Class Assembly for parents 9:00am
15 th June 2026	Pine Class visit to St Martins for DT project
16 th June 2026	Whole School Photos
17 th June 2026	Father's Day Breakfast 8am more information to follow
17 th June 2026	Whole school summer safety assembly provided by Essex Fire and Rescue
19 th June 2026	Maple One Plan Meetings - AM
19 th June 2026	Chestnut Class Assembly for parents 9:00am
20 th June 2026	PTFA Summer Fayre
23 rd June 2026	Whitebeam One Plan Meetings – AM/PM
24 th June 2026	Beech One Plan Meetings- AM/ PM
25 th June 2026	Beech One Plan Meetings- PM
26 th June 2026	Beech class trip to Horniman Museum and Gardens – more info to follow
26 th June 2026	Maple Class Assembly for parents 9:00am

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26 th June 2026	SATS Writing and Science Teacher Assessment submission
29 th June 2026	RockSteady Concert for children and parents 2:20pm start
29 th June 2026	Last week of clubs
1 st July 2026	Holly and Elm class trip to Danbury Country Park – more info to follow
1 st July 2026	Pine Class visit to Shenfield library pm
2 nd July 2026	PTFA End of year disco
7 th July 2026	Last week of swimming for Holly and Chestnut Class
10 th July 2026	Chestnut visit to St Martins- Taster Day
10 th July 2026	Chestnut and Pine Show to parents 2pm and 6pm more information to follow
13 th July 2026	Sports Day - more info to follow
14 th July 2026	Meet the teacher morning for children
15 th July 2026	Open Afternoon for parents - more info to follow
Date TBC	Year 6 reward day
17 th July 2026	Pine Leavers assembly 9:00am for parents
17 th July 2026	Last day of the school year

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