

Message from Mrs Branton

Mini Marathon

A huge well done to everyone that took part in the Mini Marathon last weekend. The children came in very excited to show their medals, we are very proud of you all!



Marsh Farm – Maple Class

Maple class had a wonderful time at Marsh Farm on Wednesday. The children loved meeting all the animals and enjoyed learning more about them, particularly the ferrets and guinea pigs. We engaged in many experiences including feeding and petting a variety of animals. After lunch children were free to explore more of the farm including the dinosaur fossil hunting and the inflatable pillows (Mr Shrimplin had a bounce too!)



Martial Arts Assembly

Thank you to Sifu Andy from Meridian King Fu who delivered a self-defence demonstration during our assembly this week. Children were invited up to demonstrate to the school how to defend themselves safely and effectively.



Year 6 Football Coaching

Some of our Year 6 girls did some fantastic football coaching this week at lunchtime with our younger year groups. The children had lots of fun passing, dribbling and taking shots at the goal.





Weekly Newsletter

Friday 1st May 2026



Religious Festivals: 1–7 May 2026

As part of our commitment to celebrating diversity in our school community, we would like to highlight several important religious festivals taking place in early May. Recognising these events is an important way for us to support and value pupils and families who celebrate them, helping children feel seen, respected, and proud of their beliefs.

🌸 Vesak / Buddha Day (1 May 2026)

One of the most significant festivals in Buddhism, Vesak (also known as Buddha Day) is celebrated on the full moon in May. It commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and passing of the Buddha.

Many Buddhists mark this day by:

- Visiting temples
- Taking part in meditation and reflection
- Performing acts of kindness, such as giving to those in need

Vesak is a time that focuses on compassion, peace, and living thoughtfully—values we can all reflect on in our daily lives.

🍌 Hindu Festivals

Several Hindu observances also take place during this week:

- Vaishakha Purnima / Buddha Purnima (1 May) – a spiritually significant full moon day in the Hindu calendar, often associated with prayer and charity.
- Narada Jayanti (2 May) – celebrating the sage Narada, known for spreading wisdom and devotion.
- Sankashti Chaturthi (5 May) – a day when devotees of Ganesha may fast and pray for wisdom and the removal of obstacles.

These observances emphasise reflection, devotion and the importance of knowledge and perseverance.

🏰 Christian Calendar

During this period, many Christians are in the Easter season, a joyful time that continues after Easter Sunday and celebrates hope, renewal, and new life.

While there are no major single-day festivals in this week, it remains an important time of worship and reflection in churches.

🌈 Why This Matters

Recognising religious festivals helps us to:

- Support children of all faiths in feeling recognised and included
- Build understanding and respect for different beliefs
- Celebrate the rich diversity within our community
- Encourage kindness, reflection and shared values

We hope our students enjoy learning about these important celebrations and the meaning behind them.



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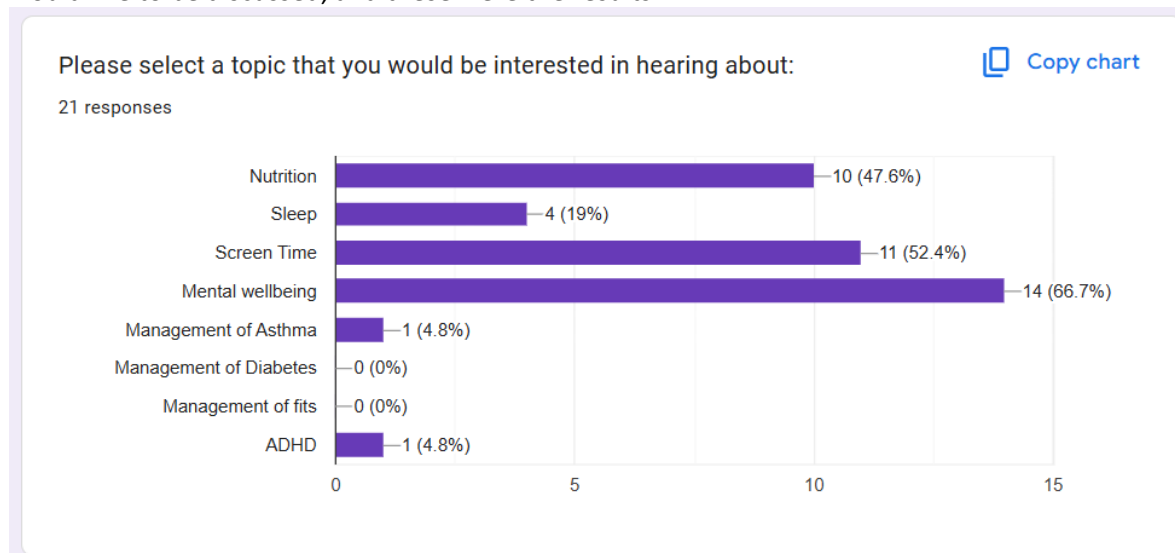
BASC

The children in the after-school club have enjoyed another wonderful week filled with a variety of engaging activities.



Coffee Afternoon

We are extremely lucky to have a local Paediatric Registrar who has offered to attend our parent coffee afternoon this term on Tuesday 12th May at 2:40pm. A poll was sent out to parents to vote for the topic they would like to be discussed, and these were the results:



Therefore, the topic for discussion will be mental wellbeing. We will also have Beech class performing as well as free refreshments provided by the lovely PTFA. Please do come along to school and join us in the school hall. Every parent who attends will receive a free raffle ticket to win a prize!

Community News

Please see the link below to our community news page, you will find lots of useful information and activities each week: <https://www.willowbrook.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Community+News&pid=85>

Share a thank you

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

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfNrd6PyxKW_b8tvMFyuCLSJ_Da-OWv1r1qQjMdkMuKr3Qig/viewform?usp=publish-editor

If a member of staff has gone above and beyond for you or your child, please give them a special mention. Your kind words make a real difference, brightening staff members' days and recognising their hard work. Thank you for helping us spread positivity and support throughout our school community!

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Branton

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)

Science in the News

A busy week in Science at Willowbrook Primary School. Here is what Beech class have learnt. Well done, everyone!

Mrs Cirdei - Science Co-ordinator



Our green fingered children in Beech class have been learning all about plants. They planted their own bedding plants and seeds as they are investigating the best growing conditions for flowering plants. They have also been drawing the parts of a flowering plant and explaining their functions.



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This week's Headteacher superstars are:

Olly G, Zoie E, Teddy M, Ava H, Sienna K, Oliver W



Well done

Words of the week

'Wonderful words of the week'

Key Stage 1

Year 1 Holly – devastated

Year 2 Elm – revolting

Key Stage 2

Year 3 Beech – exile

Year 4 Whitebeam – dazzled

Year 5 Chestnut – reluctantly

Year 6 Pine - prejudice

Core value pupil

Willowbrook Primary School
Each Working For All



Happiness
Independence
Respect
Teamwork
Caring
Honesty



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



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Celebration Assembly



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**WILLOWBROOK
PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA**

**SUMMER
FAYRE**

SATURDAY 20TH JUNE 2026
12pm - 3pm * ROSEN CRESCENT CM13 2TU

willowbrookpta willowbrookpta

Hilbery ESTABLISHED 1894
Chaplin

Estate Agents

Proud Sponsor

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Colour Run

OPEN TO ALL YEAR GROUPS!

SPACES FOR THIS EVENT ARE LIMITED AND WILL BE ALLOCATED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

CLOSING DATE: 6TH MAY (OR EARLIER IF ALL PLACES ARE FILLED)

TO TAKE PART, YOU CAN MAKE YOUR PAYMENT VIA THE LINK OR QR CODE BELOW:

<https://bit.ly/4eDtnVE>

**- ONLY £12 -
INCLUDES
SUNGLASSES
AND A
T-SHIRT**

**FRIDAY 22nd MAY 2026
AFTERSCHOOL
ON THE SCHOOL FIELD
TIMING - TBC**

Willowbrook Primary School PTFA: 1048576



Weekly Newsletter

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DIARY DATES

	SUMMER TERM 2026
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
21 st May 2026	Elm Class Assembly for parents 9:00am
22 nd May 2026	PTFA Colour Run
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	Pine 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
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
22 nd June 2026	Class Photos
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
26 th June 2026	Maple Class Assembly for parents 9:00am
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
30 th June 2026	Pine class trip to Diggerland
1 st July 2026	Holly and Elm class trip to Danbury Country Park

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1 st July 2026	Maple 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 morning
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