



Weekly Newsletter

Friday 22nd May 2026



Message from Mrs Branton

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-OWv11rlqQjMdKMuKr3Qig/viewform?usp=publish-editor

Thank you for the messages that have been received already this term, they go a long way in making staff feel valued and appreciated:

'I'd like to show our appreciation to Mrs Vorster having picked up a challenging class and taken it forward to a much better place - well done!'

'A shout-out to Mrs Branton who continues to provide strong leadership and 110% commitment throughout the day-to-day challenges.'

'Really impressed with Mr Shrimplin getting stuck in at the recent Whitebeam assembly - it will be something the children will remember forever!'

'Mrs Gardner is a constant, reliable force for both Whitebeam and within the school - we are lucky to have her!'

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!

School Uniform

We are seeing an increasing number of children coming to school not wearing the correct uniform. This is also happening on PE days when children are wearing leggings, lycra shorts and named/designer t-shirts. Please see the link below showing details of the school uniform required.

<https://www.willowbrook.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=78>

If your child comes to school without the correct uniform, a blue slip will be sent home to keep you informed. If this continues, we may invite you in for a meeting to discuss how we can support in resolving the matter.



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✿ **Exciting Update on Our School Building Project** ✿

We are delighted to share some truly fantastic news about our school building project—and to take a moment to thank our incredible community for helping make it happen.

Thanks to your generosity, encouragement, and ongoing support through parental donations and PTFA fundraising, we have reached an exciting milestone. Your contributions have played a vital role in bringing this project to life, and we are so grateful for the commitment shown by our families and local supporters.

Brilliant News!

We are especially thrilled to announce that 'Hill', the developers working at Brookfield Close next to the school, have generously agreed to *upgrade* the project. Instead of the previously planned structure, they will now deliver a fully brick-built building that will consist of two learning areas. This is a huge enhancement—something we had originally ruled out due to an estimated cost of around £300,000. Thanks to Hill's support, this upgrade will now be delivered at a significantly reduced cost, providing a high-quality, long-lasting space for our pupils.

What This Means for Our School

This development is a major step forward and will bring lasting benefits, including:

- High-quality, modern learning environments for our children
- Increased capacity to support our school community
- A durable and sustainable building that will serve future generations

A Community Effort

This achievement truly highlights what we can accomplish together. It simply would not have been possible without the generosity of our parents, PTFA, supporting businesses and the support of our governors in particular, Mr Hamm. Thank you for your continued belief in our vision. We still have a funding gap of approximately **£25,000**, which we are confident we can close with continued community support. We encourage families and local businesses to keep supporting fundraising efforts where possible.

👉 You can contribute via the PTFA fundraising page <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/create-space>

What's Next?

We are pleased to share that construction is expected to begin this **summer**, with the new learning areas ready for pupils at the start of the **new school year in September**.

We will continue to keep you updated as the project progresses, but for now, we wanted to share this exciting news and most importantly, say a heartfelt **thank you**.

Together, we are building something truly special for our children.

Maple Class Air Ambulance Visit

The Essex and Herts Air Ambulance service came in this week to speak to Maple class about the important work they do. This included what type of calls they would respond to, who gets to fly in the helicopters and the equipment they need to carry and wear. The children were shocked to find out it costs £1million a month to run the service!



Elm Class Assembly

Thank you to the Elm class parents that came into school on Thursday for their assembly. We hope you enjoyed learning all about mini beasts, your child should now have brought their bug hotel home and hopefully it's collecting all the bugs in your garden!



Library Visits

Elm and Beech class went to the library this week and really enjoyed choosing new books to borrow. All children represented the school well and upheld our school values.



Great Athletes Sports Equipment

Thank you for all the sponsorship money received from the Great Athletes Visit. This week we have received lots of new sports equipment, and we can't wait to use this with the children.



Smart Phone Free

Thank you to everyone that has signed the petition so far. Willowbrook are top of the Essex leaderboard for parents that have signed the pact, they have done a new list that shows the percentage of pupils that have signed and we are at 42%. Please see link below if you have not yet signed the petition and would like to:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/parent-pact-results?region=essex>

Sports News

Last Friday our year 4 football team played a friendly v Ursuline Prep. It was a great competitive match with lots of goals; we battled well as a team with a 5-4 win! Well done boys.



The rain didn't stop our rounders competition on Tuesday. We had a great afternoon; the children worked well as a team and displayed great batting and fielding skills. Well done!



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>

Have a lovely half term.
Mrs Branton



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Science in the News

Fantastic work from Chestnut class this week. Well done!

Mrs Cirdei - Science Co-ordinator



This term, Year 5 have greatly enjoyed learning about Earth and Space. The children explored the solar system and learned about the planets, day and night, the seasons, and the phases of the moon. The children particularly enjoyed creating practical models of the moon phases using Oreo biscuits and worked collaboratively throughout the topic.



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This week's Headteacher superstars are:

*Daisy S, Aaron B, Olivia F, Aaliyah O, Olly G, Siroema X, Olivia H,
George W, Sienna G, George S*



Well done

Words of the week

'Wonderful words of the week'

Key Stage 1

Year 1 Holly – refreshing

Year 2 Elm – scavenger

Key Stage 2

Year 3 Beech – predatory

Year 4 Whitebeam – decompose

Year 5 Chestnut – acrid

Year 6 Pine - consideration

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 respect in the celebration assembly.



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Celebration Assembly



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)



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**WILLOWBROOK
PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA**

**SUMMER
FAYRE**

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

[f willowbrookpta](#) [willowbrookpta](#)

ESTABLISHED 1894
**Hilbery
Chaplin**

Estate Agents

Proud Sponsor

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<https://volunteersignup.org/QKJYF>



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DIARY DATES

	SUMMER TERM 2026
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
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	Whitebeam class trip to The British Museum
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
1 st July 2026	Maple Class visit to Shenfield library pm
2 nd July 2026	PTFA End of year disco
3 rd July 2026	Parent Coffee Afternoon 2:30pm. A paediatric Registrar will be present to talk about a topic based on parent's choice. Whitebeam and Chestnut class performance.
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

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17 th July 2026	Pine Leavers assembly 9:00am for parents
17 th July 2026	Last day of the school year