Weekly Newsletter

Friday 13th November 2026

Message from Mrs Branton

Beech and Chestnut Class – Library Visits

On Tuesday and Wednesday this week, Beech and Chestnut class enjoyed a fabulous visit to the local library! The children learned how to use the library catalogue, explored how books are organised and discovered the children's section. There was great excitement as the children browsed the shelves and chose books to borrow.










Michael Rosen Day 2026

On Thursday morning, the whole school took part in the annual Michael Rosen Day 'Huge Poetry Party'. Michael shared where he gets some of his inspiration from, such as school, parents or even trips. The live session started with listening and joining in with the poem 'Don't'. Michael then told the children that when he was at school, he wasn't allowed to breathe! Everyone had a go at breathing under their 'desks'. Lastly, Michael showed the children a new way of spelling; you might want to ask your child how to spell 'everybody!' It was a fun event with lots of poems and stories to engage and enthuse the children about poetry, with a key message from Michael Rosen - 'never trust a running sausage!'







Maple Class Assembly

Thank you to all parents that came into school today for the Maple class assembly, we hope you enjoyed listening to eveything the children have been learning on their 'Toys' topic.





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Children in Need

It was wonderful to see our 'Spotacular' children today in their Pudsey themed outfits. Thank you to everyone who has given a donation to the charity. We will let you know how much money was raised.









Chicken Update

A huge thank you to Miss Gale who found a new home for Willow. We look forward to hearing updates on how Willow is getting on in her new home. Thank you to the other parents that also got in touch to offer to help with the re-homing of Willow.

Smart Phone Free School

As you all are aware, we are now a smart phone free school. Some of you may not know about the parent pact you can sign online to commit to waiting to give your child a smart phone until at least 14 years old. We currently stand at 81 families who are now planning to delay smartphones together. Research shows that once about a quarter of families are in, waiting starts to feel normal, which means far fewer 'but everyone else has one!' battles at home, for all of us. We'd love more people to join, so if you'd like to be part of it, here's the Parent Pact link 🩶
https://parentpact.app.smartphonefreechildhood.org/

Reception Place for September 2027

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **9 November 2026**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2027. The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2027**.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year. All of the application information is available on the website above.

Children's Christmas Bazaar

On Thursday 17th December, the children will be having their Children's Christmas Bazaar. This is an annual Christmas shopping event that the children absolutely love. It gives the opportunity for children to experience going shopping; making choices about what they want to buy; and managing their own money. It also raises money for the school to spend on educational resources and to subsidise the rising cost of trips. Each class will be making things that can be sold; there will be a toiletry/ jewellery stall; and year 6 also run fun games. The children have a shopping experience where they walk around the hall with their shopping bags and money and they can buy things from the stalls that they may want to give as Christmas gifts to others or maybe keep for themselves!

In preparation for this event, we would like to start collecting donations for the bazaar. If you have any unused toiletries, unwanted jewellery, unwanted gifts or good quality books/ bric-a-brac that you can donate, please can you hand it in to the office for the attention of Mrs Youngblood until Monday 14th December. More information regarding this exciting event will be shared nearer the time. Thank you for your continued support.

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Sporting News

A fantastic Monday afternoon at the bushcraft event, in Thorndon Country Park, with some of our year 1 children. Den building, fire lighting, and teamwork were all on the agenda, we had lots of outdoor fun!!




Tuesday afternoon was all about athletics. Over 360 children, from 12 schools in the borough, competed in this indoor athletics competition. Great performances in track and field from all our Year 5&6 children.




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-OWvI1rlqQjMdKMuKr3Qig/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!

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

Reminders for next week:

	**Monday 16th November** – Wear odd socks to school Odd Socks Day is part of Anti Bullying Week 2026. Odd socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!

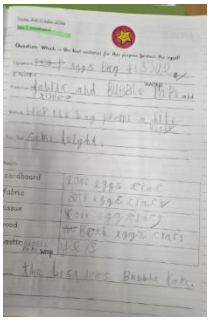
Have a lovely weekend.
Mrs Branton

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Science in the News

Find below what Holly and Chestnut class learnt in Science this week. Well done, everyone! Mrs Cirdei - Science Co-ordinator






This term, Holly Class has been exploring materials in Science. The children have had lots of exciting opportunities to learn about different materials and objects, investigating what they are made from, why materials are important and how they are used for different purposes. They have also explored how materials can change and developed their understanding through a range of hands-on activities and investigations like investigating which materials could protect an egg when dropped from a height. Great work!



During Autumn Term 1, Year 5 explored the fascinating topic of Properties and Changes of Materials. Pupils began by identifying and investigating different materials found around the school, considering their properties and everyday uses. Through a range of exciting, hands-on investigations, pupils developed their scientific enquiry skills. They explored methods of separating mixtures, including filtration, and conducted experiments to identify effective thermal conductors and insulators. Throughout the unit, pupils were encouraged to make predictions, carry out practical investigations, record their findings and draw conclusions. The topic was thoroughly enjoyed by all, with pupils demonstrating great enthusiasm, curiosity and a growing understanding of the materials that surround us in everyday life.

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PTFA Feature News

Last chance to buy disco tickets is Tuesday 17th November

Buy them from:

https://willowbrook-pta.sumupstore.com/



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Another way to help support the PTFA raise funds for the school – Your School Lottery



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This week's Headteacher superstars are:

Ronni N, Ava W, Sadie B



Words of the week

'Wonderful words of the week'

Key Stage 1

Year 1 Maple – spectacular

Year 2 Holly – recount

Key Stage 2

Year 3 Elm – sorrow

Year 4 Beech – efficient

Year 5 Whitebeam – befriend

Year 6 – Chestnut - authority

Core value pupil





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

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Celebration Assembly















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DIARY DATES

	AUTUMN TERM 2026
16th November 2026	Reception Height and Weight checks
16th November 2026	Anti-Bullying Week
16th November 2026	Odd Socks Day - All you need to do is wear odd socks! Odd Socks Day is all about embracing and celebrating people's differences and helps to launch Anti-Bullying Week.
16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th November 2026	Year 6 Bikeability course
17th November 2026	Beech One Plan Meetings – AM/ PM
17th November 2026	Maple class visit to Shenfield Library
18th November 2026	Cherry class visit to Shenfield Library
18th November 2026	Elm One Plan Meetings - AM
18th November 2026	Beech One Plan Meetings - PM
19th November 2026	Elm class Stone Age School
19th November 2026	Chestnut One Plan Meetings - AM
19th November 2026	Cherry One Plan Meetings -AM
19th November 2026	PTFA Winter Disco
20th November 2026	Catch-up for those who missed the flu immunisation
20th November 2026	Whitebeam Class Assembly. 09:05am. Parents invited.
24th November 2026	Elm class visit to Shenfield Library
24th November 2026	Parent Coffee Afternoon 2:40pm start in the school hall- Find out more about our PTFA, governors and parent council. Performances from school choir and Chestnut class.
25th November 2026	Holly class visit to Shenfield Library
25th November 2026	Year 6 cyber bullying session provided by Essex Fire and Rescue
26th November 2026	Holly Class Assembly. 09:05am. Parents invited.
26th November 2026	Year 6 Online exploitation session provided by Essex Fire and Rescue
27th November 2026	Christmas House Morning
1st December 2026	Last swimming lesson for Whitebeam and top-up swimming for selected Chestnut pupils.
1st December 2026	Year 3 & 4 Show for parents at 2:15pm
2nd December 2026	Whole school Panto Trip
3rd December 2026	Prospective Parent Tour 1:30pm till 2:30pm
4th December 2026	Year 5 & 6 Show for parents at 2:15 pm
7th December 2026	Last week of clubs
10th December 2026	EYFS & KS1 Nativity for parents at 2pm
11th December 2026	EYFS & KS1 Nativity for parents at 9:20am
14th December 2026	RockSteady Concert for parents at 2:20pm
15th December 2026	Elm class Darkness to Light workshop for children
16th December 2026	Christingle Workshop for all classes
16th December 2026	Christmas Wonder workshop for Chestnut Class at St Peter's Church
17th December 2026	Children's Christmas Bazaar
18th December 2026	Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day
18th December 2026	Last day of term

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