



Willow Wood Community Nursery and Primary School Weekly Newsletter 24.9.21

A bit late, but here is the weekly newsletter for your information —I hope you find it informative.

Macmillan event:

Thank you all so much for your incredible donations of cakes and for the purchase of raffle tickets . I don't think I have ever seen so many cakes in one place. Not only did you donate cakes but you were also then kind enough to then buy lots of cakes from our stalls. We will total all of the money collected from cake sales and raffle ticket purchases early next week, and will let you know how much we have raised for Macmillan. We will also be doing the raffle draw, where there are over 40 prizes to be won, on Tuesday morning.

PTA (parent teacher association) at Willow Wood:

Following my newsletter last week, I have so far had one enthusiastic parent come forward to be part of our new PTA. We would love as many of you as possible to get involved so please don't be shy! The PTA will help to organise and run school events for the children and families of the school. We are hoping the first event that we can plan will be a Halloween/autumn disco for all of the children. If you are interested in joining us, please drop me an email, tell your child's class teacher or speak to me if you see me on the playground.

After school clubs:

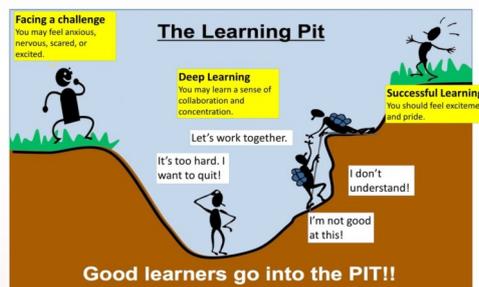
It was wonderful to finally be able to offer after school clubs again, after all of the restrictions due to the pandemic. The children have had the opportunity to take part in lots of varied activities. In music club, the children began learning our new school song; our KS1 children enjoyed learning new skills in the gymnastic club; in art the children began some Aboriginal inspired work; footballers, cricketers and dodgeballers all had fun competing and developing their skills and finally the bakers with Mrs Nelson and Mrs Capper made Chocolate Chip Cookies! We are already beginning to think about what clubs we can offer after Christmas, as we would like to offer some different clubs. If you have an idea of something you would like to see, please let us know.



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The Learning Pit:

Since we returned to school in September, some of our classes have been developing 'growth mind-sets' by using The Learning Pit'. The learning pit is a way to describe where the children are if they find a task really challenging. The idea of the learning pit is that we help the children to understand that even if something is difficult, with the right approach, skills, mind-set and support the children can achieve anything....and get out of the learning pit. So if you hear you child say they were 'in the pit today', don't worry we haven't been locking them up! Hopefully they will be able to tell you that they got out of the pit and how they did it.



Meet and Greet

It was lovely to see many of you this week, as you visited the school to hear from your child's teacher. We know that whatever time we choose to hold these type of events they wont be accessible for everyone. Please don't worry if were unable to attend, as your child's class teacher will always be very happy to chat to you about your child and the year ahead. It is usually best to make an appointment , so that we can guarantee to give you the time you need to chat. Likewise, my door is always open to parents, particularly if you have any worries or questions.

New faces:

Many of you will have noticed a welcoming new face in our main office. We are delighted to welcome Marie Duffy to the Willow Wood team. Marie will be joined in the office by another new member of staff, Julia Loynes-O'Hare, who we are sure you will also join us in welcoming warmly. Marie and Julia join us as Mrs Smith and Mrs Davenport (our previous office staff) moved onto new jobs over the summer holidays. We wish both Mrs Smith and Mrs Davenport the very best of luck .



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Admissions to Willow Wood:

This term I have already shown a huge number of parents around our fantastic school, who are interested in sending their children to Willow Wood to join us in Reception next September. Please make sure that you get your application completed before the closing date of January 15th 2022. While that seems a long way off, it will soon be upon us. I have included below the link to the Cheshire West and Chester admissions page for further information. Likewise, our nursery is now also filling up incredibly quickly—if you have a child who is coming up to their 3rd birthday and you would like them to come to our nursery, please contact the school office as soon as possible. We are happy to show any prospective parents around school—please contact the office to make an appointment,

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/school-admissions/reception-admissions/reception-admissions.aspx>

Little Willows:

Our toddler group (called Little Willows) restarted this week, on Thursday. Little Willows starts at 9am and runs until 10.30am

Little Willows Play Group is back!

9.00am - 10.30am

Every Thursday starting 23rd September

*Community Room
Sunshine Building
Willow Wood Primary School*

Come along and have some fun with your little one while you meet other parents!

- Free play,*
- Art and craft,*
- Sand play,*
- Story time and song time.*

As well as a drink and snack for all!

*Please contact
Willow Wood Primary School
for further information
01606 593896*





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- We have overhauled our maths curriculum completely! With an external maths consultant, last year and this year we have planned our curriculum to focus very much on the key skills and knowledge that children need to develop a deep understanding of maths. As a result, we now spend much longer learning about the topics that are key to building strong mathematical foundations, such as place value.
- Our children now do '5 a day' maths activities every day, that focus on building arithmetic skills and fluency.
- There is now a big focus on learning times tables. Children are often challenged to compete against each other and other classes by using times tables rock stars
- Teachers get the chance to work with an expert from outside of school each term to share ideas and celebrate success. Last year, some of our pupils books were used as exemplar books for other schools in training for their teachers!
- The school is part of a 'maths mastery hub', which enables the sharing of best practice between different school across the region, helping us to continue to be at the forefront of new ideas around the teaching of maths,

I hope you found the information about how we have improved maths teaching and learning at the school; next week I will let you know what we have done in science.

Best wishes

Mr Bell