

# Willow Wood Community Nursery & Primary School



Acting Headteacher: Ms Katie Ullein

- Nursery for 3 & 4 year olds
- Breakfast Club from 08:00 £1



WHERE PUPILS FLOURISH

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## Newsletter 14th October 2024

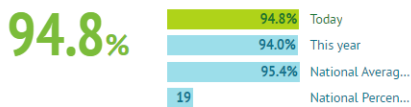
### Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all those parents/carers that came to last Friday's Come and Join Us! It was lovely to see so many of you in school and enjoying Maths activities with your children. We hope you found it useful and will try some of the activities at home with your children. We'll be running one again soon, so look out for the next date!



### Attendance update:

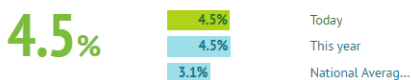
#### Whole School Attendance



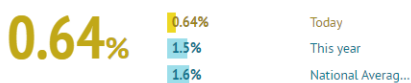
#### Statutory Attendance



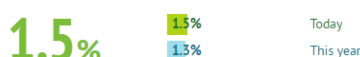
#### Authorised Absent



#### Unauthorised Absent



#### Late



#### Persistent Absentees (DfE Whole Year)



### Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing!

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

#### Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

#### 5 consecutive days of term time leave

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days. Inset training days are school days and can be included in the 5 or more consecutive days where there was intent to be absent for term time leave.

#### 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period.

#### First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

#### Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

#### Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate, due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

Absolutely fantastic! We have improved whole school attendance again, compared to last Monday, up to 94.8% and overall this year it has stayed at 93.8%. Well done Y2 Palm for having the best class attendance last week of 99%! We are striving to be above 96% for whole school attendance, so please **only keep your children at home if they are really poorly**. Thank you for getting your children to school on time and ready to learn!

## What do attendance codes mean?

When a child is **absent** from school they receive an **absence mark**, which is either **authorised** or **unauthorised**.

**Authorised marks:** I (Illness) school will authorise an absence for illness. M (medical appointment).

**Unauthorised marks:** G (Holiday) U (Late after the register closed) O (absent for a reason that is deemed unacceptable or parent has not reported a reason for a child's absence)

Under the new attendance guidance that came into effect in August 2024, **Penalty notice fines** will be considered when there have been **10 sessions of unauthorised absence** in any rolling **period of 10 school weeks**.

**A school day has 2 sessions:**

**1 morning and 1 afternoon session per day.**

**10 Unauthorised marks over a 10 week rolling period can result in a Fixed Penalty Notice**

10 unauthorised attendance marks can be made up of a combination of G, U and O.

For example, a Parent may be considered for a Penalty notice fine **IF**, over a 10 week period, their child has the following attendance marks:

2 U codes for being late after the register closed, 6 G codes for being on holiday for 3 days and 2 O codes when a parent has not contacted school to explain the reason for their child's absence.

## Important Dates to Remember

- **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 4pm** – Open Evening for 2025 Reception starters.
- **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 9:30am** - Year 1 parent phonics assembly in the Rainbow Building hall
- **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** – PTA Halloween Discos – See attached poster
- **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November** - Year 1 are visiting The Brampton Museum.

## Year 3/4 Ancient Egyptian topic.

What do tomatoes and Ancient Egypt have in common? ... read on to find out. Year 3 and 4 worked on their Ancient Egyptian topic last week, by firstly scooping out the seeds and the flesh of a tomato, similar to how they removed human organs in Egyptian times. We dried out all of the moisture, filled one half of the tomato with a drying powder (Bicarbonate of soda) and wrapped our tomatoes in bandages to replicate how the Egyptians mummified their Kings and Queens. We have left our tomatoes in a dark, dry place as we know the importance of ensuring all moisture is eliminated from the environment and will revisit them in a week's time to review.



## Year 6 High School Applications

It is advised that parents and carers arrange to visit the preferred schools prior to making an application, as once the place is offered, it may not be possible to accommodate a change of preference later in the process. Applications need to be made by 31<sup>st</sup> October. If you would like any help with the application process please contact the family support team via the school office. [Secondary admissions | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

## Parental Involvement

- **Next PTA meeting Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 9am** – Sycamore room in the Rainbow Building – Anyone interested welcome.
- **Little Willows** Mother & Toddler group each Thursday in the Sunshine Building hall.
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 9:30am - **Year 1 parent phonics assembly** in the Rainbow Building hall.
- **Next SEND Parents Coffee & Chat** - Tuesday 3rd December

## Calling all Asda shoppers...

You may have seen that Asda have launched 'Cashpots for Schools' which is running until the end of November Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our school & also donate £1 for every person who opts in. This won't affect your individual cashpot.

It's simple to set up, just make sure your rewards app is updated and follow the steps below

1. Go to cashpots in the Asda Rewards App and click 'Join Cashpot for Schools'
2. Click 'I have a school I want to choose'
3. Search Willow Wood Community Nursery & Primary School
4. Asda will confirm your choice then start spending!

**We are now up to an amazing £310! Thank you to all the Asda shoppers!**

## Residential reminders

For your information we have currently only had 13% of the deposits paid for the Y5/6 Gulliver's World residential. The deposit is due by 25<sup>th</sup> of October.

| Year group | Residential to   | Total cost                     | Deposit                            | Final payment  |
|------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Y2         | Tattenhall<br>Date: 13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> May '25<br>1 night  | £122<br>£61 (pupil premium)    | £40 by<br>29 <sup>th</sup> Nov '24 | £82<br>£21 (pupil premium)<br>By 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb '25      |
| Y5/6       | Gulliver's World<br>Date: 5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> June<br>1 night | £115<br>£57.50 (pupil premium) | £35 by<br>25 <sup>th</sup> Oct '24 | £80<br>£22.50 (pupil premium)<br>By 26 <sup>th</sup> April '25 |

## Trips reminders

| Trip            | Year group | Date of trip | Cost              | Needs to be paid by      |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| World Museum    | Year 3 & 4 | 25/10/2024   | £15/PP £7.50      | 4th October              |
| Brampton Museum | Year 1     | 06/11/2024   | £16.10 / PP £8.05 | 23 <sup>rd</sup> October |
| Chester Zoo     | Year 5 & 6 | 22/11/2024   | £14 / PP £7       | 8th November             |

## Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

Your child may be able to get free school meals/pupil premium if you are in receipt of any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

The criteria also applies if your child is adopted or under a special guardianship order.

Please speak to the school office if you need any help with applying or have any questions.

It is important that you register, even if your child currently receives Universal Free Infant School Meals as there is additional funding (Pupil Premium) that school can apply for <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

## Finally

### Some Parent Hacks to help your child's development at home

- Carry a pack of cards/dice, there's always an opportunity while you're waiting for a swimming lesson, doctor's appointment to play a game that practices counting.
- Have analogue clock in the house – visualising 10/15/30 mins on a clock is so much more useful for learning how to tell the time than a digital clock.

- Put subtitles on your child's favourite programmes – hearing and seeing the words really helps learning to read and helping with phonics.
- If your child does not like reading books, maybe they are more interested in magazines (Minecraft etc), ANY reading is good practice and we would encourage reading books, magazines, the back of a cereal packet, the list is endless!!

Warm regards,  
Katie Ullein  
Acting Head Teacher

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